



ROOF CUT- TINGS

New Affiliates
Architectural League Prize Exhibition July, 2020

This catalogue traces five structures that we designed as a single exhibition and installed across New York's five boroughs in Summer, 2020. These were planned for the city's community gardens, where we have been working for the last years on another longer-term project with NYC Parks. Community gardens offer myriad lessons for designers, from their ethics (and aesthetics) of reuse and material assemblies, to their networked social collectives that promote discussion, compromise, and consensus.

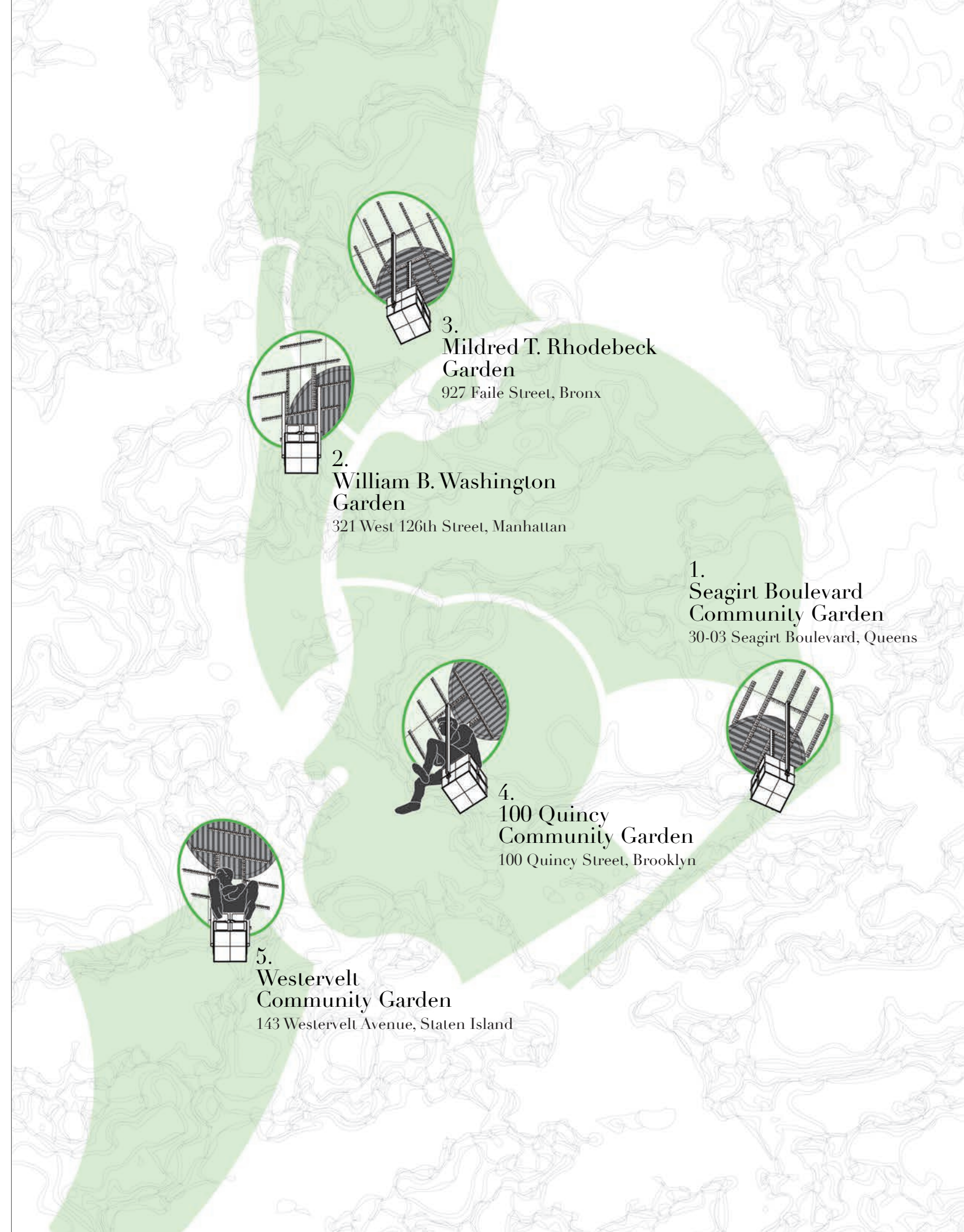
For this exhibition, we were thinking about how even the smallest architectural gestures might produce some value. We looked to Laugier's Hut—a supported roof—and considered how to create a momentary atmosphere or interior with minimal elements. During the current pandemic, we settled on a shade and a seat for a single person to occupy the city's proliferate public spaces, to stay outside, and to keep distant.

Each roof is made of scavenged pieces of greenhouse sheathing and aluminum siding reassembled into unobtrusive forms. To stand beneath it is like being under a tree, or some clouds. We imagine them forming a larger roof over the city—a covering made of small parts. Together their value shifts between the individual and the collective; the moment and the aggregate. In this catalogue, we take a closer look at the gardens themselves—their details and interactions with the city—as a site for these objects, sitting between furniture and architecture, roof and ground.

Fabrication by Studio Kina
Photography by Jesse Whiles
New Affiliates: Ivi Diamantopoulou, Jaffer Kolb, Audrey Haliman

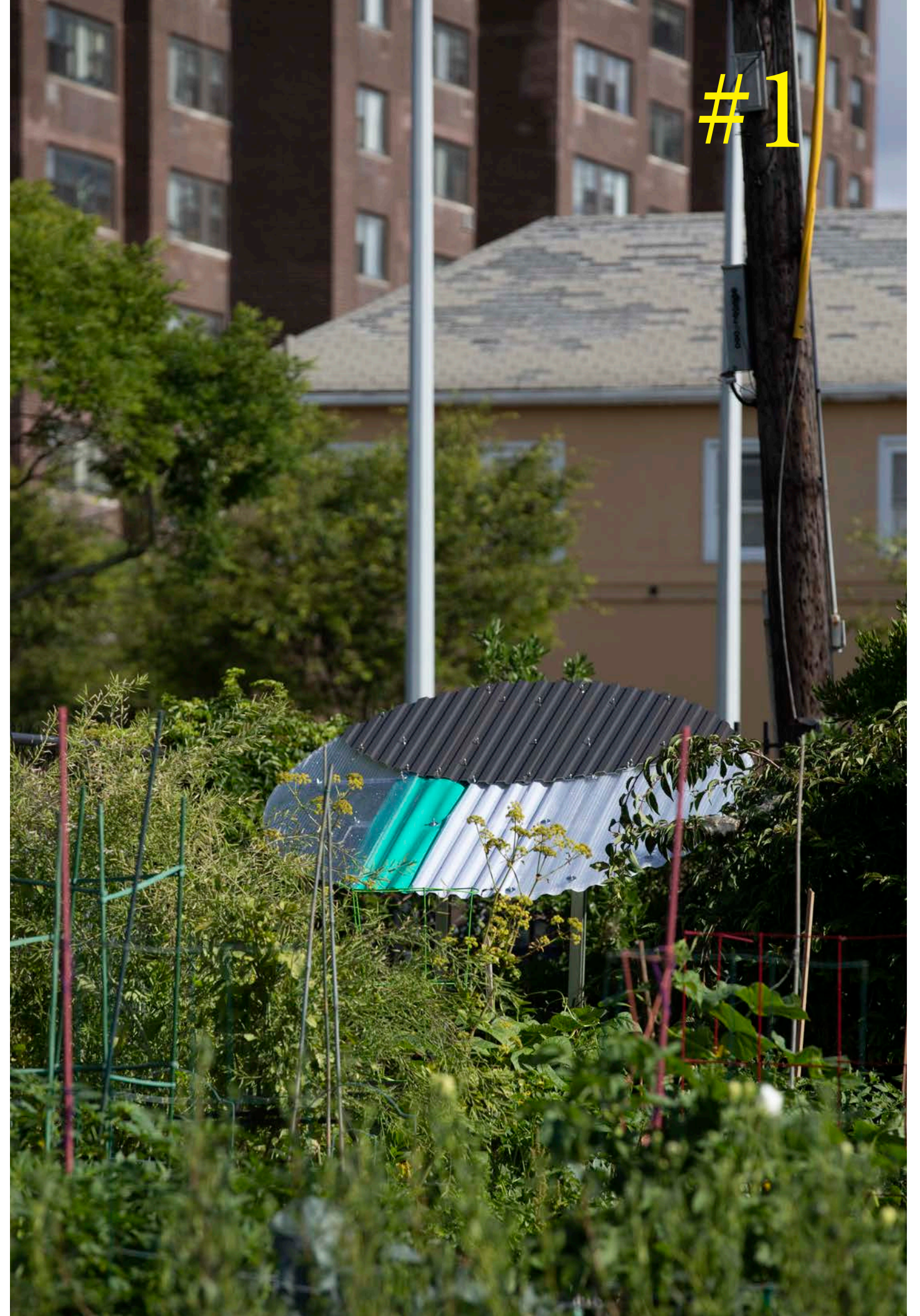
With thanks to NYRP for their support of this project, and especially the participating gardens and gardeners.

This installation is part of the Architectural League Prize exhibition, who we thank for their support.





The Seagirt Boulevard Community Garden is in the Rockaways, Queens. It feels like the beach.

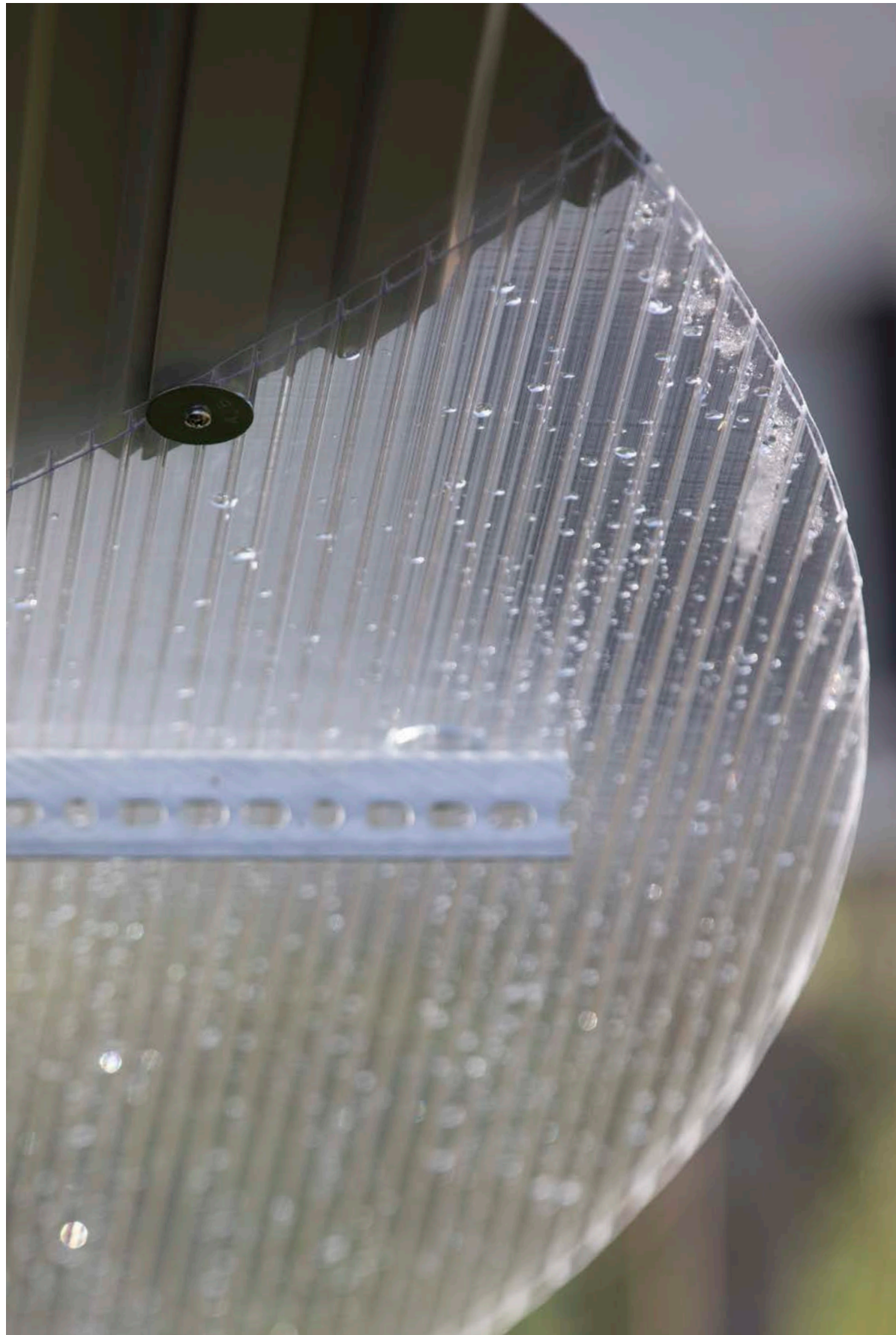




Sharon insisted we take bags of herbs each time we visited the garden. Her sage was a big hit.



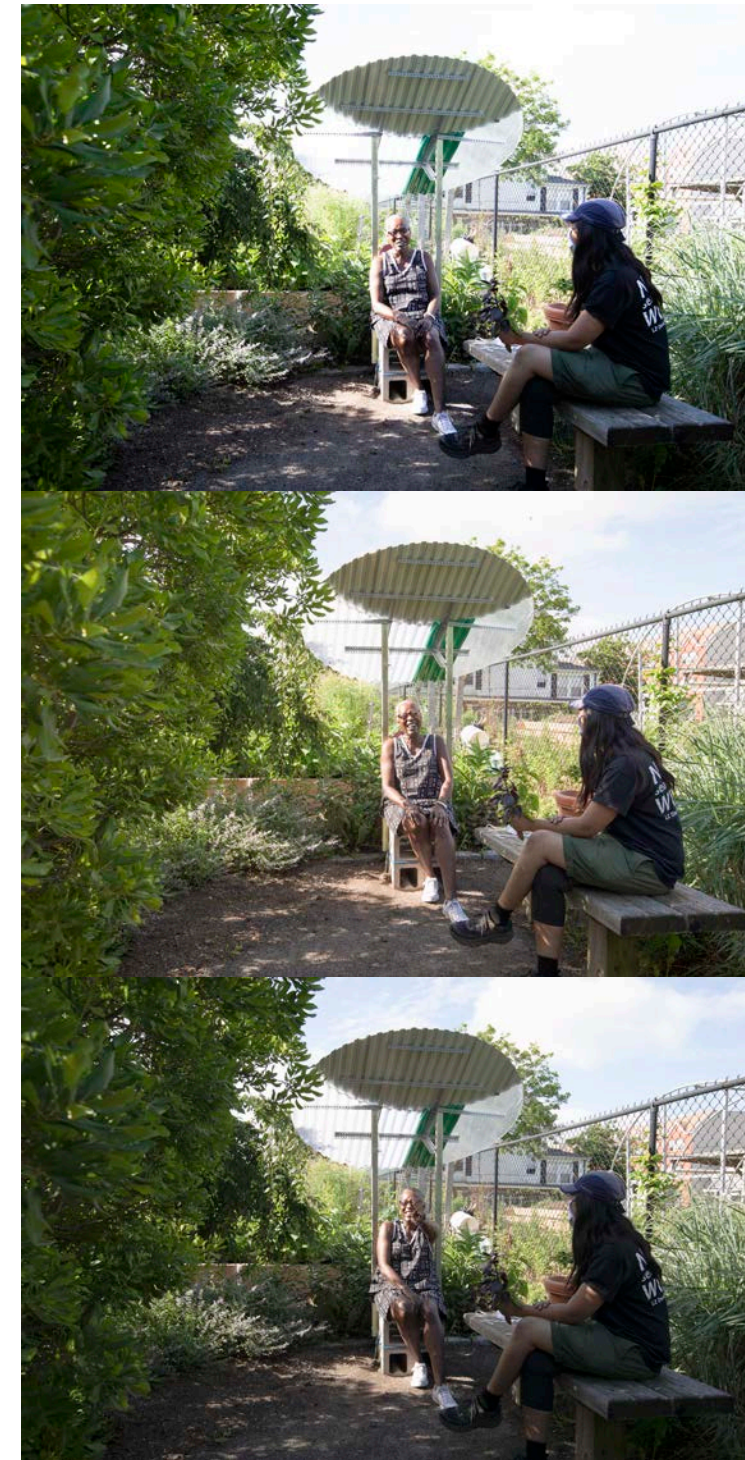
The structure sits between a beach plum and a sturdy bench in a small alcove.



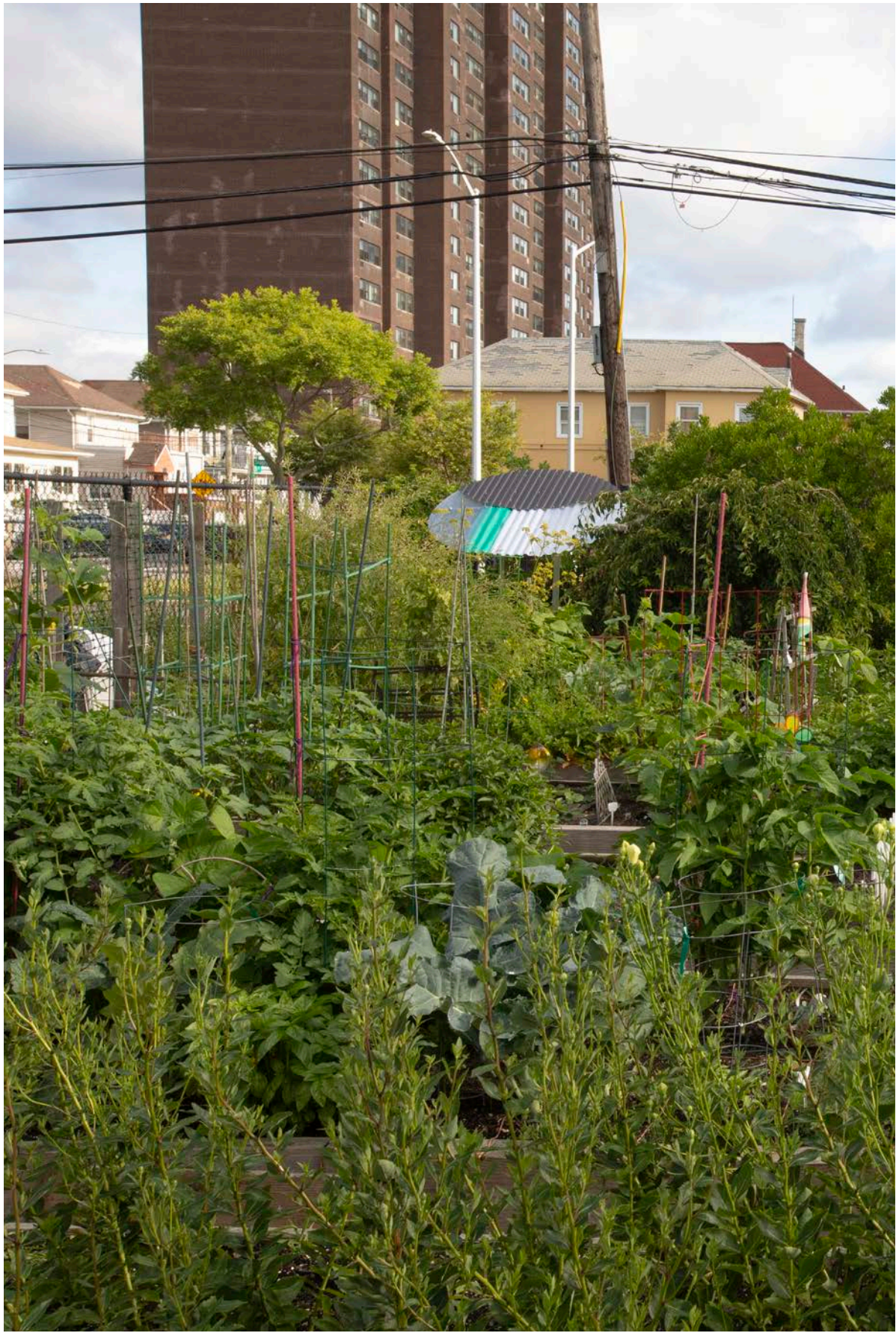
The cinderblock seat is planted firmly in the sandy soil, held together by a bungee cord.

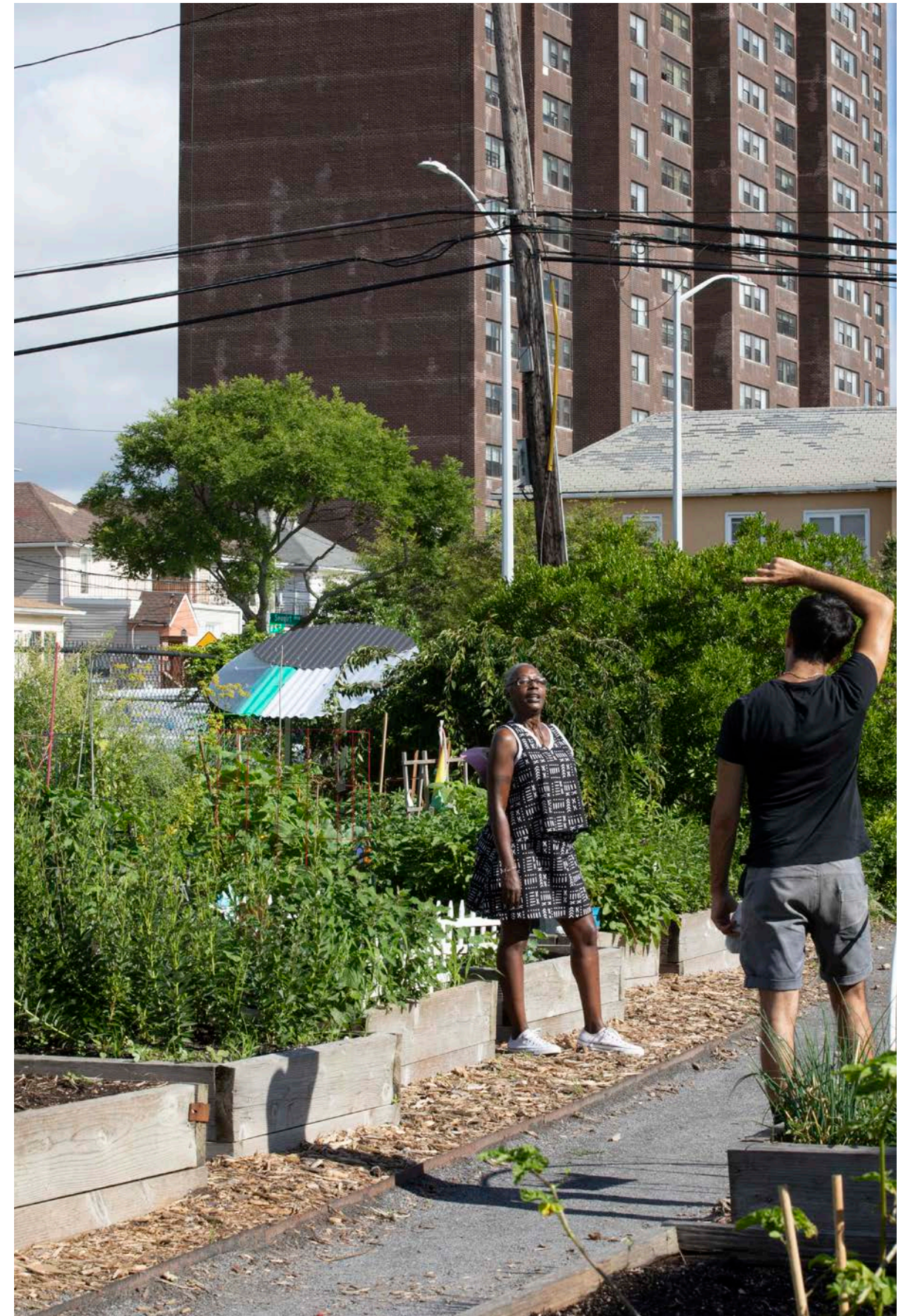


Sharon is a blast. She guides us through the garden and makes sure we taste and touch everything.



It's important to get out of the sun frequently. Two of us get burned during install.

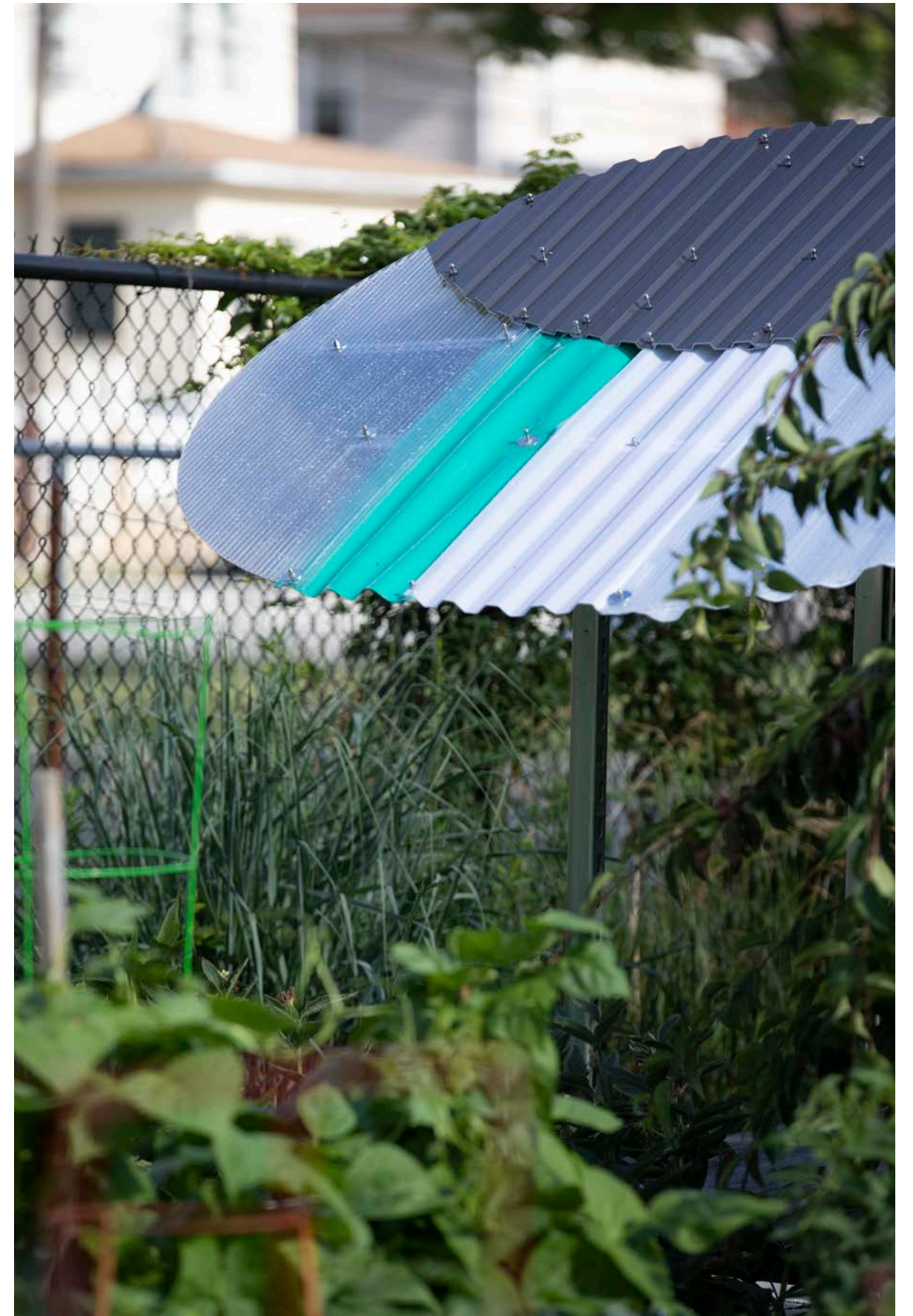




The garden's long, skinny planting beds create walls of dense green.



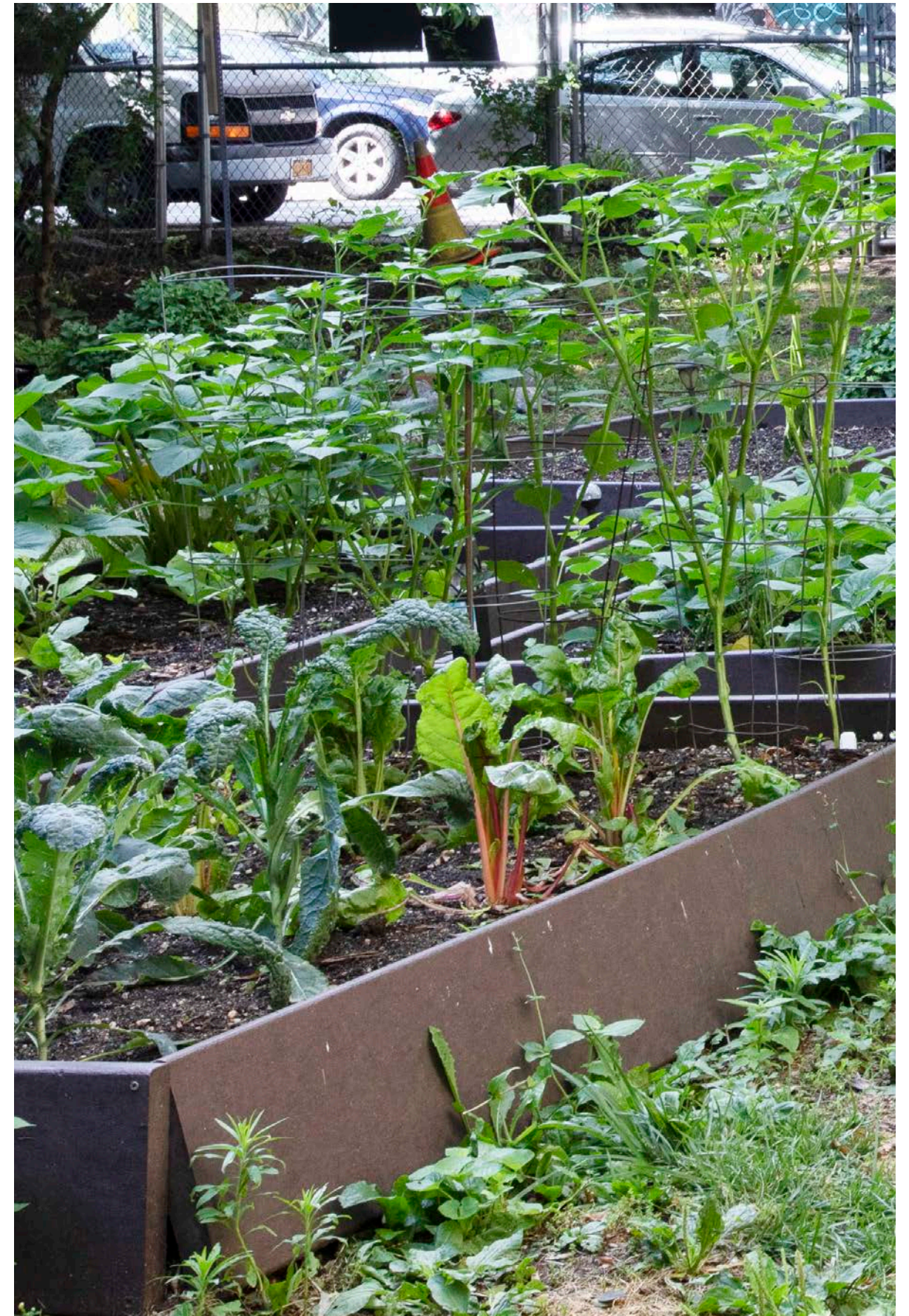
We spotted this shed across the street, made of the same materials as the roofs :)



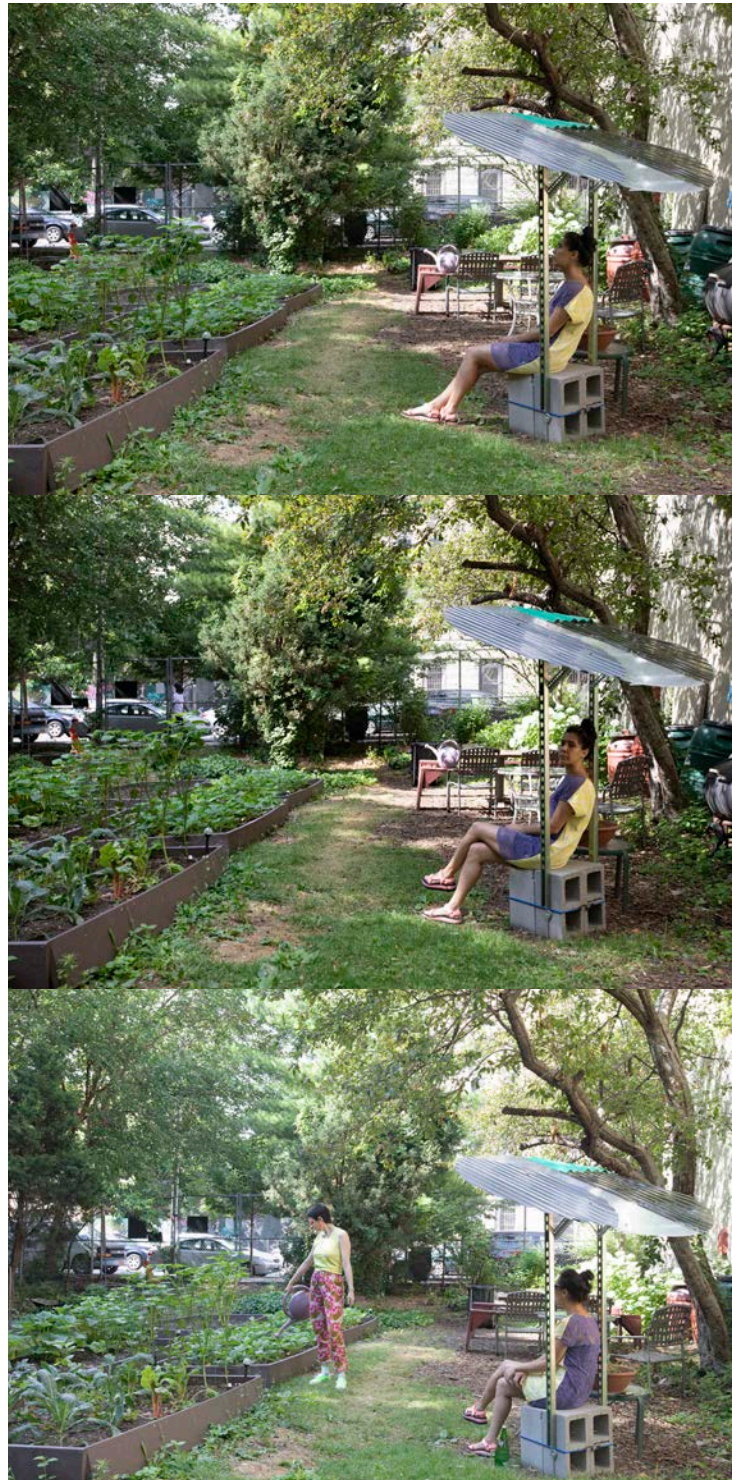




The William B. Washington Garden is in Harlem, a block from the Apollo Theater.



Low beds and open views mean neighbors always want to talk from the street.



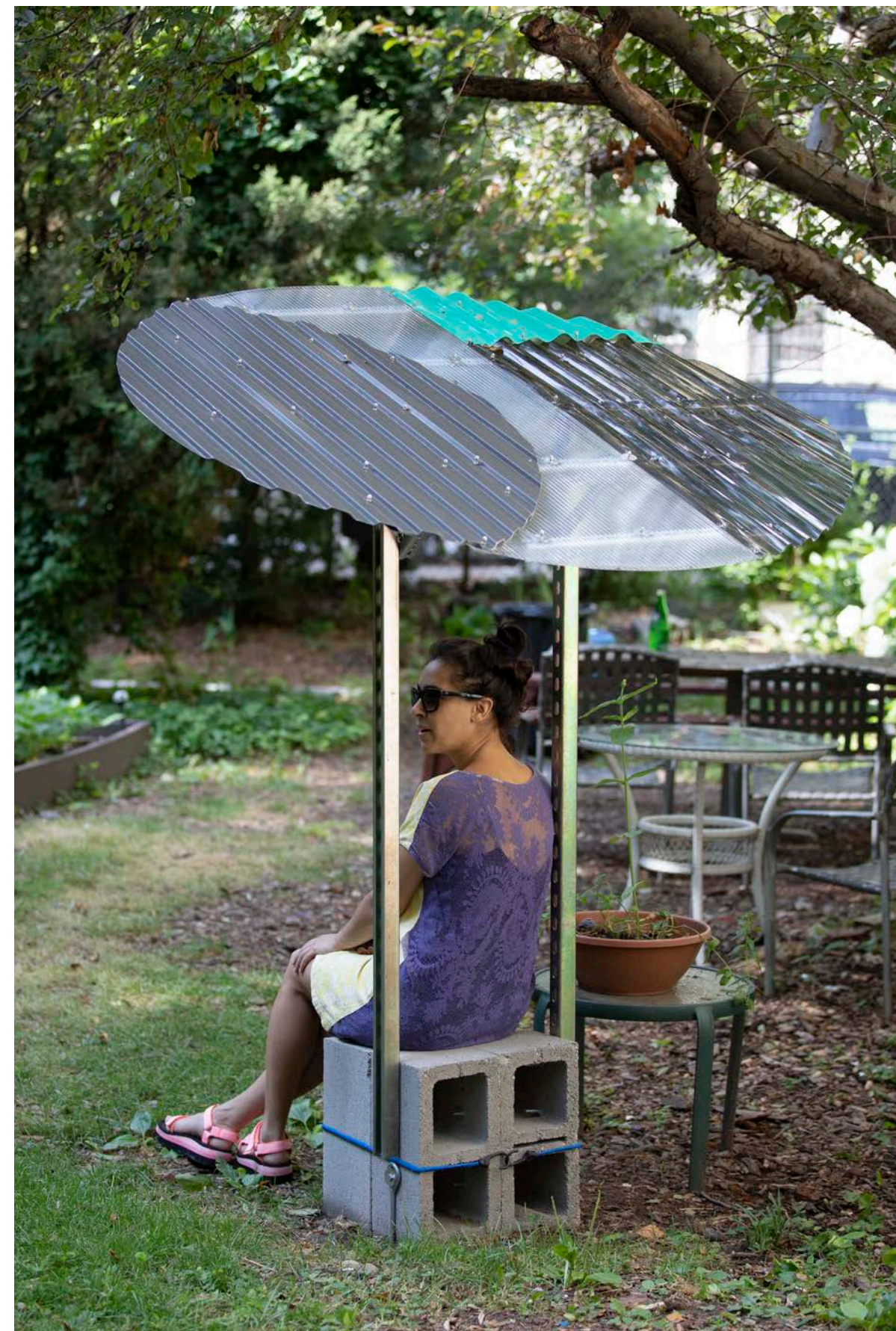
A third of the garden is dedicated to grills, tables, and chairs under a big tree.



Anjuli and Becky collected several bags of beans.



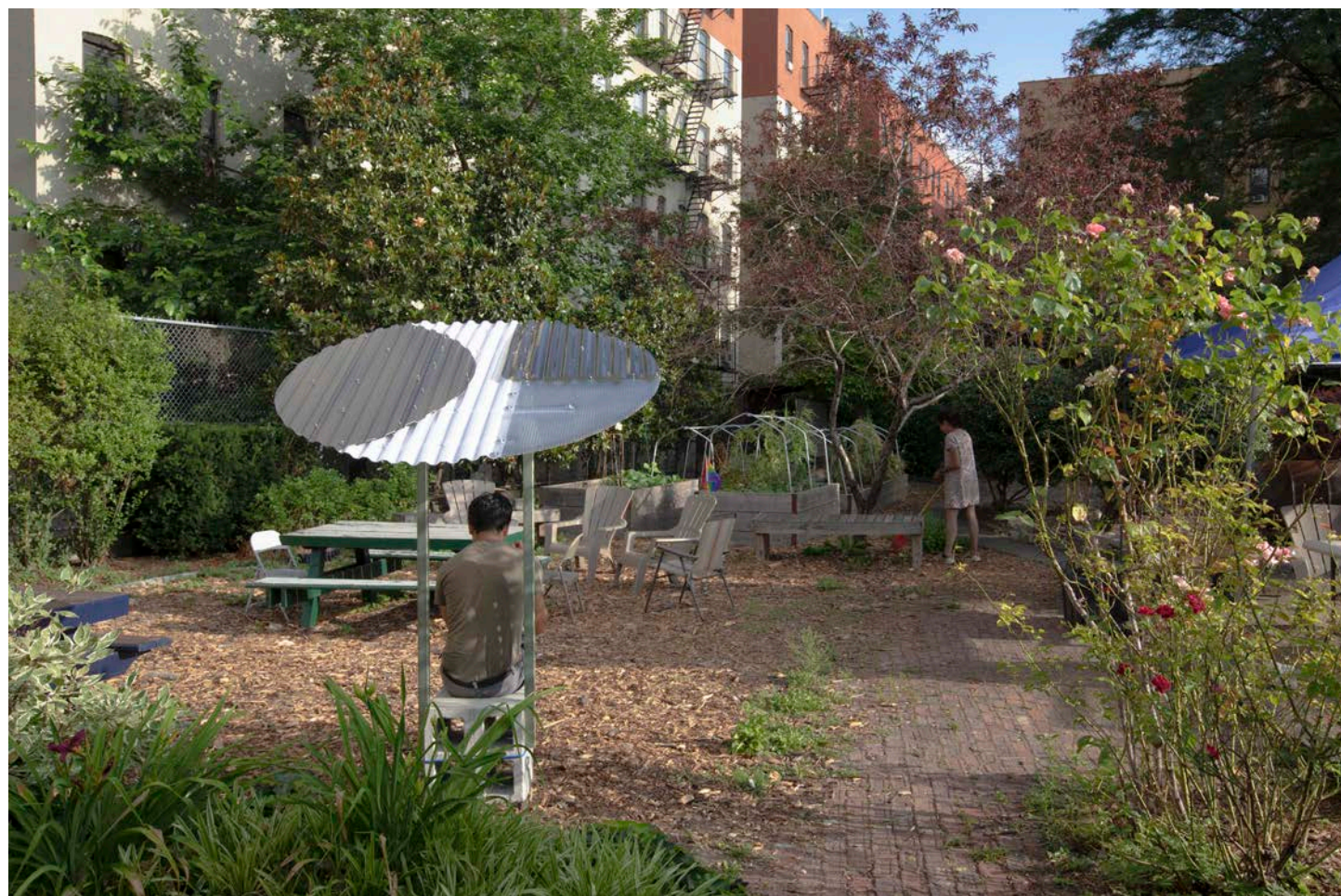
This hydrangea was planted for Jaffer's birthday six years ago.





The garden shares a wall with a church. The two groups often maintain each other's sidewalks.





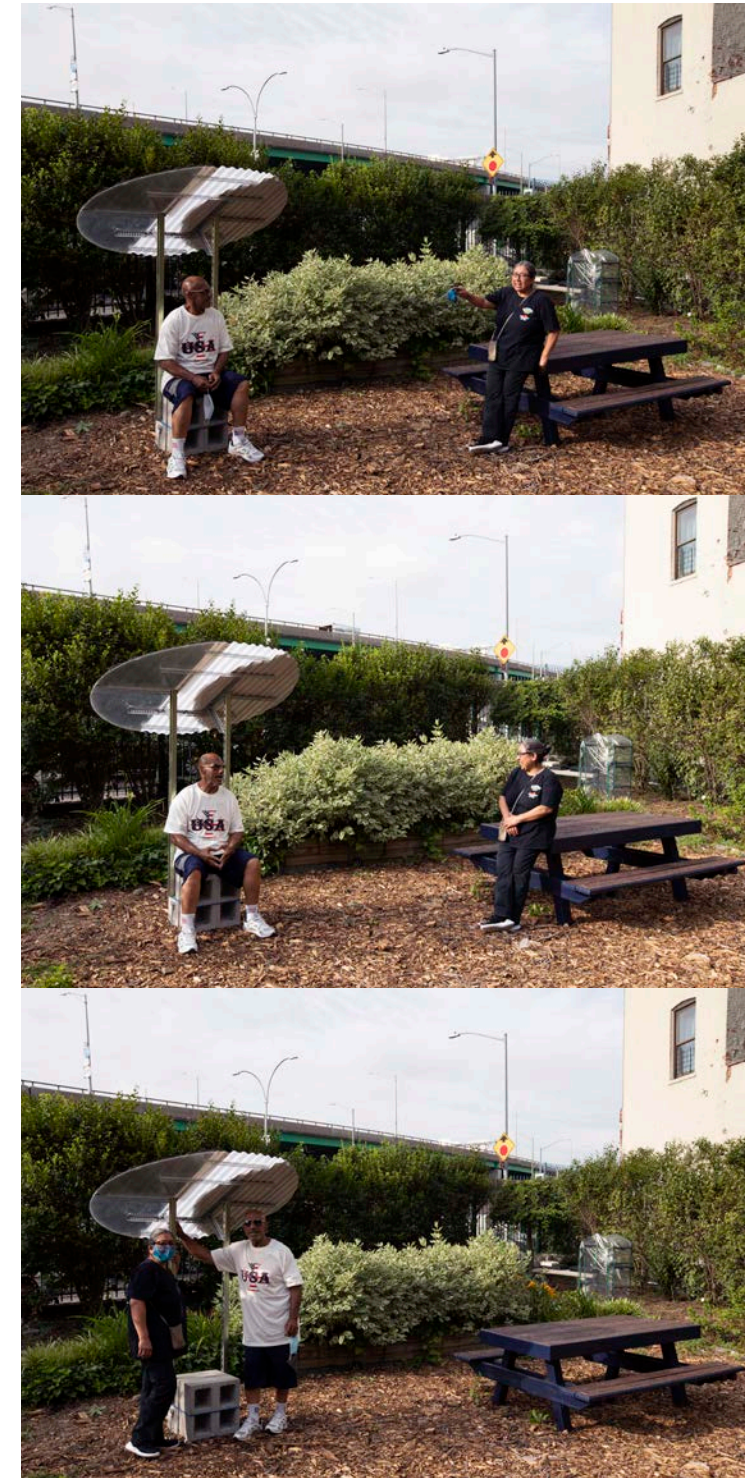
The Mildred T. Rhodebeck Garden is just under the Bruckner Expressway in the Bronx.



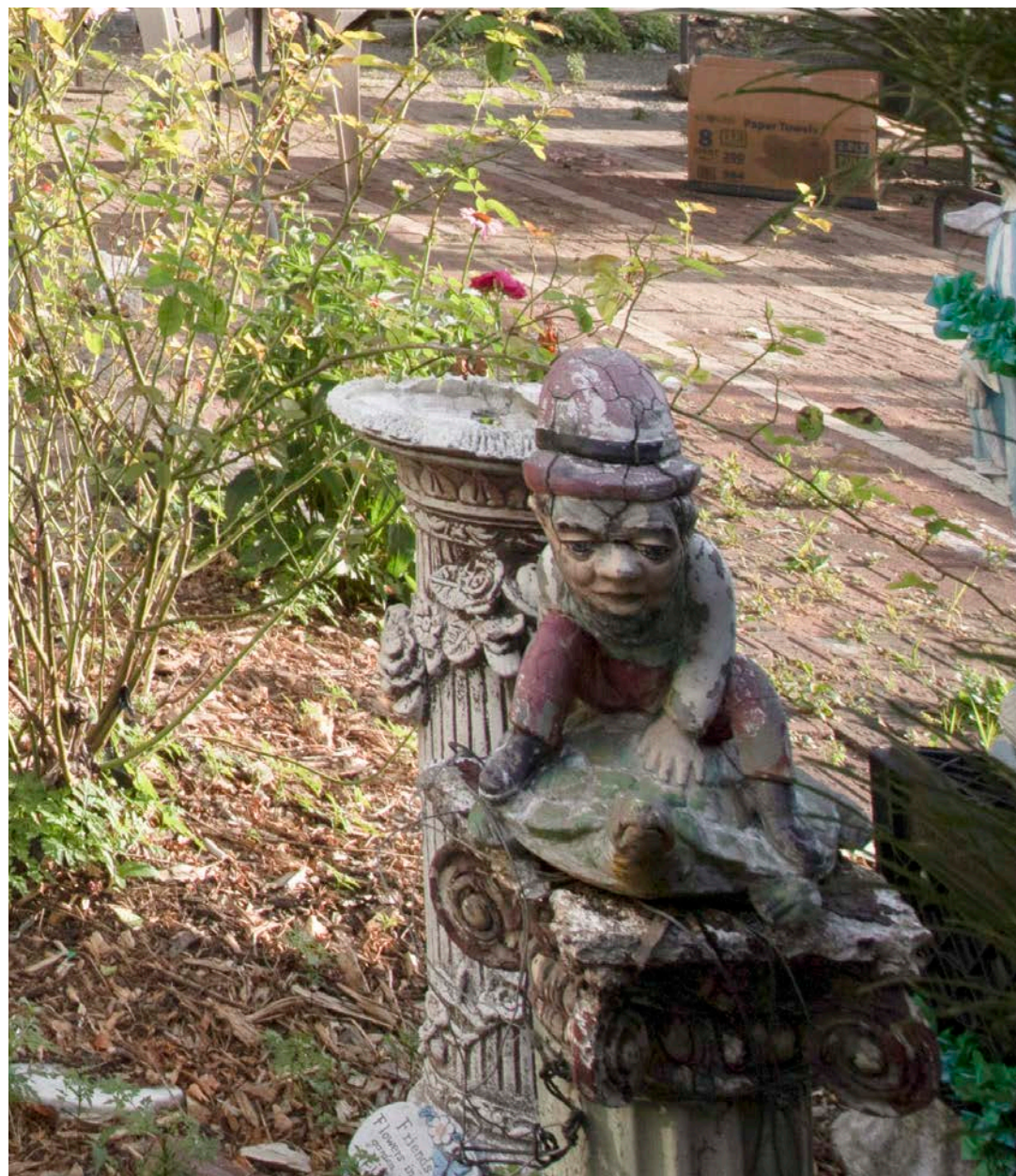
Despite this, the garden is quiet and feels secluded.



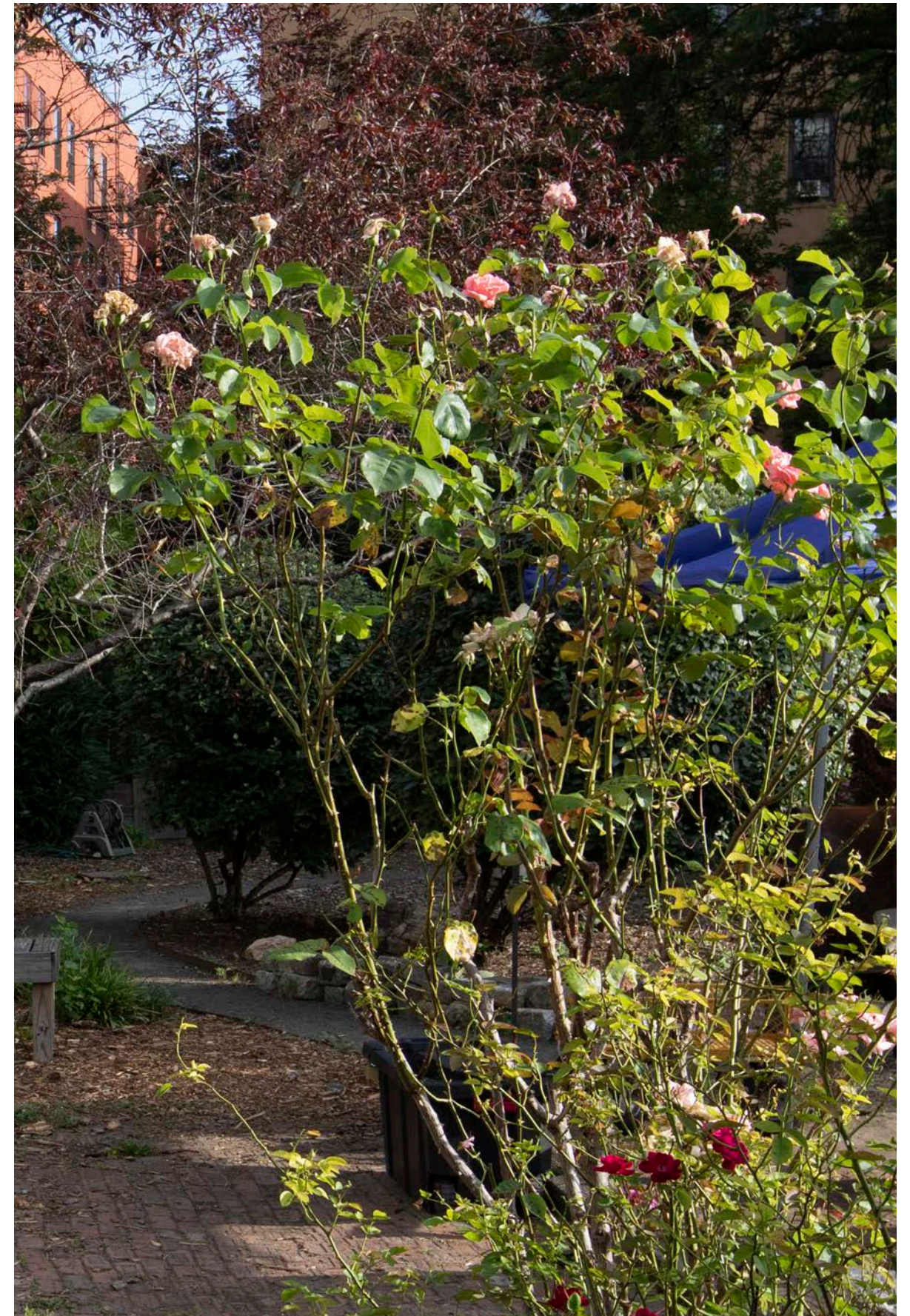
Armando spends hours a day cleaning the garden and helping other gardeners.



Women gardeners call him to keep them company when they're alone during the day.



Everyone brings their own decorations, which are arranged in neat groupings.

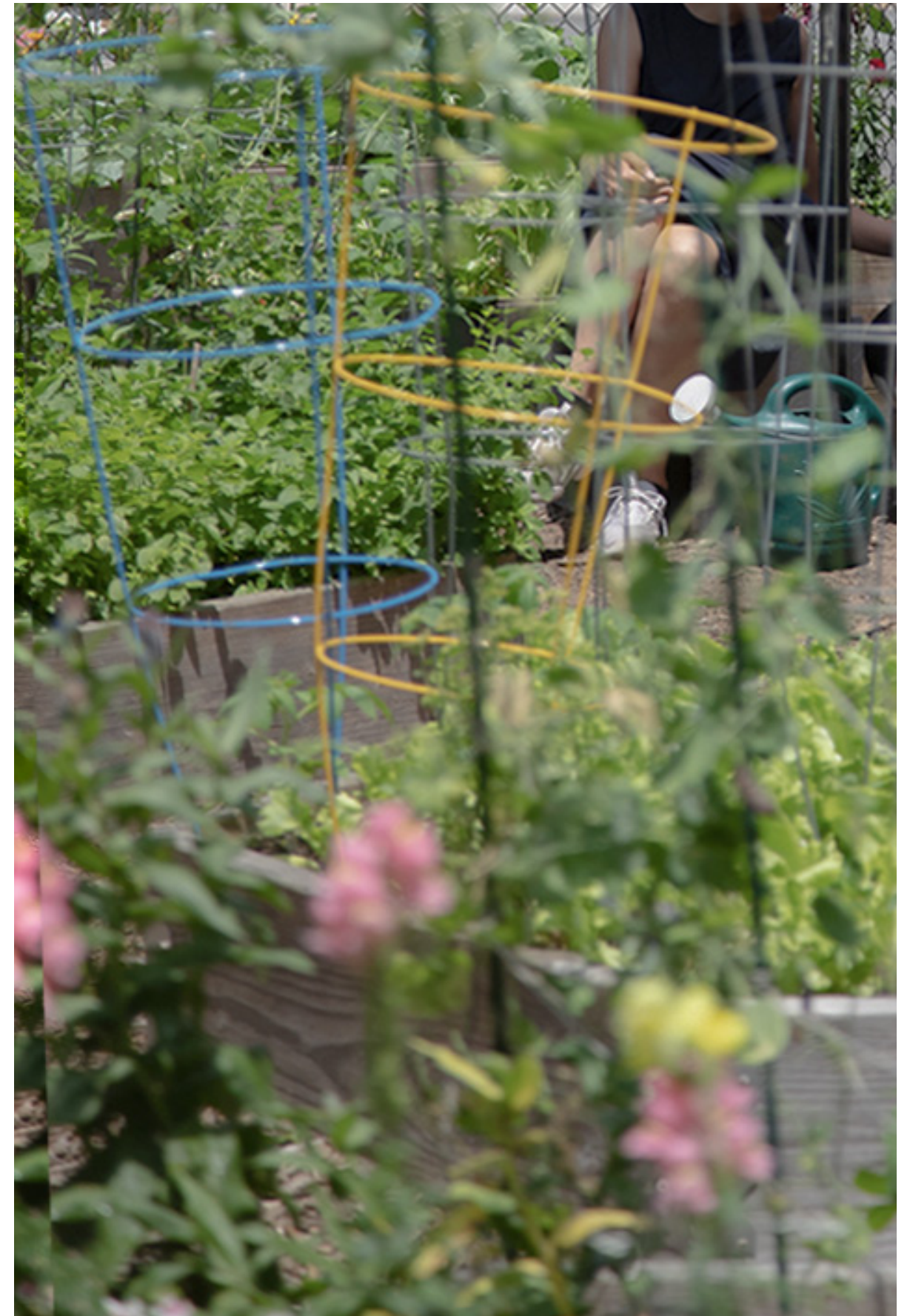


Alejandra has never gardened before, and is amazed at how well her beds are growing.

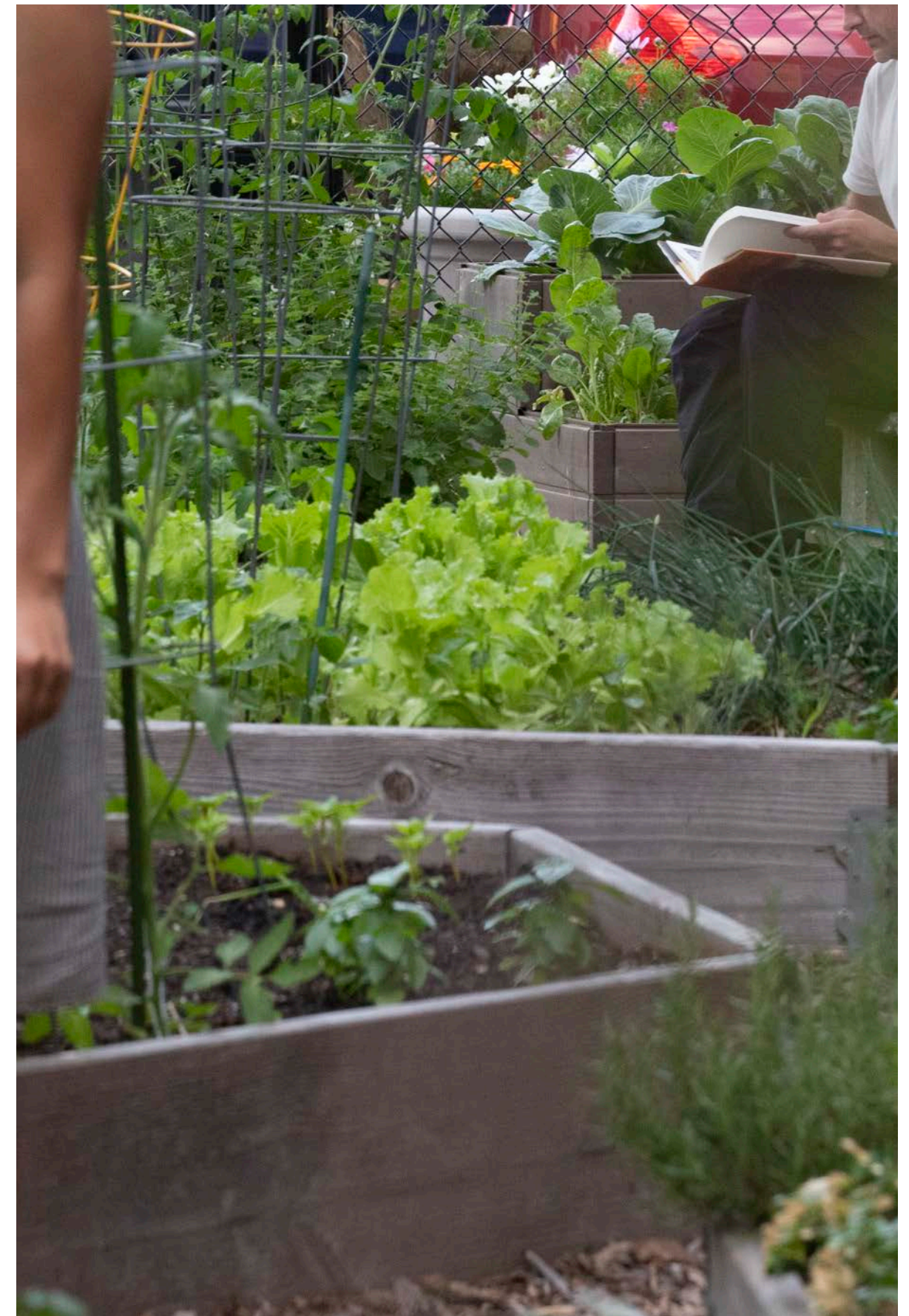




The 100 Quincy Community Garden is a narrow site on the west side of Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn.



It is in constant use, with multiple projects always in progress.



Hexagonal beds give the impression that you're always surrounded by plants.

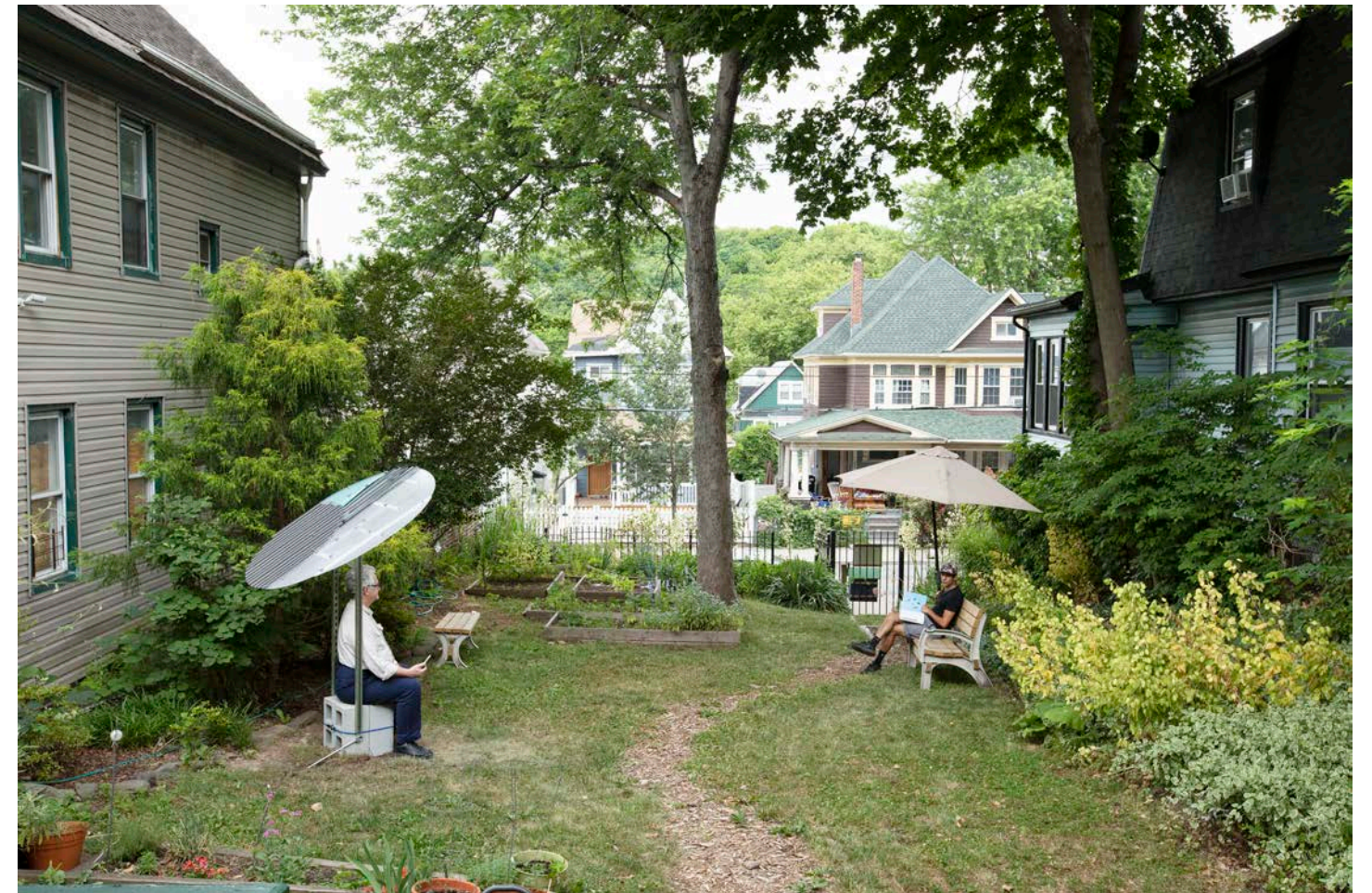


The garden always seems to have one person working while accompanied by friends.



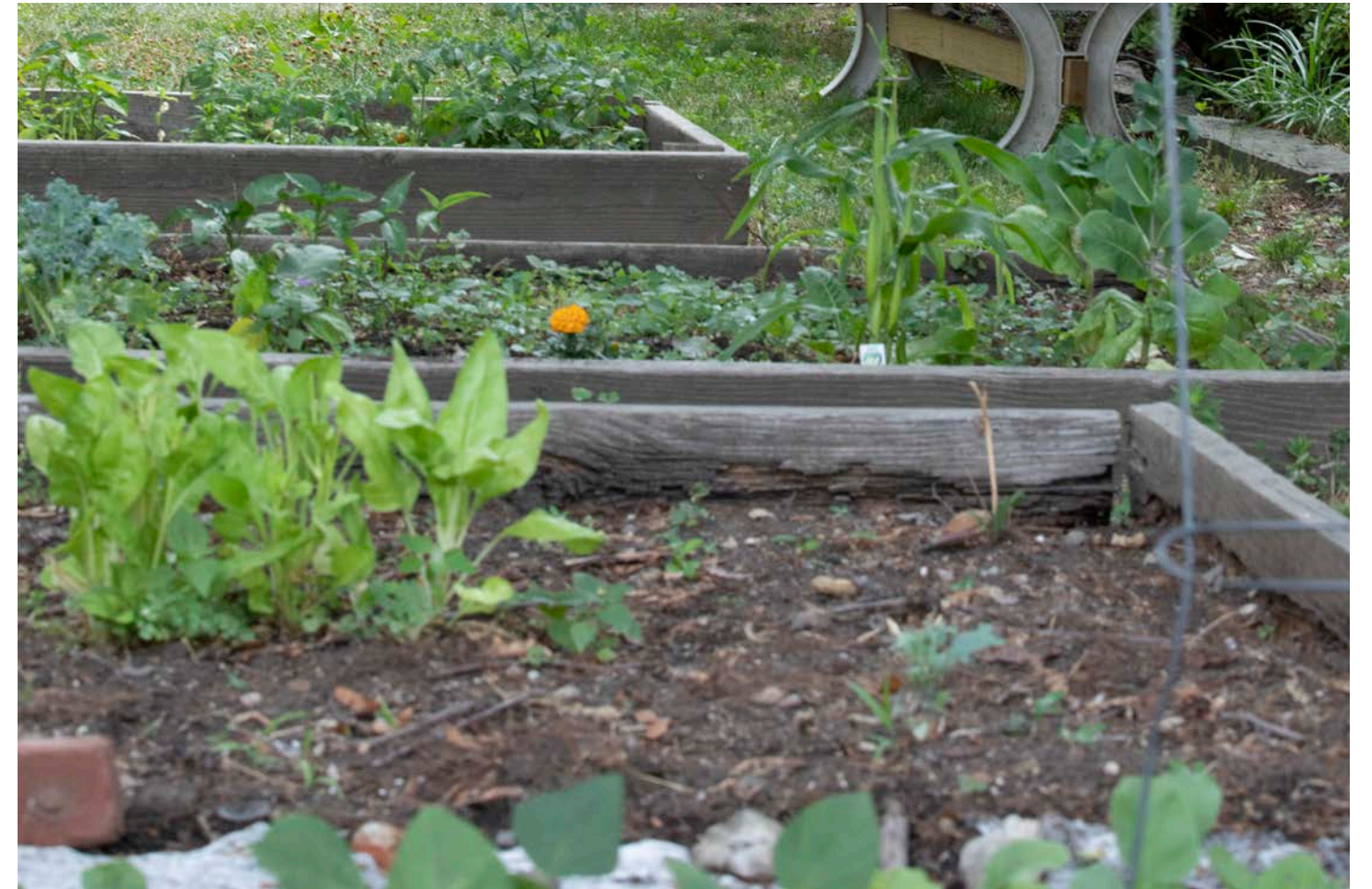


The Westervelt Family Community Garden is on a road of single family houses in Staten Island.



Dan has been gardening there for nearly twenty years, and lives across the street.

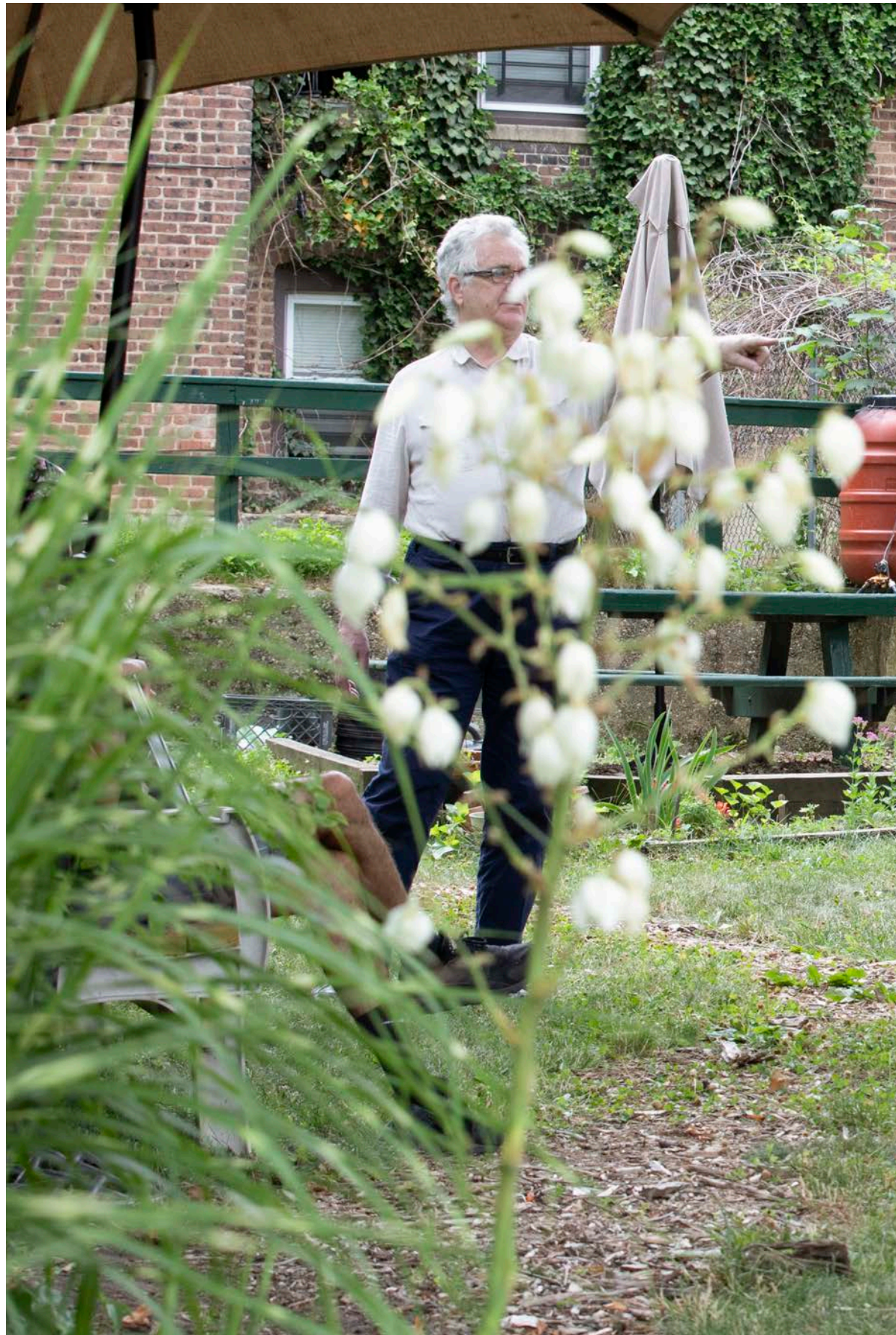




The gardeners like to place growing beds and seating on the periphery to keep the middle clear.



The garden, twelve feet above street level, provides good views onto the neighborhood.



Dan plans film screenings, small concerts, and other gatherings at the garden.





The garden is on a previous house plot, and feels surprisingly domestic in scale.



A closer look at the Westervelt structure's roof.



A closer look at the Rhodebeck structure's roof.



A closer look at the 100 Quincy structure's roof.



A closer look at the Seagirt structure's roof.



A closer look at the William B. Washington structure's roof.

