

# New England HOME CT

*SPRING  
AHEAD* LET THE SUNSHINE INSPIRE





A sycamore-hybrid London Planetree and drifts of liriopie grow from the water feature that is the center of the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial on Riverside Road.

## Healing Through Nature

**AFTER YEARS OF PLANNING** and just weeks before the tenth anniversary of the elementary school shooting that claimed the lives of twenty children and six educators, the Sandy Hook Permanent Memorial opened last November in Newtown. Ben Waldo and Dan Affleck of San Francisco-based landscape architecture firm SWA Group submitted the winning design, which includes, at its center, a water feature with the names of the victims inscribed along its edge. Artemis Landscape Architects was tapped to design the planting of the surrounding three and a half acres. The entire memorial emulates an embrace, says Artemis founder Tara Vincenta, with meadows and winding pathways hugging the fountain. The

team at Artemis hand selected the sycamore tree that springs from the fountain's center and populated the surrounding landscape with native, drought- and deer-tolerant, pollinator-attracting plants that will provide year-round beauty. Vincenta, a resident of Newtown, says she was acutely aware of the transformational powers of nature when working on the design. "We wanted the experience to be peaceful and healing for the families who lost loved ones, for the community, and for the world at large," Vincenta says. "We're memorializing a horrific tragedy in a beautiful nature-based way that allows visitors to contemplate the gravity of the loss not only at Sandy Hook but in so many communities across the country."