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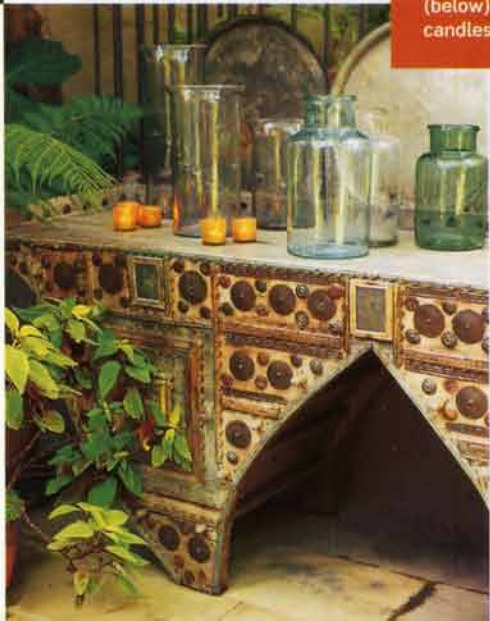
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LISA ROMEREIN



WHETHER UNWINDING ALONE OR PARTYING with friends, Barbara Glazer and Philip Morton of Los Angeles like to spend as much time outside as possible. But the backyard of their 1930s Mediterranean-style home—hemmed in by a space-wasting garage, an upper terrace of scraggly roses, a dated kidney-shaped pool and a dark, dank side courtyard—was hardly an invitation to the great outdoors. So they hired landscape designer Laurie Lewis to create a new and improved garden, one that would evoke the unstudied charm of an old farmhouse in Italy. “I wanted to capture that warm, sunny, stone-baked feeling,” Lewis explains. “The goal was something a bit quirky and haphazard, like the garden had been here forever and just evolved.”

LAYOUT: Glazer and Morton demolished the driveway and garage to give Lewis room to redesign the pool, replace the gloomy courtyard with a cozy fire pit, and add a spa/fountain, an outdoor living room and an outdoor kitchen. “I wasn’t able to separate these areas,” Lewis

Stone walls unify the cushioned banquette and the kitchen counter (left), while pavers and gravel distinguish one area from another. A weathered camel saddle (below) displays glass, candles and trays.



UNDER COVER

The alfresco dining area is conveniently situated in a cool, shady loggia between the indoor kitchen and the outdoor grill. Vines climb upward past light sconces to soften any hard lines and romantically blur the line between house and garden.

INTO THE FOLD

Fabric awnings provide stylish protection against the sun's glare and blustery winds. Made of weather-resistant material and strung on heavy-duty steel cables, they can be manually extended or retracted with the help of a long pole.

REAR VIEW

The outdoor kitchen was laid out in a corner so that stainless-steel appliances would not become distracting intrusions into the green oasis. A backdrop of queen palms and creeping fig on the walls help it blend in with the rest of the garden.

HAPPY BEDFELLOWS

Mediterranean plants, many with blue-gray foliage, push through the hardscape in clusters that were designed to look random. While Jerusalem sage, lavender and lamb's ears share large beds, fragrant woolly thyme sprouts from the cracks.





Once dank and cluttered with pots, the side courtyard is now an inviting place to enjoy a fire. Ottomans and pebble paving add ethnic flavor, and pillows repeat the colors of shrimp plant, bougainvillea and orchids.

says, "so I had to use harmonious plants and materials to make them overlap and flow."

MATERIALS: Rugged, monolithic stone—and lots of it—was key to creating the illusion that the garden was original to the property. In the quest for texture and patina, everyone agreed on Santa Barbara sandstone for the walls and Sweetwater sandstone for the paving.

STYLE: "Since the house already had a Mediterranean villa feel, we tried to maintain that but introduce modern livability," Glazer says. Adds Morton: "The remodel reflects multicultural influences, including Spanish and Italian, but none of it overtly one or the other." This allowed Lewis—collaborating with interior designer Tommy Chambers—to incorporate touches as diverse as repro-

duction Chinese rain drums for cocktail tables, an Indian camel saddle for a sideboard and Moorish pebble paving for flooring.

PLANTS: While giant timber bamboo increases privacy behind an existing eugenia hedge, king palms and a large dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*) form a canopy overhead. Walls covered with creeping fig suggest architectural remnants, as do patio decks seamed with thyme and small echeverias. In the sunniest spots, Lewis gathered heat-tolerant Jerusalem sage, lavender and yarrow; for the cooler shadows, she chose coleus, elephant ears and ferns. "Barbara wanted lots of color," Lewis says, "so there's also shrimp plant (*Justicia brandegeana*), nodding pin-cushion (*Leucospermum cordifolium*), kanga-

outdoor room

roo paws, trumpet vine and bougainvillea.”

FURNISHINGS: Teak chaises and armchairs from Smith & Hawken are upholstered in weather-resistant yellow-green fabric, with pillows scattered about in hushed orange, red, blue and green tones to echo the plants. A banquette loaded with pillows was built around the gas fire pit. The stainless-steel kitchen is equipped with everything from a grill and warming drawers to a sink and refrigerator.

OVERHEAD: Four retractable fabric awnings cleverly mounted over the gravelled seating area offer shelter both on hot days and chilly nights. “In the end,” Glazer says, “this was not about having a showplace but about making comfortable spaces.” —**EMILY YOUNG**

■ Contact Laurie Lewis Design at 310-459-3330 or see laurielewisdesign.com.



Top: King palms and a Caribbean copper plant form part of the garden canopy. Above: On the deck above the new pool's waterfalls, umbrellas are set directly into the ground, rather than in metal bases.