





Roof terraces are like stage sets, says landscape designer David Kelly, in that they're typically viewed from a single direction. "You can move around in a large garden," says Kelly, a principal at the Manhattan-based firm Rees Roberts + Partners, "but these spaces are primarily experienced through a window." As a result, Kelly considers the view in

tiers: what you see from inside constitutes the foreground, what's happening on the deck is the middle, and the view out to the horizon marks the distance. If set up well, Kelly says, "your eye has places to look at, rest, and then continue beyond." Roof terraces are also meant to be used, he says, and the one featured on this spread not only includes room to relax but also to conduct agility training with the homeowner's Portuguese water dogs. Kelly also likes to incorporate what he calls "the magic of the unexpected," which on this project meant a miniature allée of nearly impossible-to-find pleached hornbeam trees that he underplanted with lavender.

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