

"I don't have the ability to cure this disease (breast cancer), though I wish I did. But by running this race, I do have the ability to help those who have the knowledge to treat, research and possibly save the life of another human being."

Country singer Jo Dee Messina who will run in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Washington D.C., to Associated Press

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JEWELED reflecting pond by Laura Morton and Kolleen White features colorful dragonflies. Morton is a jewelry designer who has recently expanded into the world of landscape design.



SCULPTURE garden by Bill Hayes Landscape Design and Kubica features statues of ancient mythological figures.

A STROLL THROUGH THE Glorious gardens

By Karen Dardick CORRESPONDENT
STAFF PHOTOS BY Walt Mancini



FANCIFUL Maxfield Parrish Garden by Barbara Lam offers views of dramatic sunsets and flax-filled urns

showcase house

2001

What: Pasadena Showcase House of Design 2001
When: Through May 20, closed Mondays
Where: Pasadena location, continuous tram service from Rose Bowl parking lot 1, starting at 9 a.m. daily (except Monday) until the house closes each day.
Tickets: \$17-\$25, available through Ticketmaster at (213) 365-3500 or (714) 740-7878, online at www.ticketmaster.org, or cash only at Ticketmaster outlets. Reservations are required to tour the house and grounds, but not to visit the Marketplace or Il Grotto Restaurant.
Info: (626) 792-4661 or visit the PSHA Web site at www.PasadenaShowcase.org.

IT'S time when gardens spring forth with wonderful plants and gardeners are brimming with inspiration.

And it's also time for another spectacular Pasadena Showcase House of Design display of elegant and creative landscaping and garden designs.

This year, display gardens galore are filled to overflowing with thought-provoking designs for ornamental pleasure gardens, whimsical spaces for fun as well as practical and decorative edible gardens. In addition, gardening enthusiasts can observe some new and noteworthy plants among the thousands on display on the 3.5-acre site where mature, majestic oak, sycamore and pepper trees provide a framework for the demonstration gardens.

Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to walk up a hilly slope to view this estate and its terraced gardens.

The formal design and intricate series of terraces has inspired 17 landscape designers to evoke images of Mediterranean gardens, artful interpretations of paintings, lush water features and more.

When you exit the shuttle bus at the entrance to the estate, notice the enormous French urn filled with a massive living arrangement. As may be expected, Italian cypresses form vertical sculptures for walls at the base of this Italianate villa property. But further visual intensity is added by use of cascading ivy geraniums and metal globes that provide accent lighting. This space was designed by J.R. Walker Design and Construction of Altadena, and appropriately is titled "Prelude to the Show."

The entrance is a long sculpture garden bordering the curving driveway, created by Bill Hayes Landscape Design of Pasadena, and Kelly Kubica of Covina. Emphasizing plants of Mediterranean origin, with foliage colors of dark greens, gray greens, silver and burgundy, it contains statues of ancient mythology.

The sculpture garden leads visitors to the next display, "The Welcome Garden" at the Porte Cochere where large containers of various sizes and shapes are filled with foliage and flowering plants.



AMERICAN dream railroad garden by Victoria and J. Arzate of Marisol's Nursery in Sunland features scale meadows and forests

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GARDEN

Showcase House offers many ideas for outdoors

Continued from D1

More flowers, the charm of orchids, vie for attention in the "Vista Giardino" display by Elsie Hetherington of Arcadia, a long-time participant at Showcase Houses.

One of the jewels of this year's Showcase House is a jeweled reflecting pond created by Laura Morton and Kolleen White. Morton is a jewelry designer who has recently expanded into the world of landscape design. Her artistry combines with the skills of landscape designer White to create a space that's alluring, magical and colorful.

The focal point is a reflecting pond. On its surface hover five colorful dragonflies. The two-foot creatures with three-foot wingspans were made by Morton from powder-coated wrought iron, glass beads, crystal and semiprecious gems. The still water reflects blue sky, overhanging jacaranda trees and faces of intrigued visitors. Nearby, a long border contains several espaliered fruit trees fastened to custom trellises that coordinate with the dragonflies.

Another fanciful display, a Maxfield Parrish Garden, was created by Barbara Lampson. Facing south, the terrace and lawn offer views of the dramatic Southern California sunsets.

"Everything glows in this garden because I'm using the lushness of orange, lavender, fuchsia and other sunset colors," Lampson explained. "This space really shines at 3 p.m. and later."

Strategically placed urns on walls bordering this vignette are planted with New Zealand flax (*Phormium tenax*). "Maori

Sunrise"). They're spectacular when backlit by the afternoon sun.

Visitors enter the spacious estate and as part of the tour, view an elaborate kitchen garden created by John Roberts Floriculture. Contained completely in pots on the terrace and patio adjacent to the kitchen, hydroponically grown tomatoes, lettuces, herbs and other summer vegetables are right at hand for a busy cook.

This is a practical display of how to grow edibles in confined spaces, although Roberts has used considerable creativity by designing a nine-foot garden *etagere* containing baskets of lettuces, chives, various basil and nasturtiums. It's an excellent example of how to utilize vertical space.

Burkard Nurseries has created another edible terrace, this one emphasizing fruit trees because the borrowed landscape overlooks a fruit orchard. The sweet fragrances of orange blossoms from the espaliered citrus trees entice visitors to the space, which also contains fragrant bay laurel hedges, scented geraniums and an array of vibrant plants.

The estate is situated on a hilltop and part of the property cascades along a slope into a lush lower garden with pool, pool house lawns and more demonstration gardens.

Along the stairs leading to the lower level, you'll hear the sound of cascading water coming from the display by David Reyes Villafana of Pasadena. Waterfalls coursing into a pond and stream, rimmed with ferns and ornamental grasses, provide a serene resting stop before exploring the lower landscapes.

The marketplace is also on this lower level where you can buy art, garden art, crafts and numerous other items.

Near the marketplace is a colorful Mediterranean garden, designed by Susie Lamb Buckman, owner of the Daisy Digger Landscape Company of Pasadena.

This is her fifth Showcase House display. In prior years, her designs included a note of whimsy. This year, she's created a perennial garden appropriate to the villa and its site.

"This garden is easily adapted to our California climate," she noted. "In the Mediterranean garden, the foliage is often gray or dull green and many of the flowering plants are yellow, blue or white, mirroring sunshine, blue skies and summer clouds of the Mediterranean region."

Adjacent to the marketplace is a display "designed to make people happy, where the kid in you can come out," said Victoria Arzate. She and her husband, Mike, owners of Marisol's Nursery, Sunland, created a railroad garden featuring two G scale trains running on tracks through rustic scenes of meadows, forests and rural regions. Plants in scale with the trains evoke these settings.

Another clever garden is So Deer to My Heart, designed by Debra Rabb of Pasadena, and Steven Logoluso of Studio City. These two landscape architects show how to plant hillsides in deer country. A camellia grove, lacy ferns, acanthus, bearded iris, gazania and dwarf alstroemeria withstand the appetites of two topiary deer who serve as ornamental reminders that these plants that won't whet the appetites of their real-life relatives.

A water garden, filled with water lilies and other aquatics planted by Jon Rasmussen, of The Pond Company in San Gabriel, add to the romance of the scene. Note the whimsical bench with its soft cushion of white and lavender bacopa.

Karen Dardick is a free-lance writer based in Eagle Rock. Write to her at Voices, in care of this newspaper, 1210 N. Azusa Canyon Road, West Covina, Calif. 91790 or by e-mail at kdard@pacbell.net.