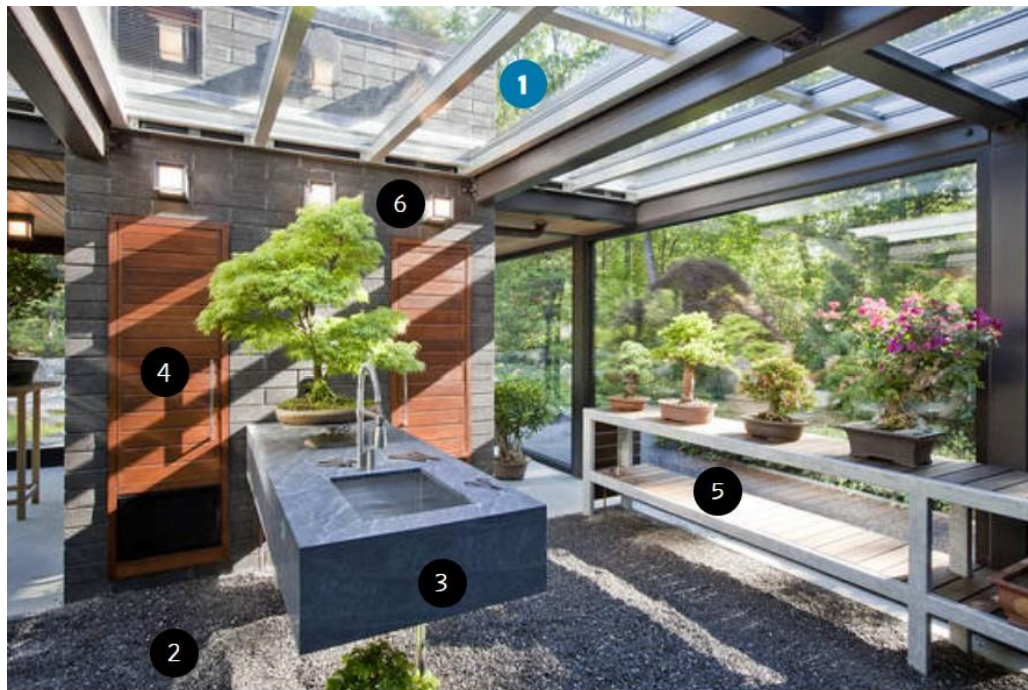


A Place to Bond With His Bonsai

A breakdown of a \$228,000 bonsai house, a 700-square-foot structure where miniature trees are watered, wired, pinched and pruned on mahogany worktables.

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1. Skylight

The custom skylight was designed to provide maximum light and winter warmth. Price: Wasco Pinnacle Series 350 Skylight, \$50-\$100 per square foot depending on glass type and finish

2. Granite

28 tons of crushed salt-and-pepper granite atop a concrete slab provide drainage and comfortable footing. Price: \$20 per ton from local gravel yard

3. Potting Counter

A potting counter made of honed jet mist granite encases a cantilevered worktable with a sink. Price: \$31.87 per square foot from Walker Zanger

4. Cabinets

The cedar cabinets were designed to store tools, while concealing the electrical panel and access to mechanical equipment. Price: \$1,850 for both cabinets

5. Work Benches

The galvanized steel and mahogany work benches, designed by project architect Howard Raley, are waterproof; there's a discrete hose bib on each bottom shelf. Price: \$9,000 per bench

6. Light Fixtures

The bronze-colored steel-and-glass light fixtures echo the architecture. Price: \$495 for the Bega LED 2453 ceiling and wall light

A bonsai collector spent nearly \$228,000 to [create a potting shed](#) worthy of his 15 rare, miniature trees. The ethereal glass-and-steel pavilion seems to float above a rock garden at his home on 16 acres near Boston.

The 700-square foot bonsai house is divided into two distinct environments. One side has a fireplace, a table and comfortable seating. The other side is a sunlit potting room where the miniature trees—a 400 year-old juniper and a Lilliputian maple, among others—are watered, wired, pinched, pruned and repotted on mahogany worktables.



A contemporary gas fireplace warms the sitting room in winter; an automatic gas-fired heater on the opposite side keeps the trees at a comfortable 50 degrees. PHOTO: GREG SHUPE

The potting room’s zen-like simplicity masks a sophisticated mechanical and drainage system. “You can literally open up a hose on that floor, and all the water will sink into the ground,” said architect Colin Flavin, who designed the glass house in collaboration with landscape architect Peter White.

The 69-year-old homeowner, the co-founder of a real-estate investment management company, enjoys reading and relaxing in the glass house with a cigar. He leaves the actual potting to an array of specialists, including a bonsai master who occasionally flies in from Japan.