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# HOME

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Spring 2010

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## HOME OFFICES AND HOW THEY WORK

INSIDE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT JAMES DAVID'S CONCRETE-CLAD HOME OFFICE, P. 96

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#### GOOD IDEA!

David and Peese had only to look to their own backyard as a site for their home office. Now all they have to do is walk out of the house and along a plank walkway under a corrugated tin tool shed that arches over the path. The office is two stories high and built into the hill, and at its base is a lovely fish pond. The bottom floor is a garage, but viewing from the garden one would never know it.



## James David

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

**t**wo years ago, James David sold GARDENS, his retail and design business, and went from being in charge of 100 employees to having none. “I love it,” he says. Now self-employed, he goes out most mornings to meet with clients. But it’s easy to see how someone who lives and works in such a beautiful place might never want to leave.

David and Gary Peese have created an Eden of sorts at their Rollingwood home, with multiple levels of gardens ranging from formal to wild in design and from purely decorative to utilitarian. Beside the vegetable garden, a five-sided concrete structure that looks like it was made from gigantic blocks rises from the ground. This is their home office, and it is like no other. “We wanted it to be not an ordinary building,” David says.

Architect Mell Lawrence helped him achieve that. Inside, the floor, walls and ceiling are concrete. “I like things that are solid or have a sense of permanence,” David says. The heaviness of the concrete, though, is balanced by light streaming in through the big, industrial-strength sliding glass door and a cleverly angled window that bounces light into the room. The overall look is eclectic and casual. “It’s very important to me that it doesn’t look decorated,” David says. “I like things to be real.”

David and Peese built the office so they could meet clients without having them come into their home. “When we had an office in the house, we had to straighten up for company,” David says. And, there’s something good psychologically about going to the office, away from the distractions of the house, he says. “When we’re here, we’re at work.”

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