

IN THE COUNTRY

Pots With Pedigree

Pennoyer sits amid some of her work in the greenhouse of her Locust Valley home.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SAM YOCUM

ACCORDING TO Cecily Pennoyer, it all began in the seventies when her husband, Paul, took her to see Wall Hall, in England, a house once owned by his grandfather J.P. Morgan. She was so enchanted by the antique garden pots and lead urns she saw there that upon her return to America she decided to fabricate individually cast copies of these treasures, re-creating them in lighter-weight materials. An artist by training, Pennoyer began by making

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reproductions of three of the Wall Hall pots her mother-in-law had brought Stateside, experimenting with a mixture of marble, rock and resin. These experiments were so successful that her friends and family wanted pieces of their own, and what began as a hobby soon grew into a cottage industry, with Pennoyer producing an ever-growing selection of pots, benches and ornaments. Many originals came from the great estates of the Fricks, the >110

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(continued from 107) Guggenheims and, of course, the Morgans. Several of these properties, in fact, were near her own home in Locust Valley, on New York's Long Island.

For years, her base of operations was her squash court, and the enterprise a well-kept secret. But in 2003, after a five-year hiatus, Pennoyer took on a partner, Virginia Newman Yocum, and the firm **Pennoyer Newman** was born. Today it produces a large variety of objects, many of them with quite impeccable provenance. But my favorites are Pennoyer's original cool and elegantly simple interpretations of Florentine style. Available in a wide range of sizes and shapes, the pots can be left outside all winter, weigh very little and have built-in risers, all of which makes them ideal for terraces and roof gardens. \$75 to \$1,500; custom work from \$500. 212-334-5215; pennoyernewman.com. JANE GARMEY