

# equestrian gardens



When Jessica Jones first rode into Ocala more than 25 years ago, it wasn't just the thrill of competition that drew her back year after year—it was the land itself. Enchanted by its natural beauty, she returned in 2023 not as a competitor but as a creator. With the launch of Equestrian Gardens, Jess set out to elevate the equestrian experience through landscapes that reflect the grace of the sport and the spirit of the land. Her landscapes are effortless yet intentional, designed to elevate the rider's experience with every detail—where nature flows into form, and beauty is simply part of the ride.

"I have always been struck by the vibrant colors of the early morning sunrise and the deep color of the sky at sunset. The serenity of the open pastures, rolling hills with the most magnificent oak trees you'll ever see," Jess continues. "For me, Ocala now has the Hunter/Jumper year-round community and diversity in competition venues available to create a true equestrian lifestyle community and destination."

It's only natural that Jess and her business, Equestrian Gardens, are rooted in Ocala, where many farm properties tend to be untouched by development in many ways. Recently, Jess connected with Steven A. Saumell, a Realtor with Douglas Elliman and an exclusive agent of their Farm and

Ranch Division, and they are teaming up to bring properties to life in the region.

The partnership between Jess and Steven provides Equestrian Gardens with an incredible opportunity to integrate unique landscape design into property transformation, to enhance and preserve the natural look and feel rather than conforming to the manicured and uniform aesthetic common to mass residential communities. An immense amount of detail goes into setting the stage for the right plan, approach, and style, with design at the forefront of each project. With careful planning, the horse and style of the property owner are merged into the design, benefiting the ecosystem in a way that





is luxurious, lush, and welcoming. Ocala presents a rare opportunity to preserve and transform without losing the essence of the land.

Jess doesn't just decorate; she orchestrates experiences. Starting with the bare bones of property maps, Jess sees potential where others see obstacles. As Steven describes, "She goes through the entire flow of the barn, meticulously analyzing how vehicles move, where clients park, and highlighting key areas like the entrance, tack room, and access to the riding ring. Her vision transforms these spaces into aesthetically pleasing and functional areas that leave a lasting impression. Jess delves deeper

than surface-level aesthetics, considering the topography of the landscape and the impact of future construction. With an eye for both beauty and practicality, Jess ensures every detail is thoughtfully considered, creating a seamless and unforgettable experience for your clients. She truly thinks of everything."

Candace Ibrahim reached out to her realtor, Steven, in the spring of 2023 after receiving feedback from multiple people on her property's curb appeal. At that point, Steven knew exactly who was needed to enhance Ibrahim's Another Chestnut Farm in Ocala. Candace's daughter started riding at 6;

she's now 23. The family has been in the equestrian world for years and has chosen to invest in this farm. They are working with Jess and the Equestrian Gardens team to transform the property.

"Jess's first design proposal literally blew me away. She exceeded my vision with only the basic information I gave her: something clean, functional, manageable, and professional," said Candace. "Jess had to start with just a barn in the middle of a field and built an entire functional/beautiful design. We have had great conversations about the design along this journey. She



has always been open to questions and changes along this process. Jess has been able to break up this large project into more manageable pieces for us. We are still in the beginning phase but excited to see this project and transformation.”

Jess and Candace together have a specific vision for Another Chestnut Farm that she is bringing to life. Even in the early stages, it’s clear the designs are changing the feel of the property, bringing it to life with purpose and beauty. She prioritized

circulation first, then integrated landscaping, ensuring the layout works beautifully for horses and humans alike. But the project is not only about beautification but also about creating a landscape where the company is building long-term equity into the property. Wherever Jess works, she sources preferred local suppliers known for their commitment to quality and reliability, and Ocala isn’t any different.

Another Chestnut Farm began as an idea. Now, it’s becoming a destination for riding,

relaxation, and peace, just a few minutes from the show grounds in Ocala.

“Our work with the family, any client of ours, is truly collaborative,” said Jess. “We approach each step as partners, testing ideas and processes together. There’s never just one way forward. Every decision is made with the horses’ wellbeing at the center.”

For more information, please visit the Equestrian Gardens website at [equestriangardens.com](http://equestriangardens.com).