



The Artful Garden

I. Garden as art - Living/evolving painting

A. Mood

Serene: "Peaceable Kingdom" by Linda Mears (boy with lion and other animals)

Serene: Curving brick walk entices and leads to serene spot of pink and white

Dramatic: Frida Kahlo self-portrait – "The Frame"

Dramatic: Red/purple foliage annuals/tropicals: *Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum', Coleus, *Alternanthera*, *Canna*

Playful: "The Owl and the Pussycat" by Edward Lear

Playful: Small part of railroad garden

B. Composition

1. Frame

Living frame: Traditional - Hedges; Informal - *Amsonia hubrichtii* as gravel path frame

Hardscape frame: Entrance to back lawn of early 19th century house framed by stone-capped brick walls and ornaments; Roofed arbor and wall above stone path

2. Balance

Symmetrical balance of containers; Asymmetrical balance of Alchemilla

3. Continuity (repetition)

Repetition of line and material in wall and fireplace of patio; Repetition in mixed border of species and color

4. Contrast (textural)

Contrast of foliage color and texture: *Hakonechloa* 'Strike It Rich', *Cimicifuga* 'Black Negligee'

Contrast as well as repetition of foliage and flower form: *Acanthus*, *Hydrangea*, *Persicaria*

5. Scale

Out of scale plus dueling focal points; Low arch in Children's Garden; Bentwood arch is perfect height for adults

6. Focal point/accent

Bench as traditional focal point; Pot and pedestal as focal point reinforced by color echo of *Chrysanthemum* 'Sheffield Pink' and 'Bronze Elegans'

Multiple but similar focal points: Concrete stelae that resemble petrified wood; Too many focal points?

Verbascum bombyciferum 'Polarsommer' as focal point in perennial border

C. Seasonality/succession

1. Bulbs

Narcissus and *Scilla siberica* between cut back *Pennisetum*

Early summer blooming bulbs and perennials: *Lilium* 'Dani Arafin', *Rosa* Oso Easy® 'Peachy Cream',

Allium giganteum, *Lychnis chalcedonica* 'Morgenrot', *Rosa* 'Dr. Van Fleet', *Geranium psilostemon*

Fall blooming bulbs: *Colchicum autumnale* in *Oenothera berlandiera* 'Siskiyou Pink'

2. Vines

Celastrus in spring; *Celastrus* in fall

3. Trees

Acer palmatum 'Viridis' in late spring, summer, and fall

II. Garden as Outdoor Room

A. Living elements

Natural ceiling provided by *Cornus kousa* for walkway to statue of St.Fiacre

Living wall of climbing roses on posts and wire

Thyme floor of "patio" with table and chairs

B.Hardscape elements

Rustic arbor as ceiling

Timber posts and stucco-like walls; Blue walls and benches

Fence as wall with trellis panels periodically breaks up linearity and length

Terracotta tile floor

III.Illusion

Illusion of cabin, fence and garden to break up long fence; mirrors on fence used to give illusion of more space

Use of mirror in framed "doorway" to enlarge space; Illusion of depth with gate to borrowed landscape

IV.Imaginative use of materials

Strawberry vine to cover ugly risers; Reuse of bowling balls as mulch; Plates on arbor at entrance to potager

Tree trunk used as table through wall; Large concrete pieces recycled as paving with sedges and ferns between

Abstract design of walls with brick, stone, and tile; Colorful painted wall between properties

Railing color echoes grout color; riser color same as furniture legs and cushion pattern

Painted obelisk with *Lychnis coronaria* and roses

Deceptively unassuming front yard hides colorful back yard; Colorful side yard with artistically painted gate

View inside artistically painted gate; Colorful back yard garden has painted fence that makes excellent

background for hot colored flowers *Rudbeckia* 'Herbstsonne', *Monarda*; Back yard gate matches painted fence

Ribbon "door" to pergola; Hot tub accessible by steps from patio is curtained for privacy

V.Inclusion of art/ornament

A.Where?

Wrought iron wall art instead of tall shrubs for blank garage wall

Statue as enticement to enter stepped path

Fanciful silver ornaments lighten all-green area

Glazed blue jar almost hidden by *Polygonatum.odoratum* 'Variegatum'

B.Why?

Dealing with an eyesore: *Carex* 'Bowles Golden' added as color echo of yellow hydrant (unwanted sculpture)

Ornament (English phonebooth, "aliens") for winter interest with grasses

Birdbath as memento of trip + drama of seasonal variation: *Hydrangea* 'Annabelle', *Clematis* 'Nelly

Moser', *Clematis* 'Sundance', *Lythrum*, *Hosta*, birdbath; Same view in winter

C.Style?

Unusual sculpture reflects style of contemporary house set in wild landscape

Blue metal abstract sculpture reflects style of very contemporary house

Classical statues that frame large shrub fit with 19th century house

18th century Chippendale bench set into niche created by stone path and edging

VI.Wrap up

Epitome of an artful garden - Welcoming stone walkway with low perennials in walk, color echo of perennials and painted chairs on porch; complex, colorful landscape beside

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