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ICE CREAM AND FARM MARKETS

Berkshire

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The Art of It



Gimme Shelter

TAKING SHELTER has taken on an artistically inspired dimension at the Berkshire Botanic Garden, with four local designers exhibiting shade structures inspired by this year's theme, "Garden on Fire." These refuges join high design in small spaces. Wander through the 15-acre garden and you'll come across a structure incorporating shou sugi ban, an ancient Japanese method of charring wood a dramatic texture. Another integrates classic New England styles and a third shelter, with a radically different perspective, is made of corrugated metal with a music-activated swing inside. Lastly, beside a small pond, a solid-green roof curves gently from the earth, supported by swooping rafters. Lenox architect Kristine Sprague said she wanted this to be a place of repose, to integrate with the landscape. "I had the idea of a green roof and turning it into a shelter," she says. She collaborated with builder Jay Rhind and landscaper Rob Gennari, both from Stockbridge, in creating this "folly in the garden," as Sprague calls it. Inside, lie back, look up through the skylight nestled within the green slope—and daydream. Now that's shading in style.