

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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 CELEBRATING 16 YEARS

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THE LATEST FROM ATLANTA MARKET

It is imperative that we be knowledgeable about current trends in color, design, and new garden products; We gain a great deal of information by attending the Atlanta International Market, the true hub of retail products. Keeping tradition intact, we awoke at 3:00 a.m. in order to arrive in time to spend most of a full day at Market before the rest of the



bottles and vases horizontally in a large, tall shelf.

world arrived. It always seems like a good idea to start at the top and work down, visiting showroom after showroom on our list, taking copious notes. A few creative teams stand out among the myriad showrooms; one designed this display by stacking green, yellow, aqua, and clear glass



In a seminar by HGTV's Property Brothers; we noticed that their approach to beginning a home

renovation is similar to how we begin a garden and patio consultation: gathering information from clients. They asked how many in the audience were living in their dream home; not many. They offered advice about how to add sensible features to make your home into your dream home.

James Giddings of HGTV's Curb Appeal was featured the following day. A graduate of Harvard, he conducted a lively and educational slide presentation of before and after projects chock full of great landscaping information. He was adamant that attractive house numbers are critically important to the curb appeal of your home, and the mailbox should complement your home's style.



Market attendance was robust. It takes a vast number of people (from across the country) to make four 20-story buildings feel crowded; the buyers were buying vigorously, an exciting economic indicator.

No one color seemed to be predominant this year. We also noticed many maxi dresses being worn by women attending. We were wondering if either or both of those factors were related to the improving economy.

Terrariums were seen everywhere as items to purchase and as showroom décor. They are extremely popular on both coasts and will become as popular here. We found several that are pretty and easy to plant, a nice gift.



A new hummingbird feeder, the "Pixie", is very appealing with its little glass wings. They will arrive soon, along with other beautiful hanging feeders and feeders on stakes to place in

pots and in the garden. It is important to keep feeders up until late fall, fresh and full of nectar to help the hummingbirds gain the weight they need to migrate across the gulf to their winter habitats.

We are very excited about the new fall and holiday outdoor pillows. There will be several new beautiful graphic leaf patterns for fall to combine with traditional favorites like the Indian summer pumpkin and gourd watercolor image. A companion white holiday rabbit pillow will pair up with last year's beautiful Joy rabbit. Several other tempting holiday pillows feature snow scenes and wintry animals.

The latest in the cute cottage collection is Mary's Cottage, a one-story butter yellow cottage with a tile-look roof and rose draped windows. These are especially attractive tucked among ferns, hostas, and impatiens in a lush, well-watered shade garden. Needless to say, children love them. Watch for little bags of tiny gravel, stepping stones, and miniature holiday wreaths to hang on cottage windows.



A new acorn house has been added to the fantasy garden collection of tiny structures. A nice accent for the fall, it can be tucked into a container planting or be the focal point in a garden vignette.



Returning to full size garden accessories, Campania International's showroom was beautifully arranged with containers in analogous color ways flowing together in waves of antique jade, blues, and browns. Campania introduced a number of stunning new containers, fountains, and statuary pieces for the coming year, which will appear in another article later in this newsletter.



We ordered a collection of elegantly rustic cache-pots with a dressy metallic bronze finish in a variety of shapes and sizes. Shown here are the boats that would hold a series of votives or tea lights as well as floral arrangements.

From hummingbird feeders and terrariums to huge cast stone and glazed garden accents, Atlanta Market energized and inspired. Here's to another year of beautiful garden accessories!

OUR VISIT TO CAMPANIA

We always look forward to visiting our friends at Campania International because we can see new products in person and see new pieces in production. Our rep, Maribeth, aka "Above and Beyond", chauffeurs us for a day trip to a regional garden; this year it was the DuPont family's estate, Winterthur, in Wilmington, DE.

Campania's factory and showroom are housed in



a 100,000 sq. ft. former Hershey factory. Cast stone product design, production, finishing, packing, and shipping is a complicated process that often customers do not consider when they see



them in our store. Campania makes latex molds of each item from original carvings or antiques. Each cast stone container, statuary piece, or fountain component must be carefully poured, removed from a latex mold, sanded and smoothed, inspected and touched by human hands 37 times before being placed in the warehouse. Our orders are pulled unfinished from the warehouse shelves



and congregated at the bays where the various finishes are applied. Products are dried and packed in excelsior, a monumental task.

Products are designed primarily by V. P. Peter Cilio; the models for new designs are carved by artisans from large plaster cubes. On last year's



visit we saw the plaster prototypes for two of the fountains we purchased this year, the Cascading Hosta fountain and the Leaf Spiller

Fountain, cast from an actual enormous leaf. The leaf can be used separately. We are eagerly looking forward to their arrival in approximately three weeks.



Other exciting new designs include the chic Martini planter that is a great container for the patio and a superb showcase for succulents.

The Manhattan planter is a complementary container with upright form.



All Creatures Great and Small is a sweet addition to Campania's expansive collection of original sculptures. A sizeable piece with amazing detail, it can be tucked into a prayer garden or at the base of a tree.



Every garden should have several birdbaths to accommodate birds' water needs throughout the year. The Sunflower birdbath is a unique in-house creation with abundant sculptural detail to make the birds feel secure in their footing.

BEAUTY ALL AROUND US

Just across the border of Pennsylvania and through the picturesque, one-lane covered red bridge into Wilmington, Delaware, lays the 1500 acre DuPont Estate, Winterthur. We took a tram



tour of the grounds, through the March garden, the Pinetum, past the 175 room home (we didn't have time to see 175 rooms nor do any dusting as the guide suggested). We



hopped off at the Enchanted Woods, the very enchanting children's garden (for children of all ages). Young children were running down the paths squealing with delight, somewhat unusual for a non-digital, non-animated garden setting. The Acorn Tearoom is an ancient, mossy setting with tiny carved children's

furniture amid tall columns reminiscent of ruins.

It is said that fairies created the Enchanted Woods and we expected to see fairies all about. The witch's house was made from a real tree trunk, with a door and miniature chairs inside. Imagine the magic if you were only five years old.



We walked across the perfect, tiny bridge that spanned a small pond and a little running brook.



We imagined ourselves as children spending the entire summer in this tiny cottage with a fireplace and little carved wooden furniture.



Below is the empty nest syndrome personified!



Lark, the music fairy, needed a safe home so she made this bird nest over a cloud of blue and white hydrangeas. She made it big enough so friends could come visit. It is a great place to listen to the birds singing, the wind blowing, and raindrops plopping on your head.

A nearby sign said “Never, ever step inside a fairy ring.” Oops! Mist shot out from every mushroom, but I escaped unharmed.



We visited the fairy flower labyrinth with its winding path of stones. Some stones were etched with sayings, some with images of wildflowers.



After playing in the Enchanted Woods for as long as we could, we visited the Reflecting Pond, the



museum, and the rest of the grounds. Exquisite!



The depth of lush fern and Hosta plantings was incredible; all gardeners should visit Winterthur.

AUGUST TO DO LIST

Even though we still have a few hot days, it's time to think fall – garden cleanup, pre-fall plant maintenance, etc.

- Harvest herbs for fresh use and to keep them growing longer.
- After Asiatic and Oriental lilies bloom, cut off 1/3 of their stems.
- Stop fertilizing roses.
- Stop deadheading roses so they will produce rosehips.
- Order spring bulbs.
- Inspect mulch and add more if needed.
- Add a mid-season layer of compost.
- Deadhead flowers.
- Remove and discard any diseased plant foliage. Don't compost them.
- Photograph container plantings you would like to repeat next year.



EXTERIOR DECORATING

Are you in need of some inspiration for your entryway or patio? Wilshire Garden Market provides an exterior decorating and small space design consultation service. By appointment, for a nominal fee, we will make a consultation visit and follow-up report to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. Call the store at 405-879-1121 to set up an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

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**NEW FOR YOU,
THE COLORS OF
SUMMER**

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