



TRADITIONAL HOME
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THE URBAN ELECTRIC CO.



Liz McEnaney
Lake Forest Showhouse
Lake Forest, Illinois

Given the right weather, most people love spending time outdoors. But when designer Liz McEnaney took charge of a room overlooking a showhouse property's gardens, she used such soft colors and lovely furnishings that it might lure people inside even on a perfect day. "I'm a much better gardener than a decorator," Liz admits. "This was an opportunity to combine my love of design and my love of gardening."

On ivory stone walls, arched windows that would have been compromised with window treatments are left bare to grant easy views to the gardens. A seating arrangement features a clean-lined sofa topped with blue-and-white pillows, a pair of milky green armchairs edged in gold, and a brass coffee table.

Today, the treatment of the interior wall is graceful and delicate, but it didn't start that way. The wall housed the backside of the living room fireplace and was laden with soffits, turns, and asymmetrical doors. To unify its obstructive elements, a hand-painted mural of trees covers the wall. Reflected in the windows and the views to the outside, the gray-blue scene adds interest without overwhelming any other component of the room. "I wanted the focus to be outside," says Liz. "The mural adds to the feeling of being enveloped in a lush garden." ➤

Produced by Hilary Rose Photographs by Edmund Barr

