



GARDEN TOUR & PLANT SWAP

South Pasadena Beautiful Annual Spring Event

BY LELA BISSNER

The Garden Tour and Plant Swap will be celebrating another year as South Pasadena Beautiful members offer this popular, annual spring event. Free to the community, the tour includes a plant swap, where visitors may bring a plant or plants they want to share and have the opportunity to take another plant home to enhance their own garden. The event is scheduled for April 18, with a postponement of one week if it rains on that date.

Four South Pasadena gardens, within a radius of one mile, will be on display and may be viewed in any order.

1629 Laurel Street - This Mediterranean home of Dina Morgan, built in 1932, is uniquely situated well above

street level. The desire of the homeowner was to have a Mediterranean-style garden that would complement the house, allowing the home to settle comfortably into the landscape. The design focus for the garden was the play of leaf color and texture. The plants were further selected for their drought tolerance and their relatively low maintenance.

To frame the overall space, a myrtle hedge was planted on the east perimeter and is complemented on the west by dramatic weeping Mulberry trees. The garden is gently divided from sidewalk plantings of agaves and phlomis to the green carpet of lawn garden beds that include roses, succulents and assorted perennials. Adjacent to the front door, is a newly created courtyard.

1947 La France Avenue - This Craftsman home of Dr. Ba and Missy

Finstead, built in 1908, has recently been re-landscaped to complement the architecture of the house. Across the driveway, in front, Ba built a Craftsman style gate and created a landscape using lichen covered boulders, which enhance an existing maleleuca. Gardens of Japanese maples, phormium, ceanθος, yellow clivia, lamium, true geranium, heuchera and pelargonium were installed. There is a sand washed, concrete porch with a wistaria covered pergola and wide steps flanked by brick pilasters. These descend to a walkway leading to a bluestone patio softened by plantings of helichrysum, heuchera, senecio, phormium, euphorbia and lavender. A mature pepper tree was installed for added privacy. A pond now creates a tranquil environment, with water spilling from mossy boulders.

1039 Montrose Avenue - This Craftsman home of Diane and Ray Munson was built in 1910. The landscape designer's objective in the front garden was to create a strong pedestrian entrance and to reduce the amount of lawn. The plant palette is Mediterranean and low water and low maintenance in its cultural needs. The emphasis is strongly foliage rather than flower thus providing the "bones" for year-round beauty.

In the side garden, the Munsons wished to create a private and peaceful sanctuary. The deck, fountain and gate are new and were designed

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478 SOUTH OAKLAND AVE., PASADENA

to pay homage to the wonderful Craftsman architecture of the residence. As the area is quite shady, white and yellow variegated foliage was used to lighten up the garden.

1611 Fletcher Avenue - This stucco and wood trim home of Anne and Randy Leach was built in 1927. After completion of a major renovation of the interior and some modest improvements to the front yard gardens, which included adding English roses, lavender, large grasses and helichrysum "Lime-light," the remaining home improvement project was to make better use of the rear gardens.

The design parameters for the rear garden included the conversion of a garage storeroom to a studio, the addition of a spa and a free standing pergola for an "outdoor room." Lady Banks roses are being trained to climb up the four corner posts of the pergola and cross over toward the middle of the open trellis structure to provide a sense of privacy and shade. Existing camellias at the entry to the studio and along the north edge of the yard are complemented by ginger, ginkgos, bamboo and a "Little Gem" magnolia. There are a variety of grasses, daylilies, roses, bamboo, along with columbine and other interesting plants set along the perimeter of the rear yard.

In addition to the Garden Tour and Plant Swap, South Pasadena Beautiful also offers annual Golden Arrow Awards to residents and business people who have improved their landscaping and overall property appearance. Golden Arrow Award recipients will be honored guests at the organization's Annual Meeting, to be held June 7 at the South Pasadena Public Library. This event is open to the community at a small charge.

Guest Speaker will be Laurie Sowd, project manager of the new \$8 million Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. She will speak on features of the Chinese garden and its development. For the past twelve years, Ms. Sowd has been operations director at the Huntington Library. For more information about the meeting, phone (626) 799-1595. 🌱

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Sponsored by South Pasadena Beautiful Inc.
34th Annual Garden Tour

*Bring a plant for the plant swap
FREE to the public*

Sunday, April 18, 2004 from 1pm to 4pm

Participating homes are:

- #1 - 1629 Laurel Street
- #2 - 1947 La France Avenue
- #3 - 1039 Montrose Avenue
- #4 - 1611 Fletcher Avenue

Plant swap will be held at Eddy Park (on the parkway)