

Desert Lifestyles / the Private Gardens of Paradise Valley



'Poolside in Arizona' © Slim Aarons 1973

Allison **Colwell** / Colwell Shelor Landscape Architecture
Michele **Shelor** / Colwell Shelor Landscape Architecture
Chad **Robert** / Exteriors by Chad Robert
Chris **Winters** / Chris Winters & Associates

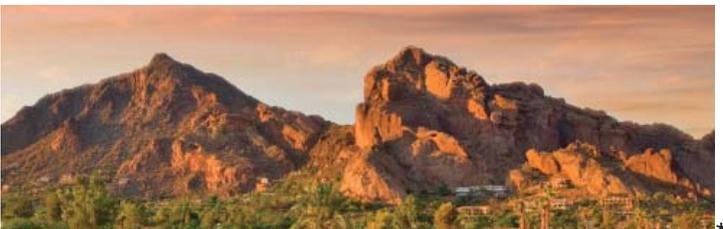
The Significance of Camelback Mountain

Camelback Mountain is a prominent landmark and a valuable public amenity in the Valley. It has evolved over the years as a desirable area to live and has become a status symbol. Consequently, the mountain has been built upon and commoditized in ways that affects the work of the Landscape Architect. Views to the mountain inform and shape the design of buildings and sites; preservation or negation of views can lead to conflict; public access to hiking trails creates problems in both the private and public realm. The mountain also provides opportunities with dramatic changes in grades unique in this largely level city, interesting microclimates for planting and spectacular views.

The mountain was originally reserved for an Indian reservation in the late 1800s. By the 1940s, nearly the entire mountain was privately owned, and finally in 1968, after multiple unsuccessful County, State and Federal efforts to restrict development above the 1,600-foot level, Camelback Mountain became a City park.

The higher part of the peak, the “hump” is Precambrian granite (ca. 1.5 billion years old), while the “head” is primarily made up of layered red sedimentary sandstone from the Tertiary period (ca. 25 million years old). It is an extremely popular recreation destination for hiking and rock climbing, with two strenuous summit trails ascending 1,280 feet in elevation. Tree and plant species are characteristic of the lower Sonoran Desert and include Ironwood, Palo Verde, and Mesquite trees, Saguaro, Ocotillo, and several cacti species including Prickly Pear, Barrel, Hedgehog, and Jumping Cholla.

The Town of Paradise Valley is a unique residential community located largely to the north and east of the mountain. Residents treasure unobstructed views of prominent geographical features, the desert environment, privacy, dark skies and protection against noise and air pollution. The Arcadia area of Phoenix lies directly south of Camelback Mountain and is made up of large residential ranch-style homes built on former citrus groves, with well-irrigated lush landscaping.



Challenges & Opportunities of Shaping the Landscape in the Desert

Ordering the landscape

- Respecting the natural order of the landscape and making informed, defensible decisions while adapting the environment to create meaningful and appropriate gardens.

Influence of architectural styles

- Reactions to imported regional perception of the landscape
- Borrowed styles
- Native Planting pros and cons

Outdoor living

- Seasonal (8 months out of year)
- Amenities that everyone wants to have: swimming pools, fire pits/fireplaces, outdoor BBQ's and kitchens, outdoor living rooms, etc.
- Water features: Oasis, cooling effect, masks urban noise pollution, water for wildlife, reflection, play. Discuss technical issues such as size, durability of materials and algae as a design element.

Desert and desert-adapted plants – very diverse, wild and wonderful

- Phoenix started national native plant movement (Ron Gass @ Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, 1969)
- No water use, low water-use and moderate water use plants
- Leaf structure of typical plants in this region
- Edible landscapes – citrus (one of 5-C's of Arizona)
- Landscape plants as sculpture in the garden
- Variety of trees, cacti, succulents – attracting wildlife
- Low maintenance plants – just give them room
- Turf in the desert – play and retention

Shade in the desert

- Average daily temperature in the summer
- Seasons when we spend a lot of time in our gardens
- Natural vs. structured

Irrigation techniques

- Flood irrigation
- Spray/Sprinkler
- Drip systems

Material vocabulary in desert gardens

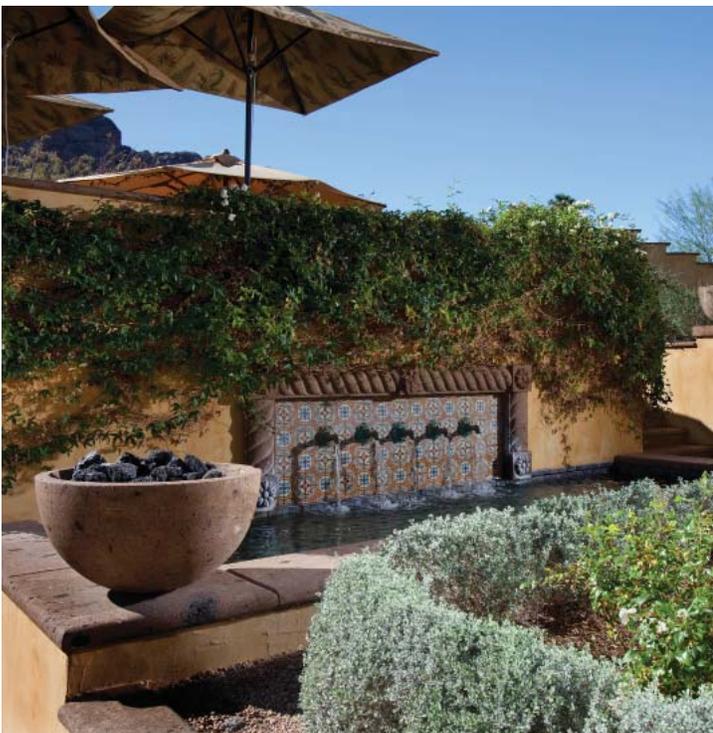
- Compatibility with harshness of climate
- Materials that complement architectural style
- Desert needs permeable surfaces: pervious concrete, pavers, decomposed granite
- Durable materials that can withstand the heat: Concrete, stabilized decomposed granite, stone, glass, steel, concrete block, plaster
- Materials we can add the desert soil to: rammed earth, concrete
- Decomposed granite mulch/top dressing: why we don't use other types more common in other parts of the USA.
- Low maintenance materials



This 1.7 acre lot, with spectacular views of Camelback Mountain, was designed for an avid traveler and art collector. The gardens were designed as a series of collections inspired by the homeowner's favorite travel destinations and pastime activities, and were positioned to maximize superb views of the mountains and Arizona sunsets. The design references areas like the Cinque Terra, Andalusian Courtyards, Italian Villas, as well as a moonlight garden and a butterfly and hummingbird garden to create the "collection of gardens", each unique in feeling and style yet blended effortlessly from one to another to create a cohesive composition. The style of the garden reflects our Spanish history in Arizona and compliments the style of the residence.

Significant Features

- The garden was developed as a direct extension of the client's personality by reflecting her hobbies, travel experiences and interests. It is an excellent example of how the architecture, site, client's personality and program merge in a way that work together seamlessly.
- Project materials include tumbled travertine, hand-carved Cantera stone pots, fountains, house trim, and fire features, stucco, Saltillo tile; and antique floor tiles.
- The selection of the boulders used on the project was somewhat challenging as the color needed to be a near perfect match to the distant mountains to "connect" the mountain to the garden. The zero-edge swimming pool was designed to create a calmness in the garden and reflect the mountain views.
- Boulders were set into the pool to accentuate that connection.
- The sunken area in the rear yard as well as the dry stream in the front are actually retention basins that were required by local code to hold the large volume of water required by code to be retained after rainfall.



Planting Design

The selection of plants was driven by the concept plan and the feeling of the various gardens on site.

Trees / Palms / Citrus

Acacia willardiana / Palo Blanco
Bauhinia lunarioides / Anacacho Orchid Tree
Caesalpinia mexicana / Mexican Bird of Paradise
Cercidium microphyllum Foothills Palo Verde
Cercis canadensis 'Mexicana' / Mexican Redbud
Chitalpa tashkentensis / Chitalpa
Cupressus arizonica 'Blue Pyramid' / Blue Pyramid Cypress
Dalbergia sissoo / Sissoo Tree
Lysiloma microphylla / Desert Fern
Prosopis velutina / Native Mesquite
Olea europaea 'Swan Hill' / Fruitless Olive
Olneya tesota / Ironwood Tree
Pistacia chinensis / Chinese Pistache
Pithecellobium flexicaule / Texas Ebony
Prosopis chilensis / Chilean Mesquite
Pyrus kawakamii / Evergreen Pear
Ungnadia speciosa / Mexican Buckeye
Bismarckia nobilis / Bismarck Palm
Brahea armata / Mexican Blue Fan
Chamaerops humilis / Mediterranean Fan Palm
Phoenix dactylifera 'Medjool' / Date Palm
Citrus spp., various

Accents

Agave attenuata / Foxtail Agave
Agave colorata / Mescal Ceniza
Agave desmettiana / Smooth Agave
Agave geminiflora / Twin-flowered Agave
Agave havardiana / Harvard Agave
Agave tequilana / Tequilana Agave
Agave weberi / Weber's Agave
Asparagus densiflorus 'Meyers' / Myers Asparagus
Canna 'Tropicana' / Canna Lily
Cycas revoluta / Sago Palm
Dietes bicolor / Fortnight Lily
Dracaena marginata / Dracaena
Euphorbia antisiphilitica / Candelilla
Euphorbia rigida / Gopher Plant
Ferocactus wislizenii / Fishhook Barrel Cactus
Fouquieria splendens / Ocotillo
Muhlenbergia capillaris 'Regal Mist' / Pink Muhly
Pachycereus marginatus / Mexican Fencepost
Pedilanthus macrocarpus / Lady's Slipper
Trichocereus candicans / Argentine Giant
Yucca rostrata Chihuahuan / Desert Yucca

Shrubs

Anisacanthus quadrifidus 'Mexican Flame' / Desert Honeysuckle
Buddleia marrubifolia / Woolly Butterfly Bush
Calliandra californica / Baja fairy duster
Cordia parvifolia / Little-leaf Cordia
Cuphea llavea / Bat-faced Cuphea
Dalea frutescens 'Sierra Negra' / Dalea
Dodonaea viscosa / Hop Bush
Ericameria laricifolia / Turpentine Bush

Shrubs Cont.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis / Chinese Hibiscus
Ilex vomitoria 'Nana' / Dwarf Yaupon Holly
Justicia californica / Chuparosa
Justicia candicans / Red Justicia
Justicia spicigera / Mexican honeysuckle
Leucophyllum candidum 'Silver Cloud' / Violet Silverleaf
Leucophyllum candidum 'Thundercloud' / Thundercloud Silverleaf
Leucophyllum frutescens / Texas Sage
Leucophyllum laevigatum / Chihuahuan Rain Sage
Leucophyllum langmaniae 'Lynn's Legacy' / Texas ranger
Penstemon ambiguus / Sand Penstemon
Penstemon eatonii / Firecracker Penstemon
Penstemon parryi / Parry's Penstemon
Penstemon strictus / Rocky Mountain Penstemon
Salvia clevelandii / Cleveland Sage
Salvia chamaedryoides / Germander Sage
Salvia leucantha / Mexican Bush Sage
Strelitzia reginae / Bird of Paradise

Groundcovers / Vines

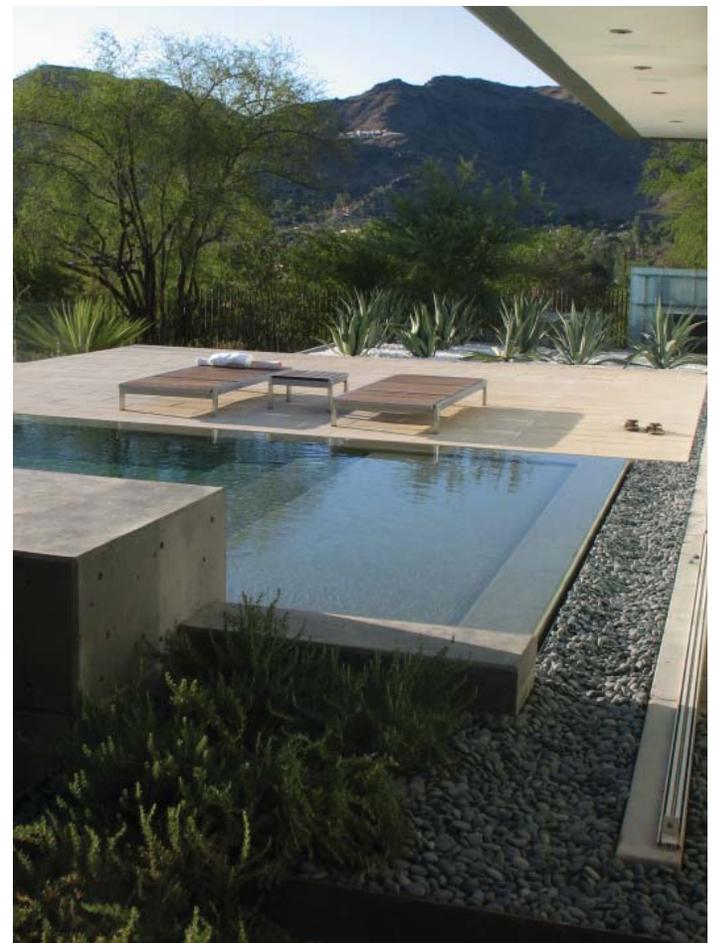
Antigonon leptopus / Queen's wreath
Artemisia 'Powis Castle' / Powis Castle Artemisia
Bougainvillea 'Rosenka' / Bougainvillea
Dyssodia pentachaeta / Golden Dyssodia
Erigeron divergens / Native Fleabane
Eupatorium greggii 'Boothill' / Gregg's Boneset
Ficus pumila / Creeping Fig
Hardenbergia violacea / Lilac Vine
Hymenoxys acaulis / Angelita Daisy
Lantana 'Gold Mound' / Lantana
Lantana montevidensis / Trailing Lantana
Melampodium leucanthum / Blackfoot Daisy
Parthenocissus spp. / Hacienda Creeper
Passiflora alatacaerulea / Passion Vine
Rosa 'White Carpet' / Rose
Rosa banksiae / Lady Banks Rose
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus' / Rosemary
Ruellia peninsularis / Desert Ruellia
Setcreasea pallida / Purple Heart
Teucrium chamaedrys / Trailing Germander
Thymus praecox arcticus / Creeping Thyme
Thymus serpyllum / Mother of Thyme
Thymus vulgaris / Common Thyme
Verbena rigida / Prairie Verbena
Wedelia trilobata / Yellow dot
Zinnia acerosa / Desert Zinnia
Zinnia grandiflora / Prairie Zinnia



The Hiemenz residence is a home and garden renovation on a hillside site in Paradise Valley. The gardens are extensions of the architecture and provide a series of spaces for outdoor living. The gardens are a direct reflection of the owner's aesthetic and design sensibility which he conveyed through close collaboration during design and construction.

Significant Features

- The project reflects the owner's interest in architecture and design and is the result of his direct involvement in the process.
- Cast in place concrete, glass and steel were the basic elements of construction used in a variety of ways to provide screening, create visual interest and create outdoor rooms.
- Simple concrete cubes connected with glass form a minimalist outdoor kitchen. Concrete benches and planters create a sculptural outdoor lounge. Cantilevered glass concrete and floating glass panels create an interesting fireplace intended to screen negative views to neighboring properties. A translucent glass screen was used to create privacy and provide strong ambient lighting at the entry courtyard.



Planting Design

Planting was ordered based upon site conditions and use. Hillside landscapes were restored using native species. Screening was provided with native landscape along select property and site lines. Courtyard, patio and pool area landscapes were arranged in a formal, sculptural manner using primarily cacti, succulents and accents.

Trees

Caesalpinia mexicana / Mexican Bird of Paradise
Ebonopsis ebano / Texas Ebony
Prosopis velutina / Native Mesquite
Olneya tesota / Ironwood
Parkinsonia sp. / Palo Verde

Succulents

Agave americana
Agave bovicornuta
Agave colorata
Agave desertii
Agave desmettiana var.
Agave durango
Agave medio alba picta
Agave murphyi
Agave weberii
Agave parryi
Agave titanota
Agave triangularis
Agave vilmoriniana
Aloe brevifolia
Aloe dawseii / Dawseii's Aloe
Aloe nobilis
Aloe striata / Striated Aloe
Asclepias subulata / Desert Milkweed
Euphorbia antisiphilitica / Candelilla
Hesperaloe funifera / Giant Hesperaloe
Hesperaloe parviflora / Red Yucca
Hesperaloe nocturna / Night Blooming Hesperaloe
Pedilanthus macrocarpus / Lady's Slipper
Yucca bacatta
Yucca faxoniana
Yucca pallida
Yucca pendula

Shrubs

Calliandra californica / Baja Fairy Duster
Dalea pulchra / Indigo Bush
Dasylirion quadrangulatum / Toothless Desert Spoon
Dodonea viscosa / Hop Bush
Encelia farinosa / Brittlebush
Fouquieria macdougalii / Tree Ocotillo
Fouquieria splendens / Ocotillo
Gaura lindheimeri 'siskiyou pink' / Pink Gaura
Hyptis emoryi / Desert Lavender
Justicia californica / Chuparosa
Lavandula sp. / Spanish Lavender
Penstemon sp.
Rosemarinus sp. / Tuscan Blue Rosemary
Ruellia peninsularis / Desert Ruellia
Salvia clevelandii / Chaparral Sage

Shrubs Cont.

Salvia leucantha / Mexican Sage
Vaquelinia californica / Arizona Rosewood
Viguera deltoidea / Golden Eye

Cacti

Cleistocactus strausii / Silver Torch
Echinocactus sp. / Golden Barrel
Echinocereus sp. / Hedgehog
Echinopsis pachanoi / San Pedro
Lemaireocereus marginatus / Mexican Fence Post
Mammillaria sp. / Pincushion
Opuntia basilaris
Opuntia robusta
Opuntia rufida
Opuntia santa rita
Trichocereus sp. / Argentine Giant

Vines

Parthenocissus sp. / Hacienda Creeper





The recent renovation of this large patio home built in the late 1970's provided an opportunity for genuine indoor/outdoor living. As a winter home for the client, the design needed to capture the opportunity for outdoor winter living as well as a singular view of Camelback Mountain. The hardscape design complements the newly renovated interior/exterior architecture and bold sculptural vegetation enhances the strong architecture of the house as well as the hardscape. The two distinct garden areas were designed so that the client could find solitude in his garden as well as entertain friends and family. The main garden has a large lap pool as the focal point flanked on each end with outdoor entertainment spaces and the solitude/contemplation garden has a minimal feel with a small turf area with fragrant citrus trees aligning the edge. In addition, universal design was incorporated into the hardscape and landscape allowing easy access in and out of the house for the client.

Significant Features

- Minimal hardscape design complements the newly remodeled contemporary residence.
- A black glass tile & basalt wet-edge reflecting pool acts as the focal point for the house
- A white cast-in-place concrete BBQ area & a charred firewall act as book ends for the long linear space .
- A long Glu-lam bench tying in the sandblasted beams from the house, adds additional seating opportunities for guests, as well as a great place to watch the sunset over Camelback Mountain.
- The site utilizes on-site retention; CU-Structural Soil has been placed under the concrete deck and around the large specimen trees.



Planting Design

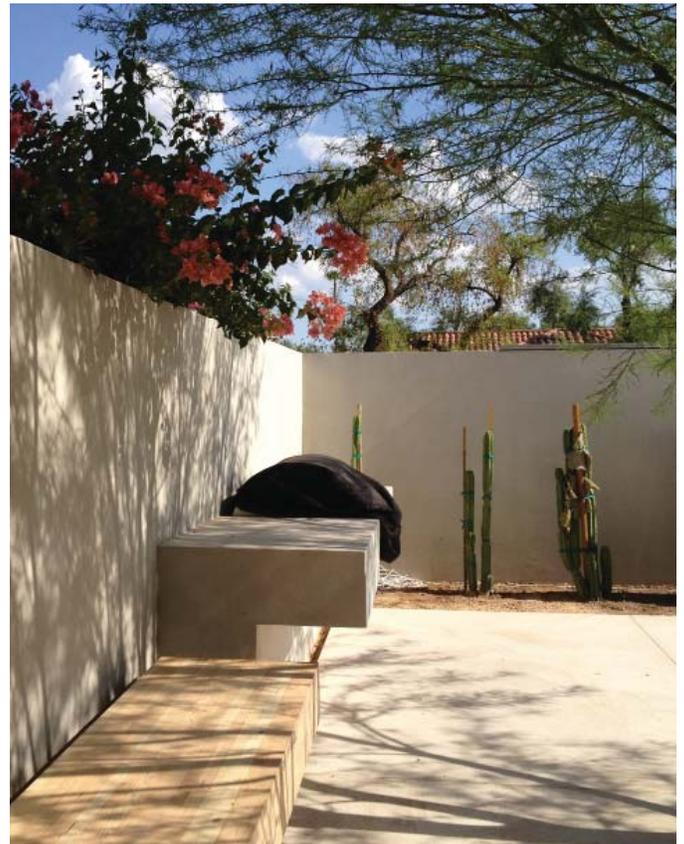
The overall planting design was inspired by the Jardín Etnobotánico de Oaxaca in Mexico with its cluster of large sculptural specimen cacti. Many large cacti dotted the existing front yard and was later enhanced by adding additional specimen columnar cacti. The client also desired a special cacti garden outside of his dining area with many unique cacti & succulents from all over the world. A row of citrus trees were planted in shady garden screening the neighbor's house to the west.

Trees

Cercidium hybrid / Desert Museum
Citrus sp. / Blood Orange, Valencia Orange Mexican Lime, Lisbon Lemon, Ruby Red Grapefruit

Cacti / Succulents

Agave franzosinii / Franzosinii Agave
Agave parryii / Parry's Agave
Aloe dichotoma / Tree Aloe
Aloe 'Blue Elf'
Carnegiea gigantea / Saguaro
Cereus repandus / Peruvian Apple Cactus
Cleistocactus strausii / Silver Torch
Cylindropuntia bigelovii / Teddy Bear Cholla
Dasylirion quadrangulatum / Toothless Desert Spoon
Echinocactus sp. / Golden Barrel
Myrtillocactus cochal / Candelabra Cactus
Myrtillocactus geometrizans / Crested Blue Myrtle Cactus
Opuntia sp. / Prickly Pear
Opuntia ficus indica / Indian Fig Prickly Pear
Pachycereus marginatus / Mexican Fence Post
Stenocereus thurberi / Organ Pipe Cactus
Trichocereus pachanoi / San Pedro
Yucca rupicola / Twisted Leaf Yucca





This 2.4 acre project was designed to be reminiscent of the architecture of Southern Spain. The style known as Spanish Mediterranean in the Andalusia region has locally become known as “Santa Barbara Style” in Arizona due to the coastal town of Santa Barbara borrowing most of its style from that region. The white stucco walls, red-tiled roofs, hand carved stone detailing, and the use of Moorish tile is very prominent to this style of architecture. The original garden had blocked most of the views, thus one major goal was to take advantage of the sunset and mountain views.

Significant Features

- Project materials include tumbled Italian travertine, roman brick, stucco, Saltillo tile, hand-carved Cantera stone details, Mexican Pebbles, and Moorish mosaic tiles.
- The rear garden was remodeled to include a new swimming pool and spa with Moroccan tile accents. The pool included two hand carved stone water spouts that spill water out into the pool from a second story Ramada. A portion of the pool is tucked under the Ramada creating a conversation area and relief from the sun. This space creates connections between the swimmer and the lounging with a cozy fireplace. The roof of the Ramada includes a fire pit to take advantage of the mountain views and the afternoon sunsets.
- This project included the addition of three new outdoor fireplaces and a new BBQ bar as the homeowner is a chef and much of their entertaining is surrounded by gourmet meals.
- The detailed tile work and mosaic pebble work on the entry walk and steps were inspired by the streets and courtyards of Cordoba, Spain. The primary entry to the residence is also flanked by two private courtyards. One done with a strong Moorish theme, and includes a Moorish style fireplace, fountain and covered dining terrace. The master bathroom courtyard has its own private fireplace and the outdoor rug was created with thousands of tiny white and black pebbles individually hand set.
- 90% of all existing trees and specimen plants remained or were relocated on this project. Only a few Eucalyptus trees were removed to open up the views to mountains. In addition, 20% of lawn was removed to conserve water and still allow enough for active play for a large family with numerous pets.
- The sunken trampolines serve as a retention basins to keep most of the rear garden rainwater on site
- Water features were replaced with smaller ones that included sub surface basins or small jets to conserve water.

Planting Design

The gardens are filled with citrus, date palms, Mediterranean fan palms and many other plants from the Spanish Mediterranean area allowing the garden to carry the theme and feel of that style and region. It also incorporates many native plants of the Sonoran desert which create a unique tie to our region and pay respect to the diverse and unusual plant palette of Arizona.

Trees / Palms / Citrus

Bauhinia lunaroides / Anacacho orchid tree
Caesalpinia cacalaco / Cascalote
Caesalpinia Mexicana / Mexican Bird of Paradise
Cercidium praecox / Palo Brea
Chitalpa tashkentensis / Chitalpa
Cordia boissieri / Texas olive
Cupressus arizonica 'Blue Pyramid' / Arizona Cypress
Dalbergia sissoo / Indian Rosewood
Lysiloma thornberi / Feather Bush
Olea europaea 'Swan Hill' / Olive
Olneya tesota / Ironwood
Pithecellobium flexicaule / Texas Ebony
Podocarpus macrophyllus / Yew Pine
Prosopis chinensis / Chilean Mesquite
Sophora secundiflora 'Silver Peso' / Silver Texas Mountain Laurel
Ungnadia speciosa / Mexican Buckeye
Bismarckia nobilis / Bismarck Palm
Brahea armata / Mexican Blue Palm
Phoenix canariensis / Canary Island Date Palm
Phoenix dactylifera 'Medjool' / Phoenix Date Palm
Citrus sp.

Accents

Adenium obesum / Desert Rose
Agave 'Blue Flame' / Blue Flame Agave
Agave colorata / Mescal ceniza
Agave geminiflora / Twin Flowered Agave
Agave ovatifolia / Whale's Tongue Agave
Agave parryi var. truncata / Artichoke agave
Agave 'Sharkskin' / Sharkskin Agave
Agave sisal / Sisal Agave
Agave weberi / Weber's Agave
Aloe striata / Coral Aloe
Aloe saponaria / African Aloe
Asparagus densiflorus 'Myers' / Myers Asparagus
Aspidistra elatior / Cast Iron Plant
Canna 'Tropicana' / Canna Lily
Cereus hildmannianus f. tortuosus / Twisted Cereus
Cereus peruvianus 'Monstrosus' / Monstrosus cereus
Cleistocactus strausii / Silver torch cactus
Cycas revoluta / Sago Palm
Dietes bicolor / Fortnight Lily
Dracaena marginata 'Tarzan'
Euphorbia antisiphilitica / Candelilla
Euphorbia rigida / Gopher Plant
Fouquieria splendens / Ocotillo
Hesperaloe funifera / Giant Hesperaloe
Monstera deliciosa / Split-leaf Philodendron
Muhlenbergia capillaris 'Regal Mist' / Regal Mist Muhly
Opuntia basilaris / Beavertail Cactus

Accents Cont.

Opuntia basilaris / Beavertail Cactus
Pachypodium lamerei / Madagascar palm
Pedilanthus macrocarpus / Slipper Plant
Philodendron 'Xanadu' / Winterborn Philodendron
Yucca pallida / Pale Leaf Yucca
Zantedeschia aethiopica / Calla Lily

Shrubs

Anisacanthus quadrifidus 'Mexican Flame' / Mexican Flame Anisacanthus
Brunfelsia pauciflora 'Floribunda' / Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
Buddleia marrubifolia / Woolly butterfly bush
Calliandra californica Baja fairy duster
Cestrum nocturnum / Night Jessamine
Cordia parvifolia / Little Leaf Cordia
Cuphea ilavea / Bat-faced Cuphea
Russelia equisetiformis / Coral Fountain Plant
Dodonaea viscosa / Hopseed Bush
Duranta erecta / Sky Flower
Duranta erecta 'Alba' / White Sky Flower
Eremophila hygrophana / Silver emu bush
Eremophilla maculata / Emu Bush
Fallugia paradoxa / Apache Plume
Gardenia jasminoides / Gardenia
Ilex vomitoria 'Nana' / Yaupon Holly
Ilex vomitoria 'Will Fleming'
Justicia brandegeana / Shrimp Plant
Justicia californica / Chuparosa
Justicia candicans / Red Mexican Honeysuckle
Justicia spicigera / Desert Honeysuckle
Leucophyllum candidum 'Silver Cloud' / Violet Silverleaf
Leucophyllum frutescens 'Compacta' / Texas Ranger
Leucophyllum langmaniae 'Lynn's Legacy' / Texas Sage
Leucophyllum laevigatum / Chihuahuan sage
Ruellia peninsularis / Baja Ruellia
Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus' / Rosemary
Rosa 'White Carpet' / Rose
Salvia chamaedryoides / Mexican Blue Sage
Salvia clevelandii / Cleveland Sage
Salvia gregii / Autumn Sage
Salvia leucantha 'Santa Barbara' / Mexican Bush Sage
Tecoma stands angustata / Yellow Bells
Ziziphus obtusifolia / Greythorn

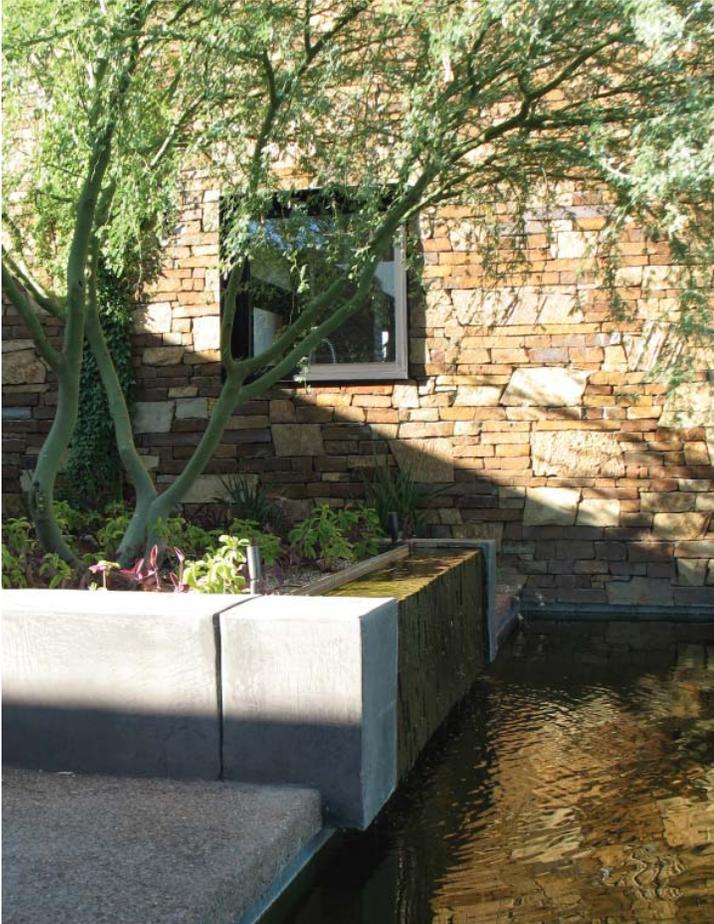
Groundcovers / Vines

Antigonon leptopus / Queen's wreath
Artemisia 'Powis Castle' / Powis Castle Artemisia
Bougainvillea 'Rosenka' / Bougainvillea
Campsis radicans / Trumpet vine
Convolvulus cneorum / Bush Morning Glory
Dalea capitata 'Sierra Gold'
Dalea frutescens 'Sierra Negra' / Dalea

Groundcovers / Vines Cont.

Dyssodia pentachaeta / Golden Dyssodia
Ericameria laricifolia / Turpentine Bush
Eupatorium greggii 'Boothill' / Gregg's Boneset
Ficus pumila / Creeping fig
Gazania 'Sun Gold' / Trailing Gazania
Hardenbergia violaceae / Lilac vine
Hedera helix 'Needlepoint' / Ivy
Hymenoxys acaulis / Angelita daisy
Lantana hybrid 'Gold Mound' / Hybrid Lantana
Lantana 'New Gold'
Lantana 'Radiation Red'
Lantana montevidensis 'Purple'
Jasminum sambac / Arabian Jasmine
Jasminum nitidum / Angel Wing Jasmine
Melampodium leucanthum / Blackfoot Daisy
Penstemon ambiguus / Sand Penstemon
Penstemon eatonii / Eaton's Penstemon
Penstemon strictus / Rocky Mountain Penstemon
Plumbago auriculata / Cape Plumbago
Bulbine frutescens / Orange Bulbine
Setcreasea pallida / Purple Heart Plant
Thymus praecox arcticus / Creeping Thyme
Thymus vulgaris / French Thyme
Teucrium chamaedrys / Trailing Germander
Tradescantia zebrina 'Purpusii'
Verbena rigida / Prairie Verbena
Wedelia trilobata / Wedelia
Zephyranthes candida / Rain Lily
Zexmenia hispida 'Devils River' / Devil's River
Zinnia acerosa / Desert Zinnia
Ixora maui 'Sunset' / Yellow Ixora

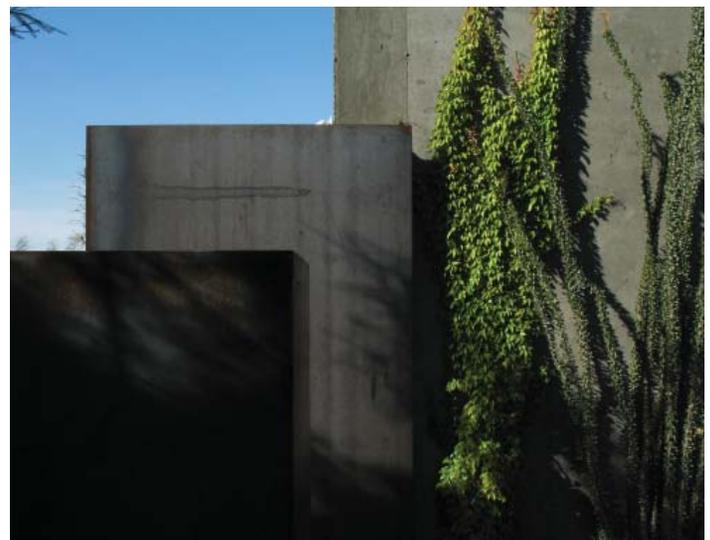




The Martori residence is the dream home of a successful couple created to spend time with several generations of their family. The goal was to create a courtyard garden on a hillside site that provided a series of outdoor rooms for the enjoyment of the company of children, grandchildren, friends and pets.

Significant Features

- The project is significant to the owner because they were intimately involved in the creation of a home and garden to share with their family that represents the culmination of a lifetime of hard work. The project repaired a damaged site and replaced an incongruous building with updated architecture and landscape.
- Glass panels on stainless steel pivots create a movable screen that is used to mitigate wind in the inner courtyard and provide varying levels of privacy and screening depending on season and use.
- A backlit plinth was created for a special jade sculpture purchased at the Beijing Olympics.



Planting Design

Planting was zoned to reflect site location, micro-climate and use. The hillside was restored with native plants. Spaces such as drives and building entries were planted with native and arid adapted species that provide transition from restored landscapes to oasis gardens. Courtyard spaces within the building envelope were planted with a combination of native and exotic species suited to an oasis environment.

Trees / Palms / Citrus

Bambusa sp. Buddha Belly / Black Bamboo
Caesalpinia mexicana / Mexican Bird
Chilopsis linearis / Desert Willow
Ebonopsis ebano / Texas Ebony
Prosopis velutina / Native Mesquite
Olneya tesota / Ironwood
Parkinsonia sp./ Palo Verde
Tecoma sp. / Orange Jubilee

Accents

Agave bovicornuta
Agave desmettiana
Agave weberii
Aloe daweyi / Daweyi's Aloe
Aloe ferox / Tree Aloe
Aloe Striata / Striated Aloe
Aloe X / Blue Elf Aloe
Asclepias subulata / Desert Milkweed
Bulbine frutescens / Bulbine
Dioon Edule / Dioon
Euphorbia antisiphilitica / Candelilla
Hesperaloe funifera / Giant Hesperaloe
Pedilanthus macrocarpus / Lady's Slipper
Setcreasea pallida / Purple Heart
Cleistocactus strausii / Silver Torch
Echinocereus sp. / Hedgehog
Echinopsis pachanoi / San Pedro
Lophocereus sp./ Totem Pole
Mammillaria sp. / Pincushion
Opuntia ficus Indica / Indian Fig
Opuntia robusta / Camuesa
Opuntia santa rita / Purple Prickly Pear
Trichocereus sp. / Argentine Giant

Shrubs

Calliandra californica / Baja Fairy Duster
Dasylirion quad / Toothless Desert Spoon
Dodonea viscosa / Hop Seed
Encelia farinosa / Brittlebush
Fouquieria splendens / Ocotillo
Gaura lindheimeri 'siskiyou pink' / Pink Gaura
Justicia californica / Chuparosa
Justicia spicigera / Mexican Honeysuckle
Larrea tridentate / Creosote
Penstemon sp. / Penstemon
Salvia clevelandii / Chaparral Sage
Vaquelinia californica / Arizona Rosewood
Viguera deltoidea / Golden Eye
Zephyranthes candida / White Rain Lily

Groundcovers / Vines

Parthenocissus sp. / Hacienda Creeper
Jasminum polyanthum / Pink Jasmine
Jasminum Sambac Arabica / Arabian Jasmine



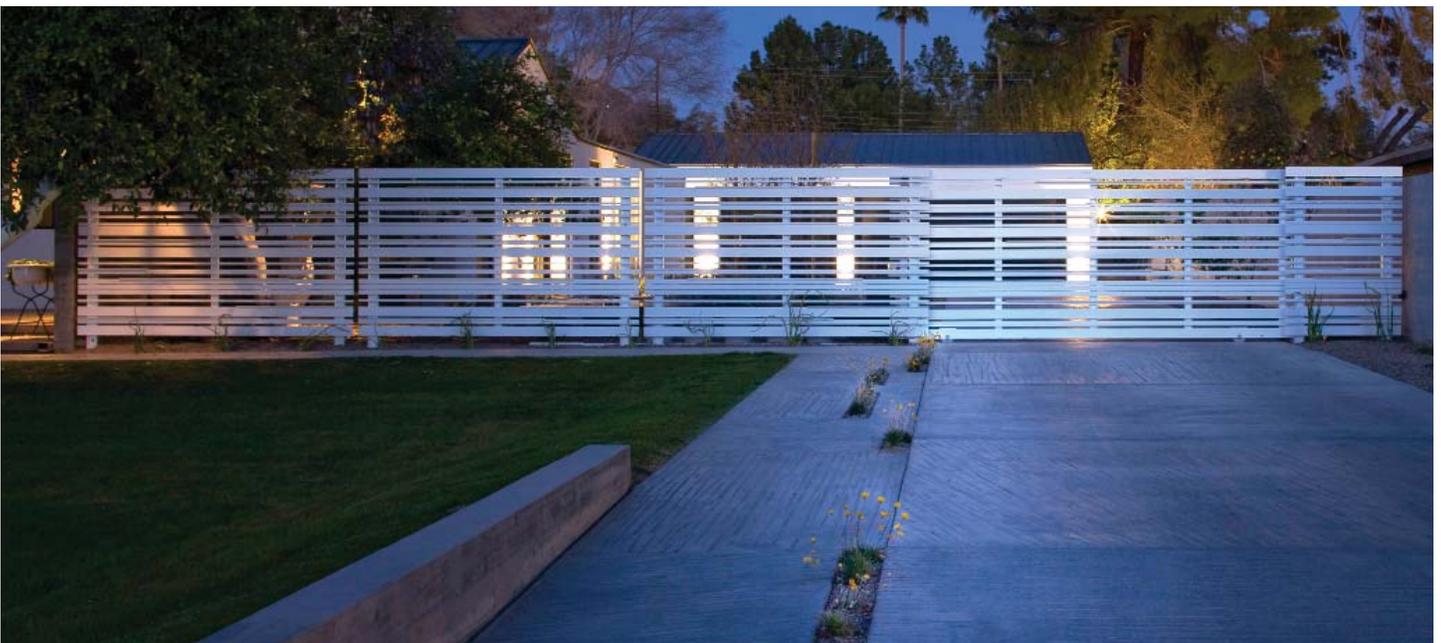
2012 Arizona ASLA Award of Excellence



Arcadia, at the foot of Camelback Mountain, has long been a desirable neighborhood for its views, its central location, and the pastoral quality of its large green lots interspersed with citrus groves. The neighborhood has undergone many negative changes in the last decade due to the loss of historic homes and green spaces; hence, its community character has suffered. This one-acre site features a home and landscape renovation that ventured to honor the historic essence of Arcadia that has made the neighborhood so unique and livable for several decades.

Significant Features

- The contemporary landscape and hardscape integrates the architecture representative of the original 1950s Modern, ranch-style home with the texture of the land's historic agricultural use as a citrus grove
- The “strong bones” hardscape provides the framework to amalgamate existing structures and spaces in such a way that allows informal – and at times, formal – living to unfold.
- A long, white fence and gate fabricated from contemporary materials evokes memories of Phoenix's old manor estates, directing the visitor toward the front door while providing a semi-transparent view to the side garden courtyard
- The walkway to the front door is demarcated with “events” such as a water feature embedded into a board-formed concrete wall and a cast-in-place concrete bench that is suggestive of an outdoor foyer or waiting area for guests.
- This project demonstrates that by respecting existing integrity and scale, coupled with a critical utilization of materials and detail, design can elevate the cohesiveness and legibility of the neighborhood.



Planting Design

The preservation of lawn and a fifty-year old grapefruit grove maintained through existing flood irrigation bespoke of its relevance and appropriateness to Arcadia and served to stimulate the children's healthy play out-of-doors and amongst the neighborhood community. Simple monochromatic plantings were used to sustain a pastoral atmosphere and gracefully unify the two levels of the site. Approaching from the street, the visitor is greeted with the front yard garden – a space that connects the public space of the street to the semi-private zone of the main entry. Closer to the house, gardens of drought-tolerant native and adapted species with vibrant blooms, as well as a procession of lemon, lime and orange trees absorb the tension between the linearity suggested by the agricultural landscape, the free forms of the Sonoran Desert and domestic family life. The central courtyard adjacent to the home's living areas was designed to accommodate various functions, from formal outdoor entertaining to informal play area; it's minimalist design balances the garden spaces on the south and west sides of the house.

Trees / Citrus

Citrus sp.
Fraxinus velutina / Arizona Ash
Olea europaea 'Swan Hill' / Swan Hill Olive
Prosopis thornless hybrid 'azt' / 'Azt' Thornless Hybrid Mesquite

Accents

Agave attenuata
Dasylirion wheeleri / Desert Spoon
Euphorbia antisyphilitica / Candelilla
Pedilanthus macrocarpus / Slipper Plant
Yucca pallida / Pale Leaf Yucca

Groundcovers / Shrubs / Grasses

Asparagus densiflorus 'meyers' / Foxtail Fern
Chrysactinia Mexicana / Damianita
Dichondra
Encelia farinosa / Brittlebush
Euphorbia rigida / Gopher Plant
Hymenoxys acaulis / Angelita Daisy
Justicia spicigera / Mexican Honeysuckle
Leucophyllum langmaniae 'Lynn's Legacy' / Texas Sage
Penstemon sp.
Salvia clevelandii / Chaparral Sage



