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**Miles Barnard** landscape architect



## The Gatekeeper

Landscapes around the region have found a friend in Miles Barnard. The thirty-four-year-old Chestertown-based landscape architect relies on a palette of native plants to create his scenes. “It just makes sense to step back and see how the project fits into the larger ecosystem,” says Barnard, who named his four-year-old firm, South Fork Studio Landscape Architecture, after his family vacation spot on the south fork of Colorado’s San Miguel River.

From intimate, elegant poolside gardens to sweeping meadows lush with warm-season grasses, Barnard’s designs all have one thing in common: precise detailing. “For me, it’s all about the garden gate, the masonry structures, the paving patterns,” he says. “I think not only about the texture of plants, but the texture of the stone, the steel, or the brick. I enjoy merging together those finely tuned details with the softness and imprecision of native plants.”

While development continues to encroach throughout the region, Barnard’s antidote is creating untamed, natural landscapes. “When it’s appropriate, I try to introduce some amount of organized chaos into my designs to make things look like they evolved naturally over time,” he says. “Everything needs a little bit of a patina to look right, and I try to create spaces that look like they have always been there and aren’t over-designed. I love to create subtleties where, individually, things seem a bit off, but when you step back and take in the scene as a whole, it works.”  
(410-778-1098)—K.B.