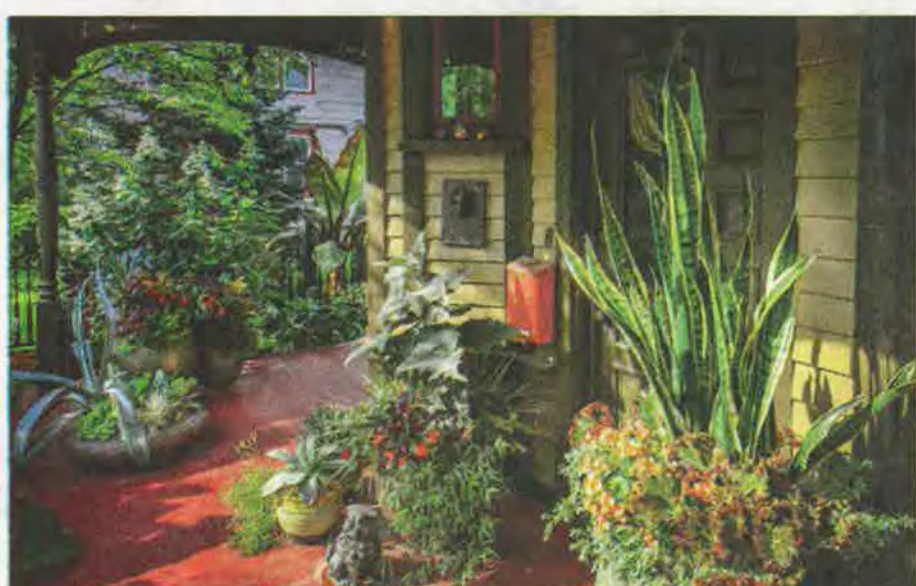


# HOMES

& GARDENING



Photos by GLEN STUBBE • gstubbe@startribune.com  
Scott Endres, owner of Tangletown Gardens, designed and planted bold and colorful containers and garden beds filled with everything from tropical plants to feathery grasses, surrounding his newly built front porch, which was inspired by the architectural details and period style of his 1880s Victorian home in St. Paul.

## AN EXOTIC OASIS

Tangletown Gardens owner has created a junglelike landscape to complement the fanciful new porch on his Victorian home.

By LYNN UNDERWOOD • lynn.underwood@startribune.com

Walking up the steps to Scott Endres' front door feels like a trip to Tangletown Gardens, the popular garden center he co-owns in south Minneapolis. That's because Endres breeds the best part of his job home with him.

Gigantic-leaved banana plants and elephant ears shoot out of containers spilling over with colorful coleus and 'Red Riding Hood' mandevilla. His vibrant boulevard and terrace gardens blend bold tropical beauties with plume-shaped celosia.

And Endres' fanciful 1880s Victorian, with its newly built front porch, completes this lush, otherworldly setting in the heart of its urban St. Paul

neighborhood. "It's the kind of porch this house deserves," said Endres. "It feels right for the house and for me."

### A 'worker' Victorian

Endres bought the house, his first home purchase, in 1995 when he was working at nearby Highland Nursery. "I've always loved Victorians and their character and personality," said Endres, who grew up in a farmhouse in Hampton Township. The 1880s "worker" Victorian was 1,800 square feet and not as big and extravagant as the homes on Summit Avenue, but "it was an affordable fixer-upper and the right size for me," he said.

Endres discovered that his house was one of the \$1 homes rehabbed See **GARDENS** on H3 ▶

### GARDENS WITH FLAIR

Scott Endres shares his tips for creating your own exotic gardens. **H3**

See more photos of the porch remodel and gardens inside and online at [startribune.com/homegarden](http://startribune.com/homegarden).



### A PLANT PRO'S TIPS

You won't find garden-variety black-eyed Susans, coneflowers and plox in Scott Endres' distinctive gardens. He fills his beds and containers with exotic specimens like iridescent Persian shield, gigantic elephant ears and ruffled 'Madame Queen' begonia. The co-owner of Tangletown Gardens in Minneapolis shares his strategies for creative containers and garden compositions. Try some of his tips next spring to add drama and flair to your own garden creations.

For **containers**, choose a tall bold "thriller" plant with interesting foliage and shape, add a cascading "spiller" plant, then add "fillers" with a variety of foliage and flowers. "But remember to introduce contrast in colors, textures and shapes to keep it eye-pleasing," said Endres.

Try **tropical plants** such as elephant ears and banana leaves, and common houseplants such as Mother in Law's tongue for "thrillers."

Place **lushly planted pots** on the porch to welcome guests.

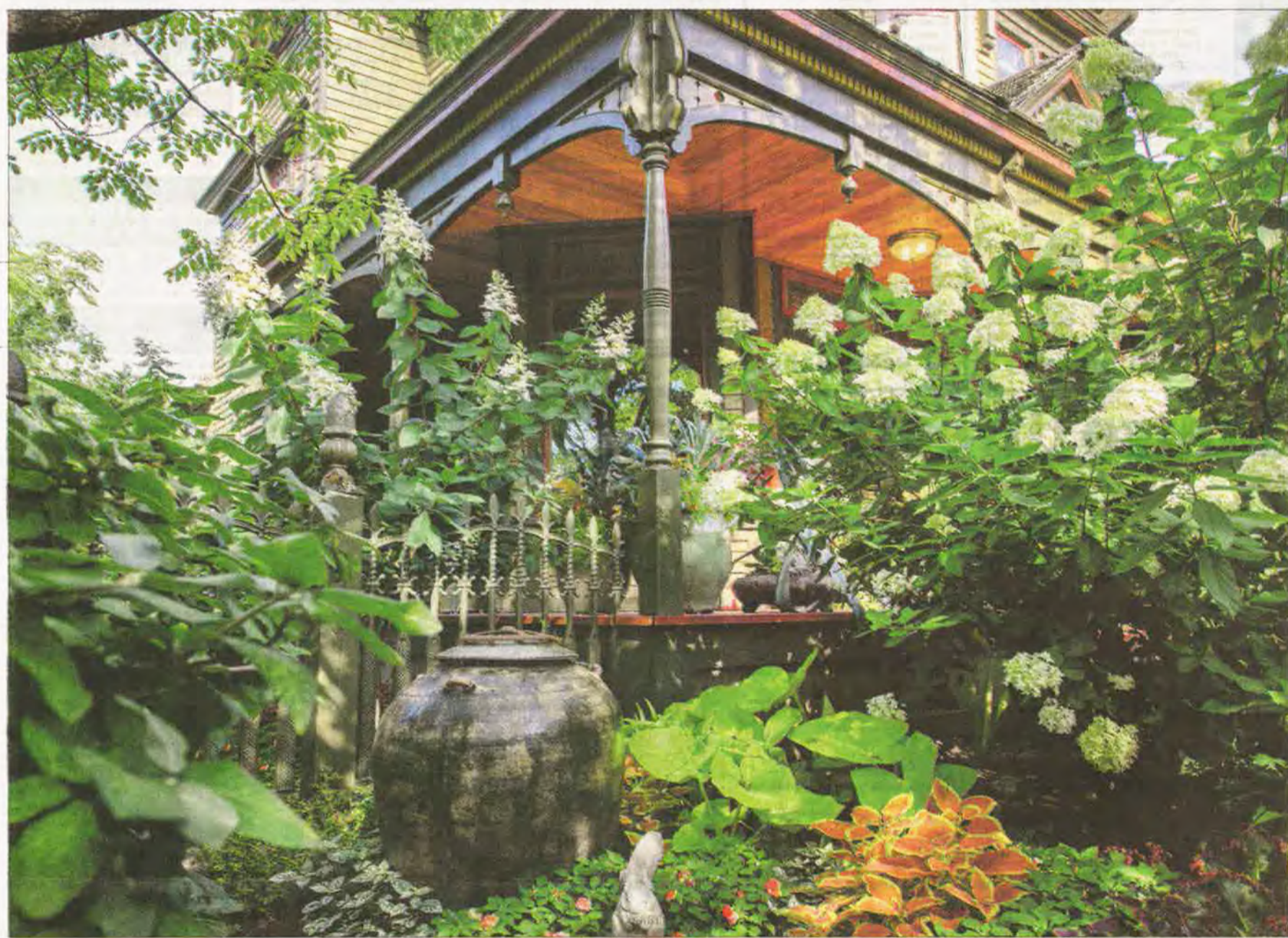
For **porch privacy**, Endres planted a prolific 'Lime-light' hydrangea in front.

Design **garden beds** to create "little windows" that frame different views. Endres has a high bird's-eye vista from the front porch and a longer view from the boulevard. "You can appreciate the garden from different levels," he said.

Repeat "gestures" such as color, texture and form to make beds look composed and cohesive. For example, he clusters dwarf white zinnias in his boulevard garden and larger white zinnias in the terrace gardens. Coleus shapes and colors are repeated in both gardens.

And **layer depth** with different heights and forms throughout the landscape.

The **boulevard gardens** gave him "extra elbow room" to add more plantings on his compact city lot. Since the area is vulnerable to salt and snowplows, he plants "bulletproof perennials" such as peonies, allium, heuchera and sedum, then fills in with annuals. He picks plants with orange and red hues to complement the cinnamon-colored trim on his house.



Photos by GLEN STUBBE • gstubbe@startribune.com  
**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** The puffy foliage of chicken gizzard adds contrast and color to the gardens. Scott Endres' koi swim in the "moat" encircling a backyard bluestone patio. The rebuilt Victorian-style front porch is a fitting backdrop to the whimsical landscape.

## AN EXOTIC OASIS

### GARDENS from H1

In the late 1970s, "An architect bought it for his family and did a good job putting it back together," he said. But by the mid-1990s, the house hadn't been updated in years, and the yard was pocked with scrubby trees, as well as a dog run.

Endres zealously tackled the home from the inside — including remodeling the bathrooms and kitchen — and the outside, as he gradually transformed the front and back yards into a garden oasis. First he put in trees and major elements like walkways, a patio and a pond, followed by shrubs, perennials and annuals.

And over time, Endres deposited money into a porch fund so that he could someday replace the deteriorating 1970s deck-like structure with a welcoming front porch that would complement the architectural quality and the period of the home.

"I wanted to embellish the lady," said Endres. "But still show her blue-collar roots."

He enlisted designers David Heide and Brad Belka, of David Heide Design Studio, to fashion a new porch that would take cues from original parts of the house. Housecraft Remodeling was the contractor.

"Scott's Victorian is a wonderful representation of an exuberant house," said Heide. His team's mission was to incorporate those details — such as decorative corbels, dentil molding and age-old brackets — that capture the spirit of the late 19th-



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Endres opted for a side porch for easier access to the side gardens. The new porch columns, valances and other elements were inspired by architectural details on the original parts of the 1880s home. Everything on the porch was replaced except the roof.

century style.

"We reinterpreted original design motifs but did it in a cost-effective way," said Heide. They were able to buy ready-made reproduction pieces such as brackets and columns. But wood valances and other elements had to be custom-made. The valance and skirtboard are adorned with whimsical, Victorian-inspired accents: circular and diamond-shaped cutouts, which were "fun to make up,"

said Heide.

Heide rebuilt the porch more low to the ground and without a railing at the request of Endres, who didn't want to block the visual flow to the carefully cultivated landscape. "The porch serves as a bridge between the house and garden," said Endres.

Heide also added another staircase on one side to make it easy to step down to gaze at the side plantings. "It's very close to what would have been there the

day the first family moved into their new home," he said.

Endres set his grandmother's wicker chairs in a place of honor on his new porch. He's also created complementary garden beds that unfold in colorful, multitiered layers below. "I love to see the nuances in the garden," he said, "and the mosaic of plants with the light shining through."

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Photos by David Heide Design Studio  
**TOP:** The 1970s front porch before the completed project.  
**ABOVE:** David Heide Design Studio took cues from the Victorian home for the rebuilt porch.

"I wanted to embellish the lady, but still show her blue-collar roots."

Scott Endres