

Another year dawns on the horizon.

It awaits with even more excitement to come. This issue brings our first year of *Garden Chic* to a conclusion. It has been a great year, as we have seen our vision not only come to life but become more defined with each issue.

I know you can relate ... you have this great idea. At first, you have a notion. Then, through tossing and turning, at last, it becomes a concrete being. Then, it's time for the execution. How am I possibly going to make this happen? Talking, planning, it's in, it's out, maybe this, maybe that, and suddenly, it becomes clear! *This is it!* Yes, victory! Your creativity is what drives this industry. It is what makes you. It is what it's all about. So. Be creative. Put anything on the table. Be brave. Try it. Do it!

By the time this issue reaches you,

our website - www.BeGardenChic.com - will be up and running. Be sure to visit. Why? We have lots of cool things planned! Not only will we post downloadable PDFs of every article, but we will have links to all the photos we didn't have room to publish! How great is that? We will also have a place for you to give us a piece of your mind. Rate us, and tell us what it is you want! The absolute most important thing to know about *Garden Chic* is that it is all about you, the independent garden center. We exist solely to help bring you to the next level. We are 100 percent dedicated to you!

Personally, I am more hope-filled than

ever about what lies ahead. We have so many new topics, concepts and ideas planned for you in 2007. So hold on to your hat, prepare your imagination, and get ready to take these concepts and turn them into your own magnificent creations!

Beautiful displays. Welcoming relaxed

cafe. Wandering Walkways. Color-coordinated displays. Alluring presentations. Inviting themes. Structures that morph into ever-changing colors to complement each change in season. What more could a shopper want?

Jim Bradley's Mid Ulster Garden Centre in Ireland achieves all that and more. Quality, inspiration and customer service draw people to this out-of-the-way area of Northern Ireland from as far away as Belfast to reap the benefits of this creation.

Mid Ulster is one of those places you just have to experience to understand. It seems that words and pictures just don't do it justice. You see, it's not just about a display here and there that draws your attention. It's the overall feel of the store. You just can't capture the experience on paper.

You will never find a straight aisle. You will never find plants lined up like soldiers. You will never find plants sorted by their Latin names. You will never find rows of pots stacked in lines, looking hopelessly uninspired.

Sounds good, but you just haven't a clue as to where to start? Our "Chic Niche" special feature defines the basic concepts and helps put into focus techniques you can use in your store. But we realize that the depth of the concepts used just can't be covered in one or two articles. So we are very fortunate to say this feature will not be the last you will be hearing about Jim, his philosophies, innovations and garden center. He has graciously and eagerly agreed to share his uniquely innovative and proven successes with you in *Garden Chic*, as well as at The Independent Garden Center Show in Chicago this August!

