

Stenciled ceiling restored at Robinson Gardens

Restoration of Virginia Robinson's stenciled ceiling beams in the pool pavilion is almost complete. Started last year, the project also included replacing balustrade units that separate the main lawn and lilypond from the swimming pool. The restoration is being done by architectural conservator J. Ronald Reed under the direction of Ray Girigian, F.A.I.A.

Built in 1924, the pool pavilion ceiling had been decorated with a stenciled design of foliage and flowers. In the 1950s, latex paint was applied to the ceiling which damaged the design. Water and age have also contributed to the deterioration.

The panels between the beams will be gilded while the walnut-shaded beams will be restenciled with red, white and blue patterns in whimsical Moorish designs. Mr. Reed is using different types of paints to recreate the look of the 1920s.

The recent winter rains caused a delay when they exposed a leak in the new roof that had to be fixed before work could continue. Friends of Robinson Gardens funded the \$40,000 project with Los Angeles County 1:1 matching the cost.



Artisans restencil Moorish designs on ceiling beams.

8,000 roses slated for new South Coast attraction

Thousands of roses will soon bloom in South Coast Botanic Garden's new rose garden. The bushes are being planted in sweeping arcs on the slope near the wedding gazebo on the main lawn. An irrigation system will be installed by late January as soon as the weather clears enough to dig the trenches.

When the 2-acre project is completed in March, it will reflect the efforts of many individuals and organizations. Los Angeles County provided a matching grant program of \$18,000. The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation paid the entire cost of clearing, renovating and grading the area as well as raising funds for the 8,000 rose bushes.

About 300 cubic yards of a special planting mix was donated by Kelloggs Supply, Inc.

Telephone Pioneers of America, a group of retired telephone company employees who have tackled several projects at SCBG, replanted rose bushes salvaged from the old rose garden.



Clearing and grading have been completed in preparation for the roses.



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