

Ideas from One Man's Garden



Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Chandler live in an area of Arcadia that Spanish settlers called Los Robles de Santa Anita after the oak groves they found there. Like the rest of the city, it was part of famed Rancho Santa Anita.

The Chandler house was built thirty-five years ago by Mr. Chandler's brother, Norman, and even then the framework of the surrounding garden had been established by long standing oaks and other woody perennials. Its character today reflects the taste and interests of Mr. Chandler who ten years ago gave up the pursuit of bogeys and birdies on the fairways in favor of the endless challenges of horticulture.

Curiosity, of course, is one of the main occupational syndromes of gardening, and is inspiration enough for over-the-fence views of any garden that looks as if it might be interesting. By reason of its size — four acres — its unstudied diversity, and the ideas it suggests to even the most casual home landscaper, the garden of the Harrison Chandlers deserves closer inspection.



*Magnificent 175-year-old Pasadena oak (*Q. engelmannii*) guards entrance (upper left); Brazilian trumpet vine (*Clytostoma callistegioides*) covers eaves in front; mondo grass and kumquat in painted beer-keg sections line brick walk.*



*Architectural beauty of this Engelmann (Pasadena) oak speaks eloquently for conservation. Mr. Chandler sprays his oaks twice a year and feeds about once a month in growing season at drip line through holes in patio. In lower left of picture, ears of "Pedro Conejo," English ivy on a wire frame, stick up above hedge of rounded Japanese box. Evergreen pear (*Pyrus kawakamii*) is espaliered on wall (right) of house.*



*In patio beneath oak, Sloop (left above), a basset hound who enjoys run of grounds, drinks from dog fountain filled from bamboo pipe connected to standpipe. Selaginella grows over moist rocks alongside, together with English primrose, mondo grass, clivias, and begonias. Above, hanging baskets of Boston and asparagus ferns, bromeliads, and ivy, interspersed with mica tinklers, ships' bells and other odds-and-ends collected in travels and at Merryvale's in San Francisco, give interest to otherwise routine California patio setting. Left, a close view of "Pedro Conejo" and walk to patio, bordered (on left, under oak branch) by hedge of creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*).*





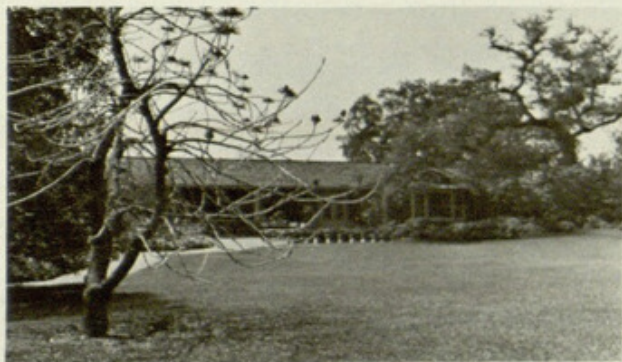
*This well-planned pool and adjoining patio in which Mr. and Mrs. Chandler can entertain several hundred guests at one time, is landscaped with a great variety of plants located so as not to cause litter in or around the pool. Commanding the scene is a tall, fifty-year-old liquidambar. At bottom of steps in front of windmill palm are containers of crape myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*). East end of pool is protected by hedge of natal plum (*Carissa*). A fifteen-foot section of the east wall of the patio is covered with espaliered Eureka lemon. The south side of the pool (not seen) is lined with a row of hibiscus, a red-flowered shrub from China we have not been able to identify, and a low, brick wall covered with pots of verbenum.*

*The picture above is of the area just to the right of the entrance to the patio. In the foreground, a circular, wrought iron stand of pots contains Mexican marigolds (*Tagetes*), behind them a large planter of Jade plant (*Crassula argentea*), and beyond that, a philodendron (*P. selloum*). The two carved wooden figures between were picked up by Mr. Chandler in Hawaii. To the left of the marigolds is a container of yellow-flowered South African bush daisy.*



Planters for patios are an invitation to invention. Not difficult to duplicate are those shown upper left: tree cactus (*Cereus peruvianus*), brownbean sedum (*S. rubrotinctum*), and haworthia, a succulent of the lily family; and below: a piece of feather rock with cavities filled with succulents. A bit more difficult (lower left) is the cutleaf Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*) in container with feather rock and baby's tears (*Soleirolia soleirolii*) with iris in container overhead. In the cutting garden (upper right) a Mexican pot (foreground) contains ever-bearing strawberries at a nice height for picking and, beyond, sara-band roses, colorful lobelia, iberis or candytuft, Transvall daisies (*Gerbera jamesonii*), and kalanchoe. Below, Dr. Enari (left) of Arboretum staff, and Mr. Chandler survey plot of South African trailing daisy through which runs a circulating stream. Structure in background is painting studio of Mrs. Chandler.





Mr. Chandler, who keeps a notebook of feeding and other schedules in a lath-house adjoining an orchid house and what he calls his "gardener's kitchen"—compost heap, potting soils and the like — avoids use of chemical pesticides wherever possible. Upper left photo shows egg sac of praying mantis which feeds on aphids and mealy bugs. He uses these particularly in his citrus orchard. Directly below, he and Dr. Enari stand in front of chrysanthemums (kept healthy by ten pounds of lady bugs) that Mr. Chandler is growing for his own flower show. Concord and Thompson grapes are growing in trellis in background. Cinquefoil (*Potentilla fruticosa*) in right of picture (bottom left) is popular in the East and in Europe, but not very common here. To the left of the yellow-flowered cinquefoil is *Veronica langifolia*, somewhat uncommon in Southern California. Other flowers are double-flowered daisies, a *Chrysanthemum maximum* hybrid. The photo top above shows the inner yard through the unleaved branches of a flowering coral tree. The grass is St. Augustine, as is all the lawn area. And finally, the questioning look of Skiff — ball player, fruit picker, and photographer's friend.

D.D.



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