

rise

Stylish City Living from New England Home

Points of View

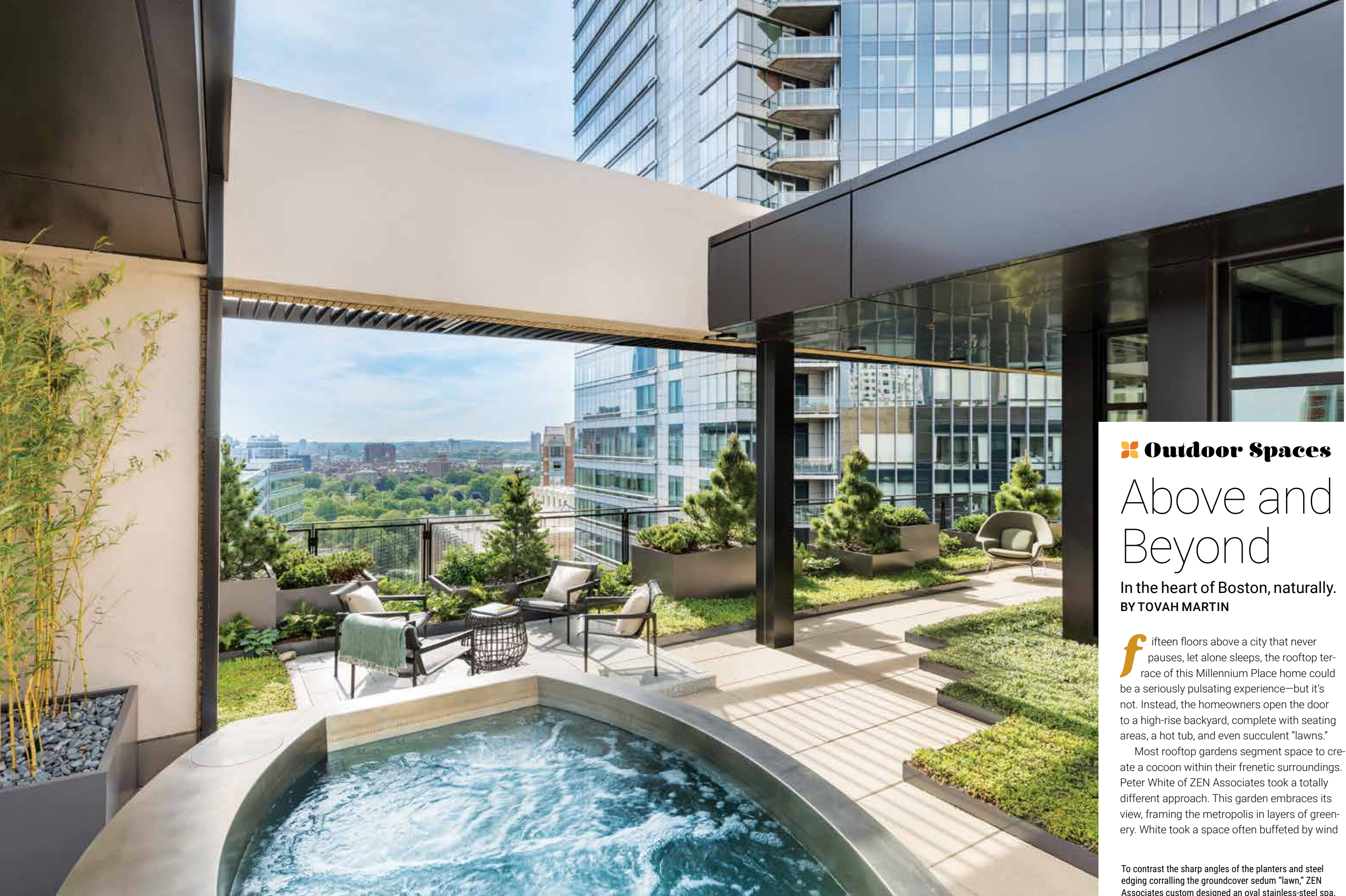
New Directions
in Design

The Lush Life

A Private Garden
in the Sky



- Inspiring Interiors
- Expert Advice
- Chic Shops



Outdoor Spaces

Above and Beyond

In the heart of Boston, naturally.
BY TOVAH MARTIN

fifteen floors above a city that never pauses, let alone sleeps, the rooftop terrace of this Millennium Place home could be a seriously pulsating experience—but it's not. Instead, the homeowners open the door to a high-rise backyard, complete with seating areas, a hot tub, and even succulent "lawns."

Most rooftop gardens segment space to create a cocoon within their frenetic surroundings. Peter White of ZEN Associates took a totally different approach. This garden embraces its view, framing the metropolis in layers of greenery. White took a space often buffeted by wind

To contrast the sharp angles of the planters and steel edging corralling the groundcover sedum "lawn," ZEN Associates custom designed an oval stainless-steel spa.

Outdoor Spaces




ABOVE: Sturdy fencing topped by a guardrail almost slips out of sight behind a series of fiberglass planters in varying sizes and two shades of putty holding conifers, perennials, hellebores, and sun-tolerant ferns. **RIGHT:** From the comfy four-season sitting room, the evergreens form a vista to frame the skyline.

and subjected to piercing sun and tamed it, creating a living experience that coaxes the homeowners outdoors.

Stark was an understatement for the rooftop scene when the clients called on ZEN. The homeowners were making a 180-degree shift from a suburban farmhouse to the unabashedly modern penthouse apartment. Eager to embrace the urban experience but unwilling to leave fresh air out of the equation, they asked for ambience. White went many steps further to deliver a cohesive design linked by a circuit of sleek stone walkways. In lieu of lawn, sedums are corralled within strong geometric edging. An oval-shaped soaking spa softens the lines. Overhead lighting gives the urban garden levity and creates a handshake with the city rather than slipping into the shadows. Overhangs shield spaces from the beating sun. And layers of planters in various strong geometric shapes and sizes nurture bold statement plants all top-dressed in stone for anchoring purposes while being quenched by a discrete irrigation system.

The result is so much more than just a backdrop; it's a magnetic scene that draws the homeowners




Soft, curvaceous furniture complements the sharp lines outside

outside whenever weather permits. Birds come and hit the high notes. Grandkids splash in the tub. And yes, Boston drivers periodically blast their horns below. But no one dwells on the urban babble. In this ecosystem above it all, serenity with a view is only natural. 🌿

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details about this home, see [Resources](#).