

The logo consists of the letters 'M' and 'G' in a thin, black, sans-serif font. A vertical line descends from the bottom of the 'M' and passes through the center of the 'G'. The logo is centered within a light pink, downward-pointing arrow shape.

MG

# THE GARDEN ARRIVAL

2023 Kips Bay Dallas Show House

MELISSA GERSTLE DESIGN



A detailed rendering of a garden courtyard. A large, gnarled tree on the left has several large, spherical, woven pendant lights hanging from its branches. In the center, a tall, dark green hedge encloses the space. A white metal sculpture of a figure is visible behind the hedge. In the foreground, there is a seating area with wooden armchairs and a coffee table, surrounded by various plants and flowers, including purple flowers and large green leaves. The overall atmosphere is serene and elegant.

ROOTED  
*in* BEAUTY

## The Garden Arrival

When approaching the design for the front landscape of the 2023 Kips Bay Show House, Melissa Gerstle began with an assessment of the existing conditions. She immediately wanted to highlight the majestic trees and provide balance and symmetry to the overall composition of the landscape.

In response to the architecture of the house, Gerstle designed a massive hedge that provides a central focus for the property and privacy for the homeowners. Within the enclosure of the hedge, she imagined showcasing a large-scale artwork. In addition to the area within the hedge, Gerstle composed two other spaces that welcome guests and provide places for gathering.

An expert at curating outdoor furnishings, Melissa Gerstle Design carefully selected the fabrics and furniture to complement the dark hue of the house and set the tone for the beauty that awaits within. Seating areas feature pieces from Brown Jordan, Sutherland, McKinnon and Harris, and a custom terrazzo coffee table by Melissa Gerstle, with fabrics from Perennials, Élitis, and Christopher Farr Cloth. The three areas of the front landscape present a cohesive design through the use of scale, proportion, color, and texture, reflecting Gerstle's mastery at manipulating materials and elements to deliver a complete vision.

*Brochure cover fabric images by Élitis.*



# The Landscape & Furnishings

Nestled under the canopy of a large live oak tree, Gerstle provided a shade garden which serves as a second place for gathering. This more intimate, circular space is enclosed by massed plantings comprised of textured layers of green with a bed of sedges, ferns, liguria and flax lilies. To amplify the muscular form of the branches, Gerstle selected lanterns of varying sizes and forms to illuminate the area at night. The space also serves as a connection from the front garden to the terrace along with a bar cart for a cocktail or two, serving up southern hospitality before visiting the terrace. Gerstle designed seating that invites guests to linger around a low coffee table with lounge chairs in custom fabrics that coordinate with adjacent seating.



An edited palette of plants along the foundation of the black-painted brick facade focuses on geometry and texture and serves as a sculptural foreground against the backdrop of the house. Cloud-pruned boxwoods and holly ferns both planted en-masse, provide contrast against the black walls. A Green Japanese Maple set next to the front porch gracefully balances the asymmetry of the home. Gerstle adorns the front porch with a teak bench, featuring a custom cushion and pillow in blush and shell tones and an off-white planter, all contrasting beautifully against the black backdrop. Zinc planters with florals and greenery are set at the front of the porch to define the space.



# Sculpture Selection



Gone sculpture by Carolyn Salas

When designing the center garden, Gerstle approached Lea Weingarten to source a large-scale artwork for the Kips Bay landscape. Weingarten offered options based on Gerstle's design directive, and the two worked closely together to select an appropriate piece. Upon viewing "Gone," a striking figurative sculpture by Carolyn Salas, Gerstle imagined that the heroine of the sculpture was leaving chaos and seeking a place of solitude. The area Gerstle designed welcomes her; hence the title, "The Garden Arrival."

Surrounded by a 10' high hedge that creates a sanctuary for the viewer and the heroine of the sculpture, Gerstle placed the sculpture in an elliptical bed of densely planted Ardisia encircled by stone. Salas' artwork can be viewed from various angles in multiple seating areas throughout the space, which includes a terrazzo coffee table Melissa Gerstle designed.

## ABOUT LEA WEINGARTEN

Lea Weingarten began the Weingarten Art Group in 2011, after more than fifteen years of working with both public and private art collections in achieving their collecting goals. Weingarten Art Group stands at the intersection of art and strategy. Clients are divided equally among private collectors, commercial enterprises and public spaces seeking to enhance their spaces through art and artist collaborations. Weingarten Art Group has received ten national awards for bringing internationally acclaimed, highly accessible and extraordinarily popular artworks to public spaces.

She travels extensively both nationally and internationally to art fairs, public art venues, galleries and artist studios to meet the needs of all Weingarten Art Group clients. Lea holds a BA from Tufts University and an MBA from The Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.



## ABOUT CAROLYN SALAS

Carolyn Salas was born in Hollywood, CA. She earned a BFA in sculpture from the College of Santa Fe and an MFA from Hunter College. Salas was just named a CODA Awards Top 100 artist for 2023 with her piece "Fighand." In the artist's own words:

*"Oscillating between abstraction and figuration, my sculptures and site-specific installations explore the relationship between the body, architecture, and language. I create sculptures in dialogue with art history and ancient culture. Also embedded are recurring themes on the conflicting expectations and possibilities of womanhood and feminine identity."*

Carolyn Salas has attended residencies at the Abrons Art Center A.I.R. Space Program and The NARS Foundation, New York, NY; Blue Mountain Center, Blue Mountain Lake, NY; the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT; and the Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM. Selected exhibitions include the Berkshire Museum, Berkshire MA; Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara; and NADA Special Projects, Miami, FL.





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**SPECIAL THANKS**

|                  |                  |
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| Anabel Garcia    | Lacey Stallard   |
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## About Melissa Gerstle Design

Melissa Gerstle Design creates extraordinary landscapes that inspire “effortless outdoor living”—defined as spaces that are comfortable, enjoyable, and easy to inhabit. Our collaborative approach ensures that each project is an expression of our client’s vision, articulated through a thoughtful integration of materials and forms, while paying heed to the architecture and authenticity of the site.

MGD designed ‘The Magari Garden’ for the inaugural Kips Bay Dallas Show House in 2020 and is thrilled to return to design the entry garden for Kips Bay Dallas in 2023. Serving clients throughout North America, Gerstle and her team collaborate with architects, interiors designers, and builders to create cohesive, elevated landscapes that blur the lines between interior and exterior.

In 2023, MGD earned a Red Luxe Award and a TX ASLA Merit Award for a project in Highland Park. Melissa Gerstle Design is based in Dallas and offers a full range of services, from landscape consulting and planting designs to full scale outdoor living environments, including pools, fountains, fire features, and furnishings, tailored to the character of each site.

### MEET MELISSA GERSTLE

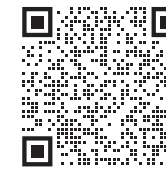
Trained as a landscape architect and motivated by the restorative properties of nature, principal designer Melissa Gerstle believes our homes and gardens play a central role in stimulating personal growth and have the power to change the way we live and connect. With a passion for integrating the natural and built environments, Gerstle leads the MGD studio creating landscapes that amplify the best parts of nature so that our clients flourish in outdoor spaces that are functional yet rooted in beauty.

[melissagerstledesign.com](http://melissagerstledesign.com)



MELISSA GERSTLE  
DESIGN

PORTFOLIO



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MELISSA GERSTLE DESIGN

Exquisite Landscapes  
Outdoor Living | Exterior Furnishings

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