



The outdoor dining room, enclosed by a low stucco wall and a trellis, is also equipped with lights and speakers for midsummer-night dance parties. See Resources.

Santa Rosa, California

"When Bob and I purchased our property six years ago," says Hélène Morneau, "we all (dog, cat and horses included) agreed that the site was perfect, but the yard was a neglected mess of rock-filled beds and overgrown junipers." Undaunted, Morneau, proprietor of Exteriors Landscape Architects, and Landman, an emergency physician, dug in, starting out back. "The garden is not as we initially planned it," reports Morneau. "We waited and saw where we hung out the most, and the 'rooms' evolved from that."

"I knew we couldn't change *all* the existing landscape elements," she continues, "so I emphasized the details we liked, repeating stucco in walls and pillars, adding flagstone, using tile that matched the roof of the house. Then we sandblasted all the dark-stained wood," partly because Dr. Bob had discovered the power of the sandblaster. "To this

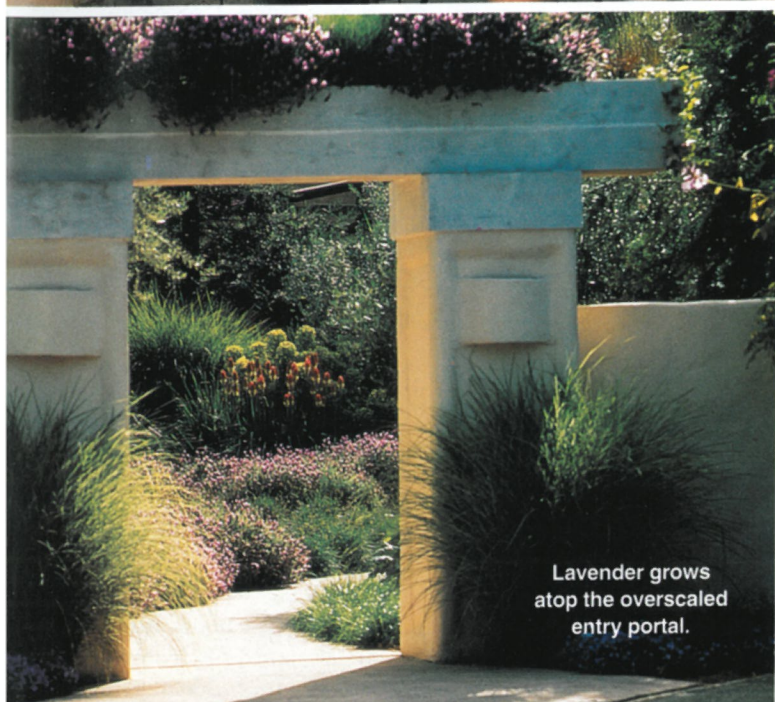
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**Hélène Morneau/
Bob Landman**
**For a garden
that's more than an
outdoor room—
it's an expanding
wonderland.**
**By Cathy
Lang Ho**

For their outdoor suite of rooms, these winners chose bold, architectural plant materials to complement their mission-style home.



Morneau and Landman at their recycled-tile table.



Lavender grows atop the overscaled entry portal.



One blossom from the lotus pond.

day," Morneau jokes, "he feels that no household is complete without one."

The first area they tackled was a main living/entertainment room (opposite). "We hauled out a zillion wheelbarrows full of sparkly white rock, but it was relatively quick." They replaced the rock and junipers with rosebushes and perennial beds accented with evergreens and lilacs. Morneau's plant choices are well-suited to the dry California climate. They also reflect her belief that gardens need not rely solely on color for appeal: "Texture and form are so much more dynamic," she insists.

A year later, they added an outdoor dining area. Then came the "master-bedroom roof garden with stairs leading to a spa enclosure." This was followed by a potting shed and a grape arbor to a kitchen garden in which salad greens, herbs and berries thrive. Its edge is defined by a flower garden. "From March to September, we never have to buy flowers," enthuses

Morneau. Beyond it is a small orchard of fruit trees.

"I satisfied my own desire for a water feature by doing small, inexpensive, fun combinations—a copper tub from Nepal filled with horsetail, a Thai pot with a tropical water lily, an old horse trough with papyrus and lilies." Finally, Morneau confesses, she couldn't resist the drama of a lotus pond. "After removing the soil, we added a pond liner, water, some mosquito fish and a solitary lotus tuber. A year later, the 4-by-20-foot pond is completely covered with lotus flowers, and it's gorgeous."

The couple saved the front yard for last. "It was important for me to create a clear, inviting and slightly mysterious path leading to our front door," says Morneau, who designed a stocky portal with a planter across its top, and warm-toned stucco walls to mark off the area (left, center).

Although she still sees it as far from finished, Morneau is extremely gratified. "It's been a blast," she says. "A real sandblast!" **MH**

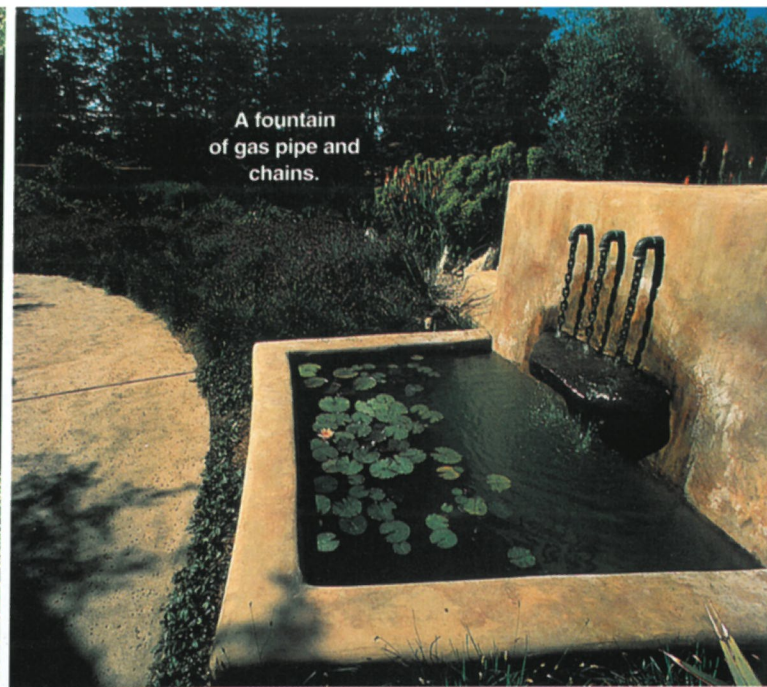




Drought-resistant *Kniphofia* (torch lilies).



A table of salvaged slate tile.



A fountain of gas pipe and chains.



Water lilies grow in the Thai pickling jar (foreground) of the main outdoor living area. See Resources.