



The Grace Kallam Perennial Garden: a teaching garden designed to inspire others to create their own perennial garden.

THE GRACE KALLAM PERENNIAL GARDEN

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Grace V. Kallam, a long time resident of Pasadena, loved plants and gardens. She was especially fond of the Arboretum where she worked many hours as a volunteer. Her own garden, a showplace of perennials, was described as an "All Year Garden" because something was in bloom throughout the year.

When she passed away, her husband, F. L. Kallam, gave a gift in her memory, The Grace Kallam Perennial Garden, The Arboretum's first endowed garden. Before he died, Mr. Kallam selected the site in Meadowbrook. His daughter, Barbara Cohen, selected Shirley Kerins, landscape architect, to design the garden.

A GARDEN TO EDUCATE & INSPIRE

The 7000 square foot garden is described as a Southern California perennial demonstration garden. One of the main purposes of the

garden is to educate and inspire others to find joy in creating their own perennial garden. Its design was based on the following criteria:

- The garden sections would be planted on a residential scale.
- It would feature perennial plants, including lesser known ones, successful in California, so the public could get ideas for their own gardens
- As Mrs. Kallam particularly loved iris, they were to be included, although not necessarily featured.
- Because hers was an "All Year Garden", this garden, too, should be of interest all year round.

THE GARDEN DESIGN

Perennial borders in Southern California are essentially composed of flowering plants, be they herbaceous perennials, bulbs or shrubs. What matters most

to someone choosing plants for a garden is (1) the color of the flowers; (2) required exposure, sun or shade and (3) season of bloom.

The Grace Kallam Perennial Garden is divided into many residential scale garden sections to demonstrate what someone can create in their own garden. The sections include the following:

THE RAINBOW GARDEN

The Rainbow Garden features plants grouped by color of flowers. The border moves from east to west beginning with the white blooming plant group, then blue, yellow, orange and red, blue-purple, pink mixed and finally red-purple sections.

HOT COLORS, PASTELS & BUTTERFLY GARDENS

In another area there is an assortment of hot colored plants of vivid bright colors, and in the pastel garden, pastel foliage and flowers along with butterfly attracting plants.

SUN, & SHADE GARDENS

There are ample spaces in sun, shade, and part shade to exhibit plants with those needs. Silver and other colored foliage plants tie the various areas together and enhance combinations of plants, as well as provide year-round interest.

THE ROCK GARDEN

Many gardeners have limited space and are interested in rock gardens. Alpine meadow or screen plants found in traditional rock gardens do not do well in our climate. A Southern California rock garden is essentially a collection of diminutive plants that thrive well here. Rocks found on the site were placed to enhance the illusion of a traditional rock garden and to provide crevices and cool root runs for certain plants. The soil was heavily

amended with pumice and graded into a gentle mound to increase drainage.

For all garden sections, a special effort was made to find new and unusual plants that do well in Southern California along with the tried and true old reliables. Some come from local growers, others were brought in from specialty nurseries throughout the state.

CARE OF A PERENNIAL GARDEN

A perennial garden is not the easiest kind to maintain. Though the plant may be perennial, the blooms are not. Most are seasonal. The trick is to provide an assortment of plants that bloom in different seasons. During the non-blooming season a plant may look untidy or drab without flowers to adorn it. Grooming is essential. Knowing when a plant has become too rambunctious and needs dividing is also important.

10TH ANNIVERSARY

Loni Brown of The Arboretum staff cares for the Kallam Garden. Together, Loni, Shirley Kerins and Sylvia Guerrero are revitalizing the garden for its 10th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, March 18. A special lecture and lunch presentation by Jan Smithen and Shirley Kerins will cover the evolution of the perennial border in England and its rebirth in Southern California, as well as the nuts and bolts of a perennial garden from defining a theme to location to soil preparation and plant selection. Make your reservations today for this one time only event.

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Kerins, Shirley and Brown, Loni. 2000. "The Grace Kallam perennial garden." *Arboretum News* 2000:Apr.-May, 5.

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