

Sunset

Southwest Garden Secrets

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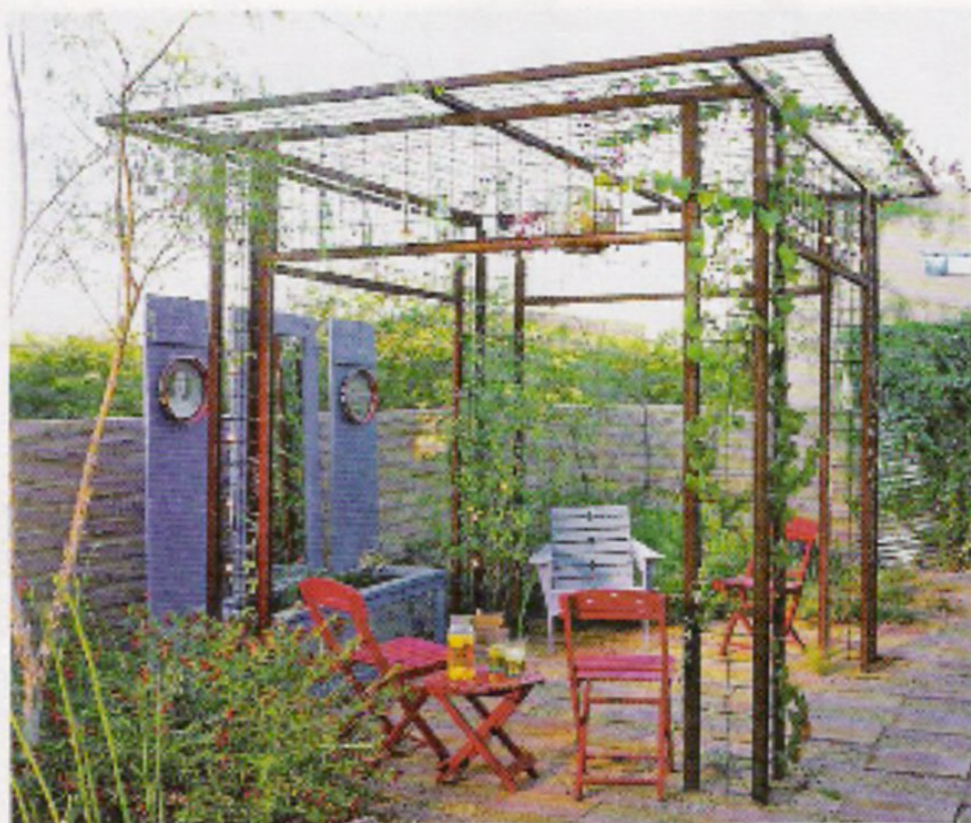
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Nectar bar

Hummingbirds stick to a liquid diet, drawing nourishment from the nectar of flowers. One shrubby perennial is so popular with these hyperactive birds, it's commonly called hummingbird trumpet. Indeed, when *Zauschneria* is in full summer bloom, masses of 10- to 1½-inch-long tubular flowers serve as a virtual nectar bar for hummingers. Above, *Z. miltonica garrettii* 'Orange Carpet' lights up the front of Lisabeth Davis's house in Santa Fe. She set out 16 plants from 4-inch pots a few years ago, and they spread across the bed. The 'Orange Carpet' is backed by deep green mucho pine and *Salvia* 'Blue Queen' (to its right), purple coneflower (*premia*), and bearded iris (right).

Native to Utah and Wyoming, *Z. c. garrettii* performs best in Sunset climate zones 7-11. It prefers afternoon shade and regular water. 'Orange Carpet' and two other kinds of hummingbird trumpet are available from High Country Gardens in Santa Fe (www.highcountrygardens.com or 800/925-9387). —DICK BUSHNELL



A steel ramada frames an outdoor family room, providing support for vines to climb.

Taqueria style

The funky ambience of Tucson's taco shops inspired Scott and Deirdre Calhoun to make imaginative use of bold colors and salvaged materials in their tiny 36- by 15-foot backyard. The focal point is an 8-foot-square steel ramada, designed by Scott and fabricated on-site. Concrete-reinforcing wire on the sides and top supports queen's wreath and other vines. A collection of Mexican soda pop bottles dangle overhead, along with a disco ball made from snips of tin cans. The periwinkle blue fountain is Deirdre's contribution; she built a wooden box out of plywood and 2-by-4s and added a pond liner. Three recycled closet doors, decorated with Corona beer trays, act as a backdrop. The checkboard paving fits right into the theme: 4-inch-thick adobe bricks alternate with 4-inch-deep square pockets of decomposed granite. The pockets soak up and store precious rainfall.

DESIGN: Scott Calhoun, ZennGardens, Tucson (520/867-8038) —S.C.



Sprig or spout?

Even a tiny garden has room for a compact water feature, like the one shown here in the courtyard of Debbie Fleischaker and David Crocker's Santa Fe home. Though the courtyard is quite small—only 15 by 25 feet—the two wanted the garden to include a fountain for its peaceful sound.

The version they installed consists of a Chinese rice-washing bowl only 20 inches square. Instead of spouting for

a bamboo spout that often clogs into such fountains, Crocker and building contractor John Leatherman came up with a fanciful spout that looks like a segment of leafy vine. It's made from ½-inch copper pipe with ¼- and ⅜-inch copper tubing wrapped around it like vine tendrils. The leaf trim is a combination of stamped and handcrafted pieces. A reservoir hidden beneath the bowl captures and recycles the spillover. Bowl from Stone Forest, Santa Fe (505/966-8883). —S.C.