



NATURAL DESIGN — A well-designed rock garden blends into the surroundings.

Rock gardens—natural beauty

A rock garden can be a thing of natural beauty. It may be any size, limited only by the area available to you and your budget.

A southeast exposure is preferred, giving protection to more delicate types of alpine plant materials. The garden should be placed in a sunny or partially shaded location.

Good drainage is a necessity. Irregular contouring of the garden is best with a backdrop of large shrubs or trees.

Many types and forms of rock are available. You may do your own collecting or buy rock. Try to use rocks from your locality; they are easier to find and fit in more naturally.

Select various sizes of stone. Dig away the top soil, weeds and roots. The top soil can be used for backfill.

Draw a plan, locating the highest and lowest points around the pool area, paths, etc. Paths, built using flat stones, should be slightly lower than surrounding ground.

Fill in soil around the rocks to the desired level and pack tightly. Determine what types of plants you wish to grow, then prepare the soil that will be needed, he says.

Examples are plants such as Dianthus and saxifraga, which prefer a more alkaline soil; primula, trollius, anemone which likes lots of organic matter; ericaceous plants and rhododendrons which prefer more acid conditions.

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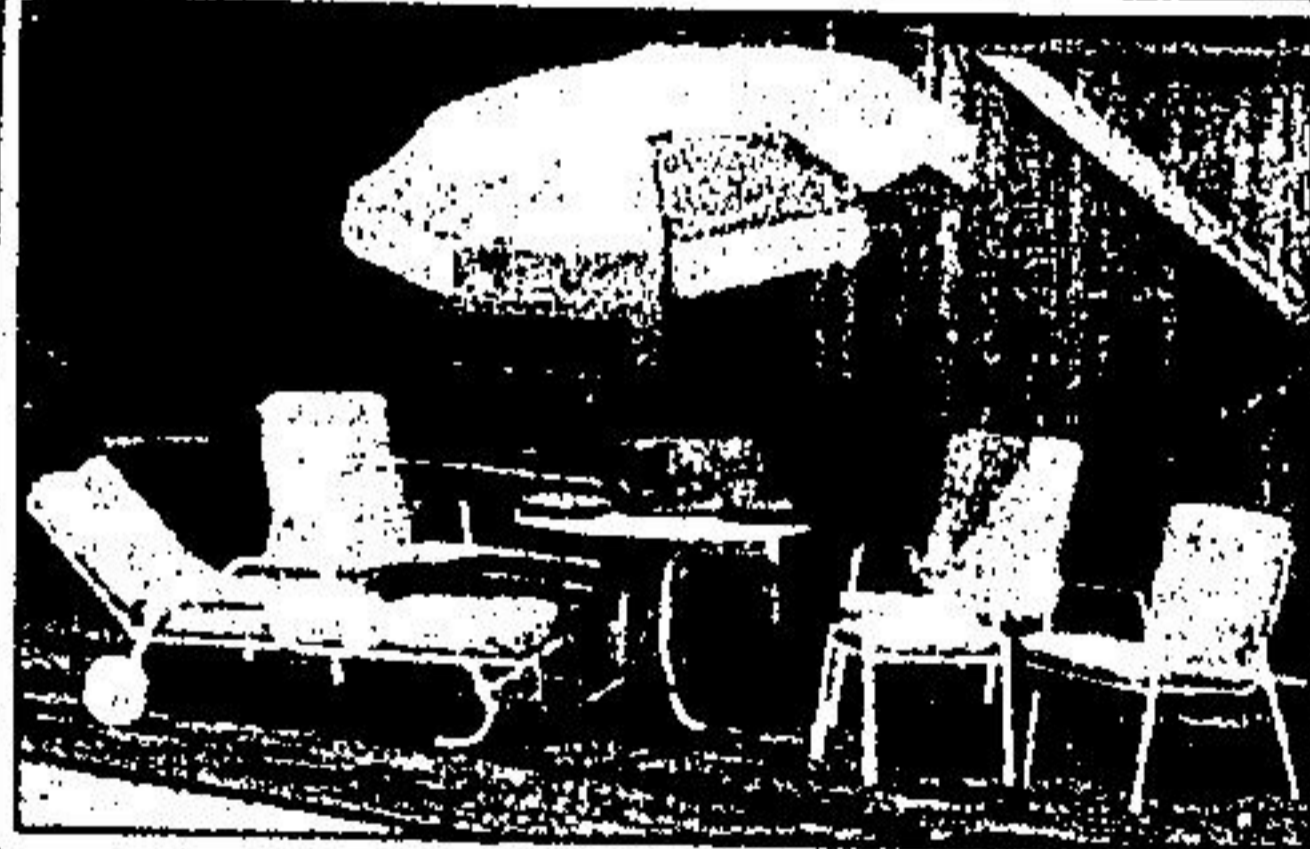
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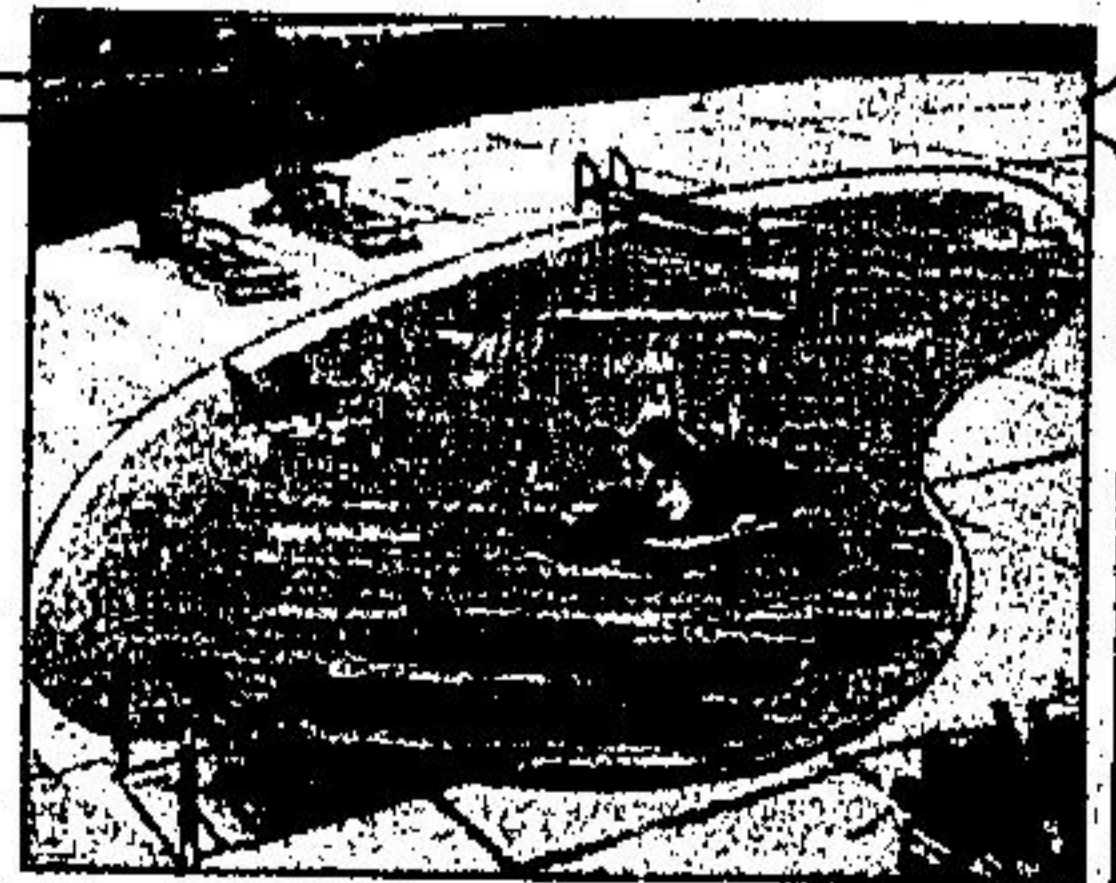
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