Study up on Japanese gardens at library

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"They're done like the bonsai tree," Dulin said. "The idea is to sculpture it and give it an aged and windswept appearance; as if it's toiled with nature's forces. It has to be primed every year, completely."

Nevertheless, Dulin says that you can design a Japanese garden to reduce some of the work required.

The key is to buy dwarf varieties trees and bushes so that they need less pruning. She also recommends using lots of low-maintenance ground cover and deep edgings to keep grass from encroaching on flower beds.

TO LEARN about Japanese gardens. Dulin suggests you start at the library. When you find books you really like, buy a couple to have at home. And then start visiting

norseries to see what's available.

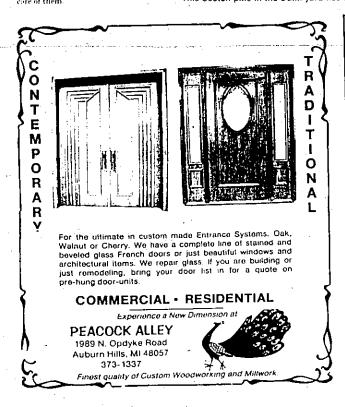
Looking out the window at land she has fived with and shaped and gadened for 30 years. Dulin pauses and makes one more suggestion.
"My advice to a person is not to do

it unless you really love what you're doing," she says with a laugh. "You may think you own your garden, but actually your garden owns you.

These trees definitely own me - I don't have a choice. They would be unbearable to look at if I didn't take core of them.



This Scotch pine in the Dulin yard has been sculptured to have an aged, windswept appearance.



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