

Every obstacle in life has a design solution.

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Grow Yours

In troubling items, we try new things. I like gardens and love trees and when designing always work to preserve as many as possible, even working the design around them. One house I designed had three segments each larger than the other as the home progressed further from the grand old trees on the property. This accomplished several goals. The trees shaded the house reducing the need of air conditioning to just a few weeks a year in the mid-Atlantic region of our country. Another goal was that these trees which were around before the Civil War continued to thrive. And finally, they complimented the design of the home which worked in harmony with the existing trees.

With COVID affecting much of life the past several weeks and the shortages of paper products and canned foods we realized that with reduced manpower in the crop fields we may end up seeing a shortage of fruits and vegetables. So, my partner and I decided to take some old planting beds and bring them back to life. We were lucky in the sense that the planting beds were there.

Otherwise we would have had to build them first. If you have to build them, it is very easy. Simply get three 2" by 10" by 8'-0" pieces of redwood and cut one of them into two 4'-0" sections. Use stainless steel angle irons about 1" by 6" and screw the ends together to form a box 8'-0" by 4'-0". Do not use pressure treated wood as the chemicals used to treat it could leach out and contaminate the fruit and vegetables. Of course, ours were already built so what we had to do was to get rid of the weeds roots and all before we added the soil amendments. Then fill with clean sifted earth with some topsoil and soil amendments which has kelp, earthworm casings (earthworm poop), and composted green waste. Turn over to mix in thoroughly. Now you are ready to plant.

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Archi-fact.

The Hanging Gardens were in the shape of a square, with each side approximately four "plethora" long, (which is an ancient unit of Greek measurement equal to 97-100 Greek feet although the measures for plethora may have varied from city to city). The garden was tiered, with the uppermost gallery being 50 cubits high (The cubit is an ancient unit of length that had several definitions according to each of the various cultures that used the unit. These definitions typically ranged between 17.48 and 20.83 inches, with an ancient Roman cubit being as long as 47 inches). The walls, 22 feet thick, were made of brick. The bases of the tiered sections were sufficiently deep to provide root growth for the largest trees, and the gardens were irrigated from the nearby Euphrates.

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Did You Know ?

We are the leading local provider of tools and resources for people planning on adding on to, renovating or building a home.

We have several consumer guilds to help you.

One of our recent publications is...

"The 10 Advantages of Design Build"



Download it here and share it with

Grow yours

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We planted strawberries, arugula, sungold cherry tomatoes, yellow slicing tomatoes, red slicing tomatoes, heritage tomatoes, Chinese greens, French mesclun, eggplant, watermelon, hot peppers, sweet peppers, okra, sugar snap peas, basil, Persian melons, yellow squash, and green squash. Some were from seeds and some were very small plants we bought from the nursery. Watering the newly planted garden depends on if we are watering the baby plants or seeds, the weather conditions and the moisture level in the soil from day to day.



Archi-Quote

“Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.”

Frank Lloyd Wright

The newly planted baby plants started growing immediately. The seeds we planted took a few more days to show themselves. With a week or so we had several strawberries to eat. These strawberries were as fresh as they could be. Just minutes from growing to our dessert plate. I have never tasted such sweet and delicious strawberries. I started this article by stating that I liked gardens. Well now I am in love with them. Everyone should plant their own garden even if you live in an apartment house, find a window with a lot of light (south facing is best) and plant a small garden. If you live in a house make part of your yard (again south facing is best) into a garden even if it the front yard of your house.

Iconic Building of the

Hanging Gardens of Babylon



The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World as listed by Hellenic culture. It was described as a remarkable feat of engineering with an ascending series of tiered gardens containing a wide variety of trees, shrubs, and vines, resembling a large green mountain constructed of mud bricks. It was said to have been built in the ancient city of Babylon, near present-day Hillah, Babil province, in Iraq. According to one legend, the Hanging Gardens were built alongside a grand palace known as *The Marvel*

of Mankind, by the Neo-Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar II (who ruled between 605 and 562 BC), for his Median wife Queen Amytis, because she missed the green hills and valleys of her homeland.

Archi-Speaks

Can you find these words?

GARDEN MELONS ARUGULA
 STRAWBERRIES VEGETABLES

K Z U V I J K S W A O M G R O
 W S Y W R H L G R M L N A M P
 Q H I T O Z G U F Q M P R W W
 J U E N W B G I P L D U D D H
 M E X T M U R M H Z U H E B J
 Z E K J L V F D V M S C N T R
 Q G U A Z L E P O U Z J S K B
 E G Q W L M X G J H H V T W Q
 X Q E B P P G D E V B S O N I
 K F L X Q X P C G T P I X F W
 C X K S J V Q J T Y A U O I Z
 O Z K F Y X H R O J M B X R Z
 S T R A W B E R R I E S L C R
 N O L E M T V L B J W A V E C
 Y L Y T A B M A S O P E W R S

Ask M

In the James Bond books and movies the character "M" heads the Secret British Intelligence Service known as MI 6, of which James Bond is Agent 007. When contemplating adding on to your home or building, renovating or building a new home or building you should have someone like "M" on your side. Each month the "Ask M" column will answer a reader's question to place more information at your finger tips. **This month's question is...**

**Are all the buildings in Hawaii in the local style?
 Joe P..**

Joe,

Most buildings that are not landmarks are not in the local style. Some of the large commercial buildings and expensive house do try to be.

Email your questions to info@designMgroup.com ,and in the subject line type in "Ask M". We look forward to hearing from you and hope we can answer the questions to everyone's satisfaction.

Want to speak with the Architect

Do you have questions but do not know where to start?

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About

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President



photo credit: Jenna Glatzer

Marcus Marino, RA, AIA, NCARB is a leading architect in New York City. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the prestigious Pratt Institute and a Masters in the Science of Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. He received his license to practice architecture in New York State in 1981 and is licensed in a number of other States. Marcus Marino has served on numerous Governmental Panels and serves as an expert consultant to other architectural firms and legal firms. He is the former Vice President of Public Advocacy of the New York State American Institute of Architects.

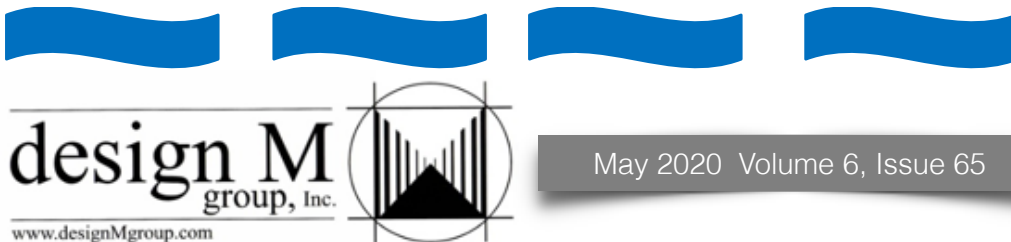
Our core beliefs are ...

Architects have a responsibility to our clients, community and the environment.

Architects should help provide information to our fellow world citizens about their homes, offices and the built environment in general.

Your Home should move you emotionally like your favorite song does.

Let Us Help You Build the Home You Knew Was Always There For You.



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