

Mountain View Green Garden Showcase

1245/1247 Phyllis Avenue



As a veteran landscape designer, Barbara Bernie has derived many years of great satisfaction creating diverse and unique designs for clients. Her property on Phyllis Avenue offered the opportunity to plan a garden designed for her own pleasure and the enjoyment of her tenants. Barbara created a garden that looks good from the street, and also provides delightful views from inside through her home's glass doors.

Design Decisions

After years of recommending plants for clients' gardens, Barbara finally got to pick her favorite plants for herself, and found it difficult to choose among so many! The garden features low-maintenance, drought-tolerant plants. A mix of flowering evergreen and deciduous specimens, including a Douglas Iris which blooms in early spring, provides year-round color.

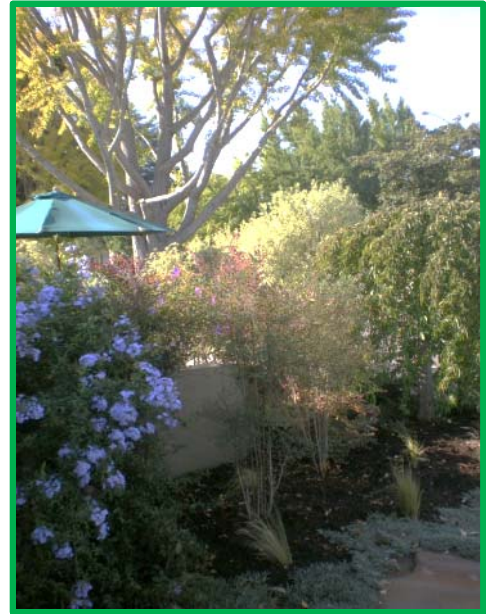


Creating a Defined Space

A street-side cafe table and umbrella invite garden visitors to enjoy the summer shade on a patio of Connecticut Bluestone softened by dense ground cover. The low stucco wall and screening shrubs shield the garden from the street beyond, creating a private space and small outdoor entertaining venue. It's the perfect place to barbecue or just sit and watch the neighbor's chickens.

Challenges & Successes

Barbara's main garden challenge is finding work for her gardener. She maintains a minimum of three inches of mini-mulch on all the non-planted areas, which prevents weed growth and reduces water needs. Her low maintenance plants require very little pruning, and the ginkgo leaves that drop are used onsite in her compost pile. Barbara's success in creating a no-fuss garden means she requests outside help only a couple of times a year to maintain her plantings and adjust the irrigation system.



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Plant list:

Botanical Name	Common Name
Trees:	
Prunus serrulata 'Snow Fountains'	Weeping Cherry
Shrubs:	
Abutilon hybrid (yellow)	Flowering Maple
Anigozanthus	Kangeroo Paws
Heuchera micrantha 'Ruffles'	Coral Bells
Iberis sempervirens	Candytuft
Iris douglasiana	Douglas Iris
Lagerstroemia indica 'Monum'	Dwarf Purple Shrub
Lavandula angustifolia	English Lavender
Loropetalum chinensis 'Plum Delight'	Chinese Witch Hazel
Myrtus communis 'Compacta Variegata'	Variegated Myrtle
Nandina domestica 'Plum Passion'	Heavenly bamboo
Phormium tenax 'Yellow Wave'	Flax
Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Marjorie Channon'	Variegated Pittosporum
Plumbago auriculata	Plumbago
Stipa gigantea	Fountain Grass
Tibouchina urvilleana	Purple Princess Flower
Vines & Groundcovers:	
Dymondia margaretae	
Hardenbergia violacea	Happy Wanderer