

Dick and Cheryl Hazel often host impromptu gatherings in their outdoor room. The furnished, art-filled space with a wood-burning fireplace makes Portland's rain-soaked fall a favorite time to entertain friends. The structure's simple, classical lines echo the style of their Colonial Revival home.

PHOTOS BY
MARY BONDAROWICZ
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PAVILION OF peace

*A teacher gains the haven
of his dreams* By Ruth Mullen ♦ THE OREGONIAN

If it's a dark and stormy night, chances are Dick Hazel is outside enjoying the weather. The Jesuit High School teacher can't wait for the incessant drizzle and bone-chilling damp that portend autumn in the Northwest — everything that leaves most of us scrambling for the light box. "I love sitting out in the rain," says Hazel. "I love this garden year-round."



“The challenge was creating a sense of enclosure without really enclosing it.”

WADE FREITAG, DESIGNER

For Hazel, a crackling fire, a bulky Irish fisherman’s sweater and wool slippers are all he needs to embrace the season. But these are by no means his only comforts: There are also a surround-sound stereo system with remote control, well-padded teak furniture and an occasional glass of Tullamore Dew, his favorite Irish whiskey. There are also a ceiling fan and plenty of lighting for evening reading, though Hazel prefers to simply gaze out at his handiwork, pondering life and his next summer project.

Works by local artists personalize the space: a glass piece by Linda Janachek; a stainless-steel sculpture of a spawning salmon; a ceramic pot by Ron Fenter.

Then there’s the sweeping view of the garden itself — a lush, formal retreat bolstered by a sturdy backbone of



Dick Hazel decorates his garden with door knockers collected on trips to Europe. This Egyptian knocker was discovered on a trip to Florence, Italy.

evergreens. With its meticulously edged borders, teeming annuals and manicured lawn, Hazel’s garden comes into its own in fall, just when most Northwest gardens are beginning to fade.

“Annuals give you terrific color, and I love color,” he says. “We have what we hope will be a 10-month garden, from early spring to late fall. You can do that in this climate.”

His wife, Cheryl, also enjoys the garden room, but admits she can’t linger too long once the damp chill of fall sets in. Not Dick: “He loves to sit out here in the cold,” she says.

And no wonder. It’s Hazel’s favorite place to unwind after an intense day teaching English to high school freshmen. In fact, he spent 20 years pondering just such a space, consulting countless books for inspiration, but never finding the right design. In addition to an outdoor fireplace, he envisioned a stone floor, a stucco exterior and free-standing columns that would echo the classical lines of his Eastmoreland home.

“If I had had the money, I would have done it before,” says Hazel.

Last year, the couple finally took the plunge and called Wade Freitag, of Craftsman Design and Renovation, who turned their foggy fantasy into stone-and-stucco reality, worth every penny of its \$25,000 price tag. “Even though it feels like a living room, it really is outdoors,” says Freitag. “The challenge was creating a sense of enclosure without really enclosing it.”

An airy ceiling, clad in tongue-and-groove cedar planks, makes the 200-square-foot structure feel more spacious than its modest size suggests. A rustic flagstone floor, potted annuals and the soothing trickle of nearby fountains beckon visitors. Hazel keeps an extra pair of wool slippers and a stash of Rich’s cigars on hand for just those occasions.

“We have a fairly social street, so we all intermingle quite a bit,” says friend and neighbor Holly Thomas.

“Neighbors don’t even knock,” adds Dick. “They just wander back here.”

More Greek pavilion than garden gazebo, the Hazels’ garden room tucks into the northeast corner of their city lot, offering a stylish counterpoint to their 1927 Colonial Revival home. So stylish, in fact, that the Hazels have already hosted two weddings and a funeral since the structure was completed just a year ago.

Hazel used his green thumb to enhance the sense of privacy and enclosure: A morning glory clambers up a wooden trellis along one side, while still more potted annuals frame the entryway.

Bundled up by the fire, with the lights dimmed and the candles lit, he can’t think of a place he’d rather be.

“For a place to go and relax, it’s unbeatable,” he says. “It’s just as calm and pleasant and peaceful as it could be.” ♦

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The city’s 5-foot setback rule helped set the stage for this cozy nook behind the outdoor room, where Dick Hazel often likes to sit and enjoy the fading afternoon sun.