

Gardens As Art

This company brings art and science to landscape design

BY SCOTT D. ELINGBURG | PHOTOGRAPH BY HOLGER OBENAU

Patty Craven and Nicholas Popovich aren't just landscape designers—they're artists. While discussing their work, they continually use terms like "texture," "space," "balance" and "functionality." And they make references to the science of landscape architecture as well.

"It's always art and science," Popovich explains. "There's a function and elegance that we want to integrate."

DIG (Designing Innovative Gardens) began two and half years ago when Craven began a landscaping business that provided more than just basic design and landscape services. Her

business focused on client relationships and turnkey projects. Popovich joined her soon after opening. "We depend on one another, so it was a natural fit," Craven says. "When it's your own company you can create an atmosphere around what you believe in."

On a recent humid but breezy Tuesday, Craven and Popovich meet me at a residence in I'On to display their latest design. Craven offers to send me some images of the home before the redesign, but the beauty and arrangement of the landscape is so well defined that I'd rather not have it spoiled. And as we walk along a square pathway of

Plantation Mix (small pieces of granite) the duo point out specific elements of the project.

The backyard is home to a myriad plants: hydrangea, gardenias, confederate jasmine and a host of evergreen plants—all hand-picked by Craven and Popovich and all chosen for their color, texture and fit into the overall design. There are palmetto trees, crape myrtles, and magnolias that line a large privacy wall; a small but elegant water feature near the patio; and a paved nook where the homeowner's grills are placed. The attention to detail is stunning. "It's the combination of the little things that make all the difference," Craven says.

DIG isn't a traditional landscape business; it's an outlet for Patty and Nick to create art through landscape design and to help homeowner's truly enjoy their homes. "It's about the relationships between people and seeing them enjoy their space," Popovich says. "And, of course, it's about the finished artwork," Craven adds eagerly. ➤



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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