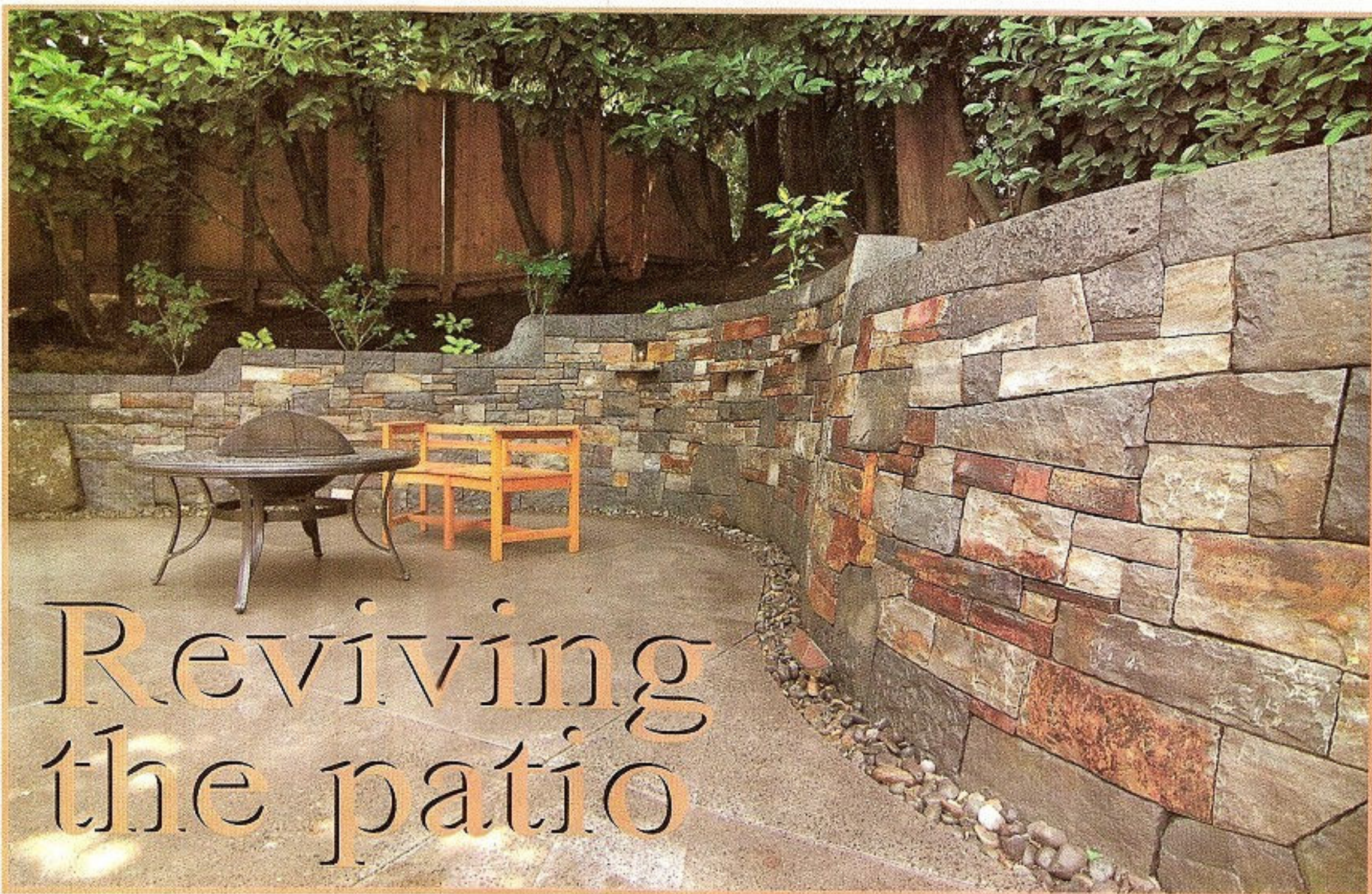


# Lake Oswego/West Linn HOMES

SECTION C • Lake Oswego Review & West Linn Tidings

## INSIDE:

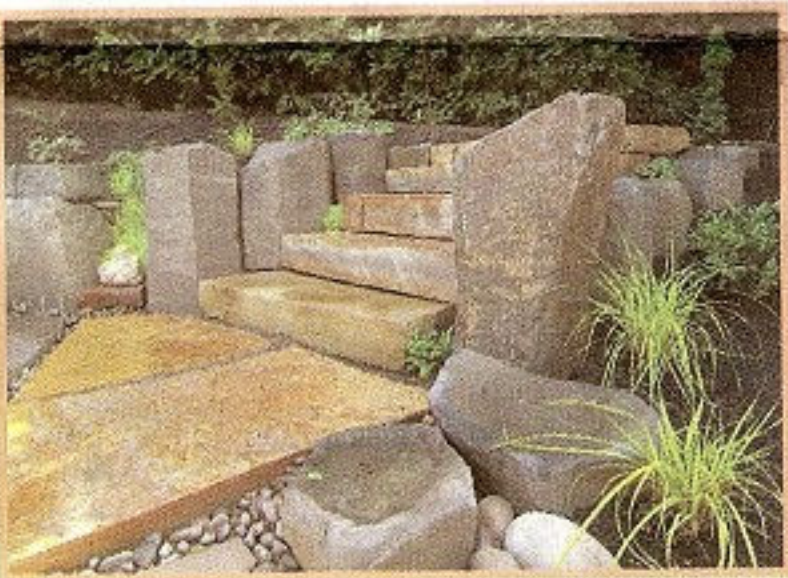
Task force pushes green building suggestions for West Linn  
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## Reviving the patio

Rock mason Matt Goddard of Poetry in Stone replaced two decks in a Lake Oswego backyard with a curved masterpiece made of stone.

Sandstone and limestone steps, right, lead from the lower portion of the patio to a shaded pathway above.



A tree grows in an oversized pot in an area next to the home, middle right.



into a calm sanctuary for relaxation and time with family — all surrounding a functional art piece, the new rock wall

Story by Nicole DeCosta, Staff Photos by Vern Uyetake

What is a backyard, truly? Sure, it's often a little extra breathing room between you and your neighbor and a place for the kids — and family pet — to run freely. But, it could also be a maintenance nightmare or unused space.

A backyard is a special space all your own to share with friends and family. It's a place to make memories. It's a place to grow and watch things grow. A backyard is a little piece of the world that you can do whatever you want with — well, almost.

So why not be proud of it? After 14 years of wear and tear, Mike and Ana Ryan's backyard needed some updating. Their private Lake Oswego property — which backs up to the Lake Oswego Municipal Golf Course — featured a small brick patio, potting shed, dying grass and overgrown shrubs, all surrounding two large weathered decks.

Working with landscape designer Tricia Larson of Savant Garden Design and stone mason Matt Goddard from Poetry in Stone, the Ryans transformed the area where their two rectangular decks were once located into a private, one-level free-flowing space that incorporates the timeless beauty of stone and seasonal foliage.

"It's shady so we wanted to bring in plants with color and texture to make it look good year 'round," said Larson.

Last summer, the backyard felt stiff. The layout was boxy in appearance and cluttered from overgrown plants on an above hill. Each corner was a right angle, and two tiered decks made the space more complicated than it had to be.

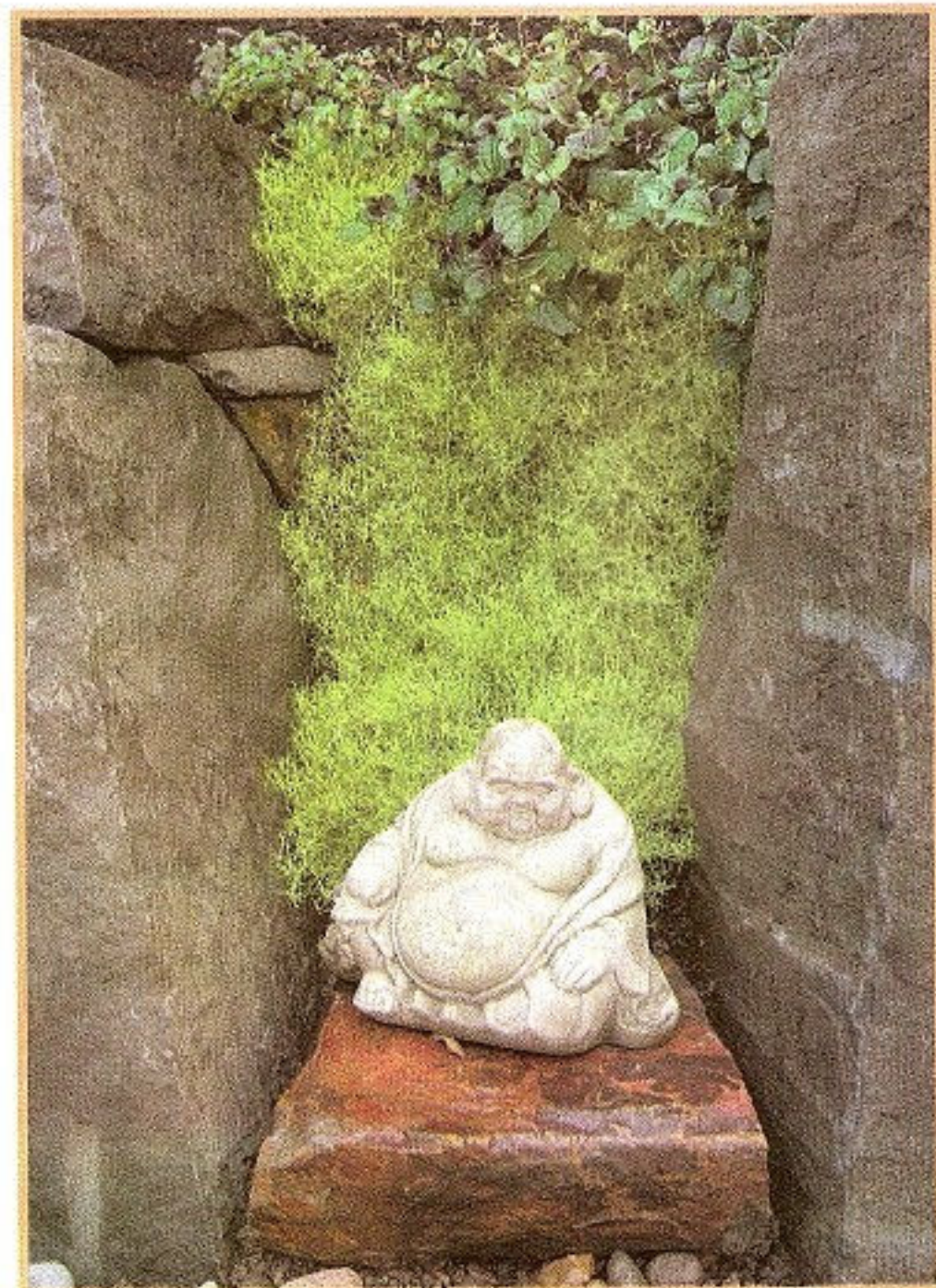
Larson's plan called for some curves to liven the space up a bit and add some subtle femininity to the space shared by the five boys in the Ryan's family. Using polished concrete, the ground is now easy to maneuver during gatherings and easy to clean up.

Now completed, the space is divided into quadrants — an area for sitting, pathways for walking and a corner to cozy up near a fire pit. A rock wall serves as a functional art piece, separating plants and a hidden drainage system above and the space used for entertaining below it. And it's curved to

make the yard look more interesting.

"For a lot of people — especially if they want natu-

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One of the Ryan's children chose this Buddah, above, for the yard that they call the "happy Buddha" because it makes them happy. Landscape designer Tricia Larson, at right, of Savant Garden Design in Lake Oswego, checks on some plants she installed.

