



by Cheryl Burke

graciously cross-posted with her blog, [Yarnbee](#)

Last fall I moved into a cottage on a historic turkey farm in western Massachusetts. The cottage is a Sears kit house from 1919 that was delivered on the local train. For the gardener in me, it was love at first sight as I saw the rambling flowerbeds and beautiful wisteria vine trailing up the side of the cottage. Other bonuses included a beautiful kitchen garden and the resident pet pig next door named Pinky.



At the same time I was exploring the work of a group of New England artists from the 1950s called the [Folly Cove Designers](#). Led by Virginia Lee Burton (who wrote and illustrated many children's books including Mike Mulligan and his steam shovel) this group made incredible designs that were hand-block-printed on fabric. Here's the [wikipedia entry](#) on their history.

I was drawn to the fact that many of their designs described daily life in New England. It got me thinking about a vintage-inspired colorwork sweater that would speak to my story of falling in love with a little cottage garden. I started sketching a yoke design that was bursting with joyful flowers.



Cottage Garden was originally submitted to the Summer issue and I was thrilled when Kate asked if we could add longer sleeves and move the design to the Fall issue.



I had a lot of fun exploring color options for Cottage Garden but settled on one of my favorite combinations: teal and chartreuse (swatch knit in Reynolds Whiskey)





The best part has been seeing how other knitters have made Cottage Garden their own. Look at these beautiful versions!

[Kelly's](#) Cottage Garden:



[Momo's](#) Cottage Garden:



[Tanya's](#) Cottage Garden:





What stories can your knitting tell?

Many thanks to Kelly, Momo and Tanya for the photos.