

# Groundbreaking Gardens

At DIG Landscapes, the “I” stands for Innovation

BY VLADIA JURCOVA-SPENCER

When landscape designer, Patty Craven, left her job in corporate America to follow a passion for landscape design, she didn't dream that seven years later she would lead a full-service landscape design and consultation business with clients in residential, commercial and municipal properties. Now, she and Nicholas Popovich, co-owners of DIG Landscape, work together to design gardens that stand out in terms of beauty, functionality and innovation.

According to Popovich, before the team commits their designs to paper, they must first understand the “lay of the land” as well as their clients' needs and preferences—a process, he says, that can take longer than the installation itself. Craven and Popovich are constantly scouting for interesting materials and plant specimens to use in unique and exciting ways. Plus, Popovich's training in structural architecture gives him allows him to integrate the landscape's design with the overall design of the home.

Craven and Popovich create gardens and green spaces that are easy to maintain, and they select plants that will thrive in the varying Lowcountry soils. Drawing on their knowledge and experience, they can create “rooms” for their clients' different moods or lifestyles—from outdoor dining areas complete with lighting to places for quiet reflection. DIG's work, however, doesn't end with installation, The team leaves clients with many resources to care for their sophisticated landscapes.

DIG's refined designs also integrate green elements that can save homeowners money. Constantly challenging themselves to think green led Craven and Popovich to take part in a new building project, the 2009 Green Idea Home. Their plans for the Green Idea Home include integrating the home with the landscape, installing irrigation systems that use recycled water, and planting drought-resistant plants that will feed the family and protect the natural environment. ➤



## DIG LANDSCAPE

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