

LUSH CONTAINERS This seasonal display by Dan Benarcik for Chanticleer Garden uses containers filled with a mix of colors and textures.

3 Splashy, High-Impact Displays



Designer: Dan Benarcik is a horticulturist who has spent 14 years working at Chanticleer Garden, in Wayne, Pennsylvania. His

many jobs include planning annual, seasonal displays around the courtyard of the historic home on the grounds. There he designs and installs containers that make an impact. One goal is to “stay a step or two ahead of everyone else” as visitors and colleagues look to Chanticleer for ideas. For more information, visit www.chanticleergarden.org.

Trend: Some of the designs, as shown, are “splashy” and meant to be appreciated from a distance as you walk toward them. On closer inspection, lots of smaller plants provide interesting detail. Dan says that an important trend in container gardening is using architectural plants with great foliage. Here the hanging basket is 24 inches in diameter, and fully grown is 42 inches wide. The sago palm adds height to reach an overall 36 inches. It’s in full sun all season and rotates gently on its hanging chain, making all sides visible to the eye.



ENTERTAIN IN STYLE Gail Tunis' container designs add color to this outdoor room.

4 Glorious Outdoor Rooms



Designer: Gail Tunis is an experienced garden designer with Borst Landscape & Design in Bergen County, New

Jersey. She's responsible for all seasonal plantings and maintenance, including all containers for upwards of 100 clients annually. For more information, visit www.borstlandscape.com.

Trend: With Americans today staying home more than ever, Gail reports that clients want to entertain outdoors in a more elaborate way. Gone is the simple barbecue on wheels; coming into vogue are more complex outdoor kitchens and living spaces. Gail works with clients to determine style preferences—tranquil and serene, or lively and playful—and then creates plantings surrounding these outdoor rooms, often using tiered containers with a drip irrigation system.

5 Single-Pot, Single-Plant Artistry

Designer: Scott Calhoun designs gardens for his clients in the hot, sunny and dry climate of Tucson, Arizona. He's both a writer (*Yard Full of Sun*, Rio Nuevo Publishers, 2005) and a designer

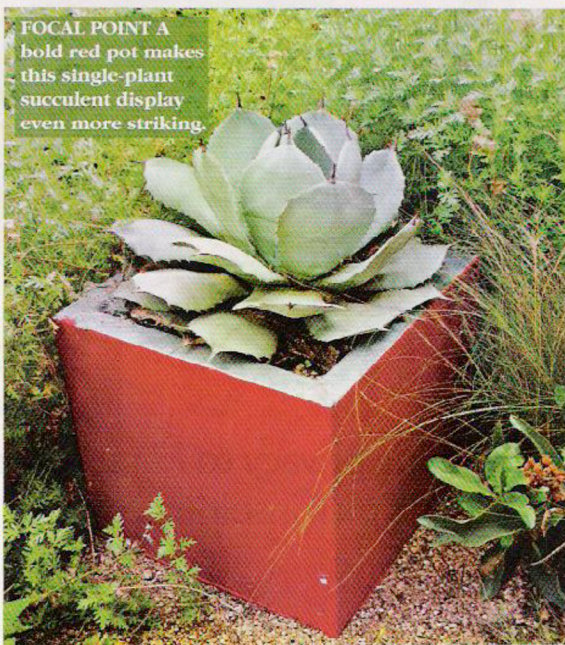
who is making the desert bloom one yard at a time. For more information, visit www.zonagardens.com.

Trend: Scott favors mono pot culture, an old technique that's new again. It's

one container with one bold plant. He's using lots of succulents like agaves and cacti for “the best plants with the least amount of work.” The plants have an architectural shape with sparse clean lines. Whether he lets a pot stand alone or groups it with others in odd numbers, monoculture makes each plant a star. The same technique works no matter where you live.

Mixing things up, Scott sometimes sprinkles seeds of an Arizona wildflower in the container. It'll bloom as a spring ephemeral for a month or two, die back and often drop seed for next spring.

FOCAL POINT A bold red pot makes this single-plant succulent display even more striking.



SCOTT CALHOUN