

PLANTING DESIGN

Vibrant Front Yard, Culver City, California

Urban Oasis Landscape Design

Los Angeles, CA

USDA ZONE: 10B

JUDGES' PERSPECTIVE:

Marvelous collection of plant forms and colors, and the space and place are great, in scale with the surroundings and putting "fun" into fundamental.

Euphorbia cotinifolia's plum-colored leaves contrast with the bright and vibrant plants around it.



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2018 APLD
INTERNATIONAL
LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Planting Design Award



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DEBBIE GLIKSMAN



The clients at this Culver City, CA, site are creative professionals with a beautiful, classic Spanish bungalow. They like to garden and don't mind a little maintenance. They wanted to lower their carbon footprint and water bill by switching to a drip irrigation system and using California climate-friendly plants. They described their vision as "inner space," "semi-formal," and "Mediterranean." The site has temperate weather, rainfall of 15 inches, clay soil, and full sun. The lawn was replaced with low-water Mediterranean plants and some California natives. A classic Mediterranean quatrefoil planter anchors the space with a grid of precast concrete pavers radiating outward. *Lagerstroemia indica* 'Tuscarora' and *Euphorbia cotinifolia* punctuate the corners of an informal low hedge. Two large containers of Kumquat flank the stately arched plate glass window while *Echium candicans* adds drama. The exuberant garden is filled with flowers that make the garden a haven for birds and butterflies.

Above: The exuberant garden is filled with an abundance of colorful flowers and textures.

Right: The design blends an organic planting style with classic Moorish symmetry.



A low informal hedge of *Teucrium chamaedrys* encloses their yard without keeping neighbors at bay.



STEAL THIS: Use plants to create a sense of entry and enclosure while maintaining a degree of openness to the neighbors.