

Great Ideas for the Garden, Too

When you visit the 2004 *Southern Living* Idea House don't forget to explore all of the great ideas *outside*. Designed by landscape architect Cheryl Mihalko of Athens, the garden is actually a collection of smaller gardens. One of the focal points of the landscape is a charming walled garden located just outside the friends' entrance. This less formal entryway contains perennial flowers for cutting mixed with annuals and herbs in beds and pots.

"The mix creates a courtyard planting scheme that is full in its first season," explains Mihalko. The centerpiece is a small water garden filled with aquatic plants and goldfish. "I think every garden is improved with the sound of water. A water feature or pond doesn't have to be elaborate—there are so many creative ways to integrate the sound and sight of water in a garden," says Mihalko of the small rectangular "pond" at the Idea House. The stripes of the variegated Sweet Flag Iris and veining on the hoods of the pitcherplants in the center of the pond showcase Mihalko's deft artistic use of patterns, colors, and shapes. Random bricks throughout the walled garden are etched with words such as "family", "garden" and "smile." Novel ideas like this abound in the gardens.

For information about the 2004 *Southern Living* Idea House call Andrea Fischer at (706)542-6195 or visit www.uga.edu/botgarden. To learn more about Cheryl Mihalko's home landscapes visit www.cherylmihalko.com. 

