

Builder/Architect



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Local Features
**Outdoor Environments, Inc.
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Sarah's Cottage Creations**

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Sarah's Cottage Creations Featured on HGTV's *Landscape Smart*

For those of us not familiar with *Landscape Smart*, what is the general concept of the show?

"*Landscape Smart* is a weekly program focusing on a 'bad backyard.' A designer is brought in to transform the yard into a beautiful outdoor space. The show follows the steps from beginning tear out, through to the final afters. The homeowners are very involved in the project and work alongside the designer and the landscape team."

How did you get involved with *Landscape Smart* on HGTV?

"In May of 2005 I received an e-mail through the MNLA (Minnesota Nursery Landscape Association) announcing an opportunity to interview for a position as a designer on a *Landscape Smart* show. I reacted to the e-mail immediately and within 24 hours had my photos and résumé to the contact. I was called in for an on camera interview and was told they would be talking with 300 designers for the position. The next week I had a phone call confirming my position on



the show and setting up the design project. What a rush it was!"

Were there any specific design or planning challenges that you had to overcome on the show?

"Every show has some sort of issue to deal



with. The episode to air on March 31st had a steep sloping hill in the backyard which caused a lack of yard space to play in. We used the problem to our advantage. We cut out the hill and pushed it back using natural stone to build a waterfall and firepit area. The homeowner was thrilled with the end result."

How was your overall experience working with HGTV and do you think you'd do something like this again in the future?

"The show was a challenge. Meeting time deadlines and financial budgets, while satisfying the dreams of the homeowners, all within a two week window of time. The staff was great to work with and we all had a lot of fun. You have to have a 'can do' attitude to make it work. I have actually shot four shows for *Landscape Smart* so far and will be shooting a show for *Curb Appeal* this year as well."

What type of services does your company, Sarah's Cottage Creations, provide to builders in the Twin Cities area?

"Sarah's Cottage Creations provides a complete landscape design and installation service to the builders we work with. We are gifted at creating unique solutions to challenging elevation levels, something that most builders are faced with once the house is placed on the lot. We are sensitive to the needs of the builders with the utmost respect to their position, and serve accordingly."

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How would you describe your landscape design style?

“My passion is the cottage garden! Hence the name ‘Cottage Creations.’ We set ourselves apart from other landscapers by our knowledge of the plant material and gardening experience. We know how, when and where to install plants and hardscape elements for

ultimate sustainability. I have a long history in customer service so we really do actively listen to their needs for raving fans in the end.”

Sarah Buerkley is a Washington County Master Gardener and a member of the MNLA. She has a bachelor’s degree from UW and a passion for the garden. The Sarah’s Cottage Creations staff brings

over 50 years of combined experience in landscape and gardening. Sarah’s Cottage Creations can be found in the following neighborhoods: Liberty on the Lake, Troy Burne Golf Village, Victor Gardens, Towne Lakes, Wedgewood, Stonemill Farms, North Oaks, The Pines and The Summits, Tapestry Gallaway, White Eagle, Cloverdale Farms and Fields of St. Croix. ■

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Contact: Carol Garner Design 651.488.9862

Sarah's Cottage Creations
 651.261.6409
 Stillwater, MN
 www.SarahsCottageCreations.com

Garden Design, Installation & Maintenance