

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

September, 2004 Newsletter

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GRACIOUS OUTDOOR LIVING

Outdoor living isn't new, but it has become more elaborate. Decorators and homeowners have gone beyond blurring the boundaries between the indoors and outdoors. They have opened the back doors, gone outside and they liked it so well that they have decided to be out there as much as possible. Outdoor living is a trend that is only going to GROW!



In a cultural shift, people now want to spend time in their gardens because it is a place where they can escape and feel peaceful. Outdoor living is the second generation creation of living and entertaining, with an intense focus on the embellishment of outdoor vignettes.

Economics comes into play as well since covered patios can often be added for half of the cost of an indoor room, an effective way of doubling the amount of a home's entertaining area.

Outdoor dining takes on a casual but elegant mood with everything from \$8 terra cotta plates, utensils that are made to resemble twigs, placemats, and coasters made of stones or bamboo, napkin rings that are tiny terra cotta pots, to \$8,000 grills. Adding kitchen facilities such as a grill, sink, and bar makes sense for entertaining; hosts can then remain with their guests instead of going back and forth to the kitchen. A fireplace that doubles as a grill can serve as a hearth as well as a place to cook. When building a new home, it would be wise to build indoor and outdoor kitchens in close proximity.

In creating the look, birdbaths, statuary, topiary forms, and trellises are visually interesting acces-

sories just as pedestals and sculptures are indoors. Fountains and wind chimes add a natural soothing sound, whereas mounted outdoor speakers can gently pipe favorite dinner music.

Outdoor furniture pieces can be as attractive and comfortable as indoor sofas and chairs. Weather resistant fabrics are now widely varied in pattern and color, resembling indoor upholstery material. Seating in traditional lawn furniture can be made more comfortable and color coordinated with the addition of polyester or oilcloth pillows in a variety of sizes and patterns. Area rugs in all manner of color, materials, and design add richness, softness, and depth to hard, colorless outdoor flooring.



Even under the stars, gardens are aglow as never before with new innovations in lighting. Low voltage stained glass dragonflies, or Luna moths can be mounted on tree trunks; bouquets of stained glass tulips or water lilies add evening ambiance to ponds. In covered areas, cast iron lamps with a garden theme add light for reading or atmosphere. Shimmering candle powered chandeliers hanging from trees, votives on tables or oil torches burning in strategic garden spots lend a romantic look desirable at night in any garden and can actually help repel insects. With a roof, ceiling fans, mist system, and fireplace, the outdoors can be enjoyed year round. From March through December, outdoor living is in!

ORANGE ALERT! RED ALERT!



With September comes the start of football season. Wilshire Garden Market will be carrying new patio “tailgate” accessories so that fans can show their school colors everywhere! OU and OSU Alma Mater flags or garden flags will be available in several styles of screen print or appliqué.

For the serious fan, have it written in stone! A local artisan will create stones with inscriptions such as: OU, OSU, COWBOYS ROCK, SOONERS ROCK, GO SOONERS, GO COWBOYS, SOONERS FAN, and COWBOYS FAN. Placed in the garden near the front door, these will help welcome guests for watch parties and they will make nice hostess gifts as well.

Accessorize the patio or outdoor serving area for football watch parties with weather resistant Turkish rugs (there is rust colored one for OSU fans), colorful outdoor pillows, sling chairs for extra seating. Pots planted with orange and white or crimson and white flowers are a must for the entry.

Also coming will be the university themes: ball cap bird houses, wind twirlers, and college stepping stones. Everyone needs a University of Texas stepping stone for the new holiday, “Step on Texas”, celebrated every day at Wilshire Garden Market.



SEPTEMBER TO DO LIST

- Fertilize warm season grasses (Bermuda)
- Begin the prep work for over seeding cool season grasses.
- Trim back annuals or pull out poor performers. Trim leggy perennials, deadhead, fertilize to bring back full color and last flush of blooms.
- Check perennials for dried seed pods, harvest, label, and save for next year.
- Plant perennials; the weather is cooler and it is not very windy.
- Plant annuals for seasonal filler; think outside the mum box.
- Remember to water pots and garden plants; they can dry out easily this time of year.

WATCH FOR NEW ITEMS: OUR MARKET FINDS

The New York Gift Show held great promise, expectations of finding new trends in garden accents and outdoor living.



The top two favorite items found are herbal and floral potpourri and “garden jewelry”. The potpourri is a blend of natural botanicals such as

rosebuds and balsam sprigs with true-to-life scents. They will be sold by the scoop. That showroom was a sensual explosion of color, texture, and scent.

Garden jewelry is hand blown, intensely colorful glass ornaments of heart shapes, sun discs resembling large old fashioned lollipops, hummingbird feeders, and the Van Glow discs and balls—ornaments inspired by Van Gogh’s “Starry Night” with swirls of colors in the blown glass.



The overall trends observed: light sage green equaled white as an accessory color, lightweight planters predominated, and color was used freely in a more whimsical manner. An Asian influence was felt, with numerous Buddha heads shown, and, oh joy...gnomes are coming back.

Look for exciting arrivals at Wilshire Garden Market in the next few weeks!

EXTERIOR DECORATING

In response to repeated requests, Wilshire Garden Market now provides an exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment and for a nominal fee, we will make a one hour consultation followed by written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, useful, and harmonious. We also plant pots or window boxes. Call the store for more details or to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

SEMINAR SERIES 2004

On Saturday, September 25, Linda Vater will be presenting "Container Gardening". In this much requested repeat of a favorite, Linda will discuss how to create beautiful container plantings for this season. Vater's future seminars are listed below; dates will be announced.

On Tuesday, October 26, at 7:00 P.M., local landscape designer and bulb connoisseur, Klee Black, will present, "Spring Bulbs". Klee will also bring, for sale, tulips and other bulbs that will have just arrived from Holland. There will be more information in our October newsletter, and a list of Klee's bulb selections will be available at the store.

We are also pleased that Steve Hill will be with us on Thursday, October 28 at 7:00 P.M. to present "Plant Partners", matching plants that make good partners visually and that require similar growing conditions. Hill created this seminar with slides as one of his many garden design classes at the Firehouse Art Center in Norman. With a B.S. in Letters and a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture, Hill is a Professor at O.U. and a well known landscape designer/contractor. He was the director of Landscape for the Natural History Museum, among other projects

Daytime seminars begin at 10:30 A.M.; evening seminars begin at 7:00 P.M.; they last for an hour, with a question and answer period following. The fee is \$10 per person and seating is somewhat limited, so call now to reserve your spot. Door prizes are given at each seminar! Please join us!

The 2004/2005 series is as follows:

Sept. 25	Container Gardening
Oct. 26	Spring Bulbs (<i>evening</i>)
Oct. 28	Plant Partners (<i>evening</i>)
Nov:	Holiday Gardening
Jan:	Basic Garden Design
Feb:	Gardening Fundamentals
Mar:	Creating Curb Appeal
Apr:	The Use of Color in Landscape
May:	Kitchen Garden : Boutique Mini Vegetables
June:	Vertical Gardening
July:	Shade Gardening
Aug:	Keep It Looking Good Year Round
Sept.	Container Gardening
Oct:	Bulbs, Bulbs, Bulbs

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET ASKS THE EXPERTS

In the quest to find out the latest tips in horticulture and landscape design, the series of interviews with local landscape architects, designers, and horticulturists continues.

This month's expert is Marc Skelton of Metro Lawns & Landscape. Marc specializes in full landscapes, structural build outs, and maintenance.

Q: What have your customers requested this year?

A: My clients have been interested in rock and stonework this year. They are installing outdoor fireplaces, fire pits, pathways, and patios.

Q: How do you go about creating a four season landscape?

A: I start with a good base of evergreens for year round color, and then fill in with blooming plants so that there is something going on in every season.

Q: What thoughts go into the plant choices you make?

A: It really depends a lot on the customer and their space. If they like to spend time in the garden, we make larger beds to accommodate for annuals. If they want a maintenance free landscape, I choose plant materials that require little attention such as nandinas, yews, and evergreens. I recommend sprinkler systems for all of my customers.

Q: What are a few plants and trees that you prefer to use?

A: Pansies are hardy and will last a long time. I use Chinese Pistache trees because they are drought tolerant, have good fall color, and have few pests. I have also used the Blue Atlas Cedar and the Leyland Cypress for several years.

To contact Marc Skelton regarding a landscape project, call 405-517-6760.

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