

Premiere Issue

RIVER & SHORE'S

COASTAL HOMES

THE CONNECTICUT SHORELINE HOME



They preserved the charm

Something magical happened on Middle Beach

Walk through a Japanese garden • 2010 hurricane season •
2 kitchen makeovers • Oh, what they fixed up out in Clinton

LATE SPRING 2010



What do you do when you lose your water view? If you are Janie McCabe, you look to the East for inspiration. She created a Japanese garden, a serene oasis with a teahouse, lots of stone and vertical plantings.

REPAIRING THE VIEW

ture that now dominated their environment.

They turned to landscape designer Janie McCabe for help, who admits that at first she was stumped. But McCabe came up with an unusual idea. They would not look back — they would look to the East, the Far East, to Japan, for inspiration. McCabe was long a fan of Japanese gardens and had visited a number of them on a recent pleasure trip there.

The Kelseys' garden would become more intimate — a small, contained outdoor room. With thoughtful plantings, it would screen out the new construction and emphasize the precious

Renewed serenity comes from the Japanese garden out back

By Susan Braden

DAVID AND JULIE KELSEY were heartbroken when they lost their prized water view from their small backyard, overlooking Branford Harbor, clear to the old town wharf.

New owners had bought the neighboring summer cottage that had long seemed like it had always been there. Without delay, the old house with its wraparound porch was torn down to make way for a new dwelling with grand dimensions.

In the lot right in front of the Kelseys' modernist home on Brocketts Point Road, this new house they dubbed "the Big House" blocked most of their vista. In fact, sitting outside, the only "view" they had was of this overreaching struc-



The diminished view of Branford Harbor from the Kelseys' second-floor deck during construction of their neighbor's house. Photos courtesy of Janie McCabe.