

Grounds of enchantment

By Suzanne Pickett Martinson
Special for The Republic

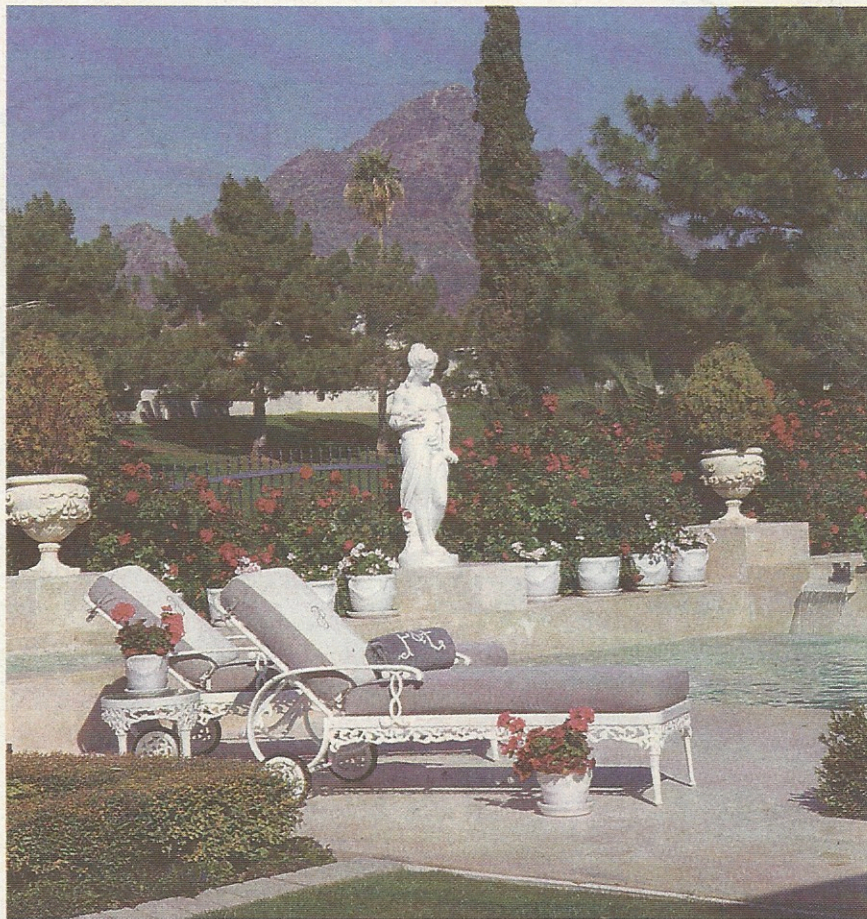
“All gardeners live in beautiful places because they make them

so.” — French essayist and moralist Joseph Joubert (1754-1824)

It is easy to tell that this garden is tended by a sophisticated yet adventurous pair of hands. Lush green foliage and colorful flowers are arranged both perfectly and whimsically throughout the front, side and back yards of the spacious Biltmore Estates home. According to the owners, that is exactly the effect they were hoping to achieve.

“We were tired of the Southwest landscaping so when we built this home, we decided to create an English garden setting,” explained the husband, whose passion is the garden. “But I also like the unexpected, so in some areas it is not formal at all.”

The owner firmly believes that whether formal or not, the key to a successful garden is the backbone. Valley-based landscape architect Greg Trutza worked with the couple in planning and planting the initial landscape that is still the foundation of all plantings today. He also created a variety of hardscapes (solid



The poolside garden of the Biltmore Estates home is surrounded by colorful roses, vibrant flowers, lush shrubbery, and garden statuaries.

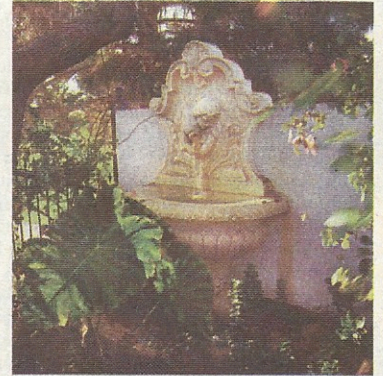
structures within the yard, such as a wall, concrete path, or fountains) that help showcase the property's views as well as provide privacy from the neighboring golf course.

“The pergola is my favorite spot in the garden,” said the husband. “There is absolutely no discipline with the plantings. Everything pops up from seed — poppies, chrysanthemums, red flax and larkspur. And each year I plant something new, which reseeds, and the cycle continues.”

Spring in Arizona is the time when most flowers bloom in all their glory, and not surprisingly, it is the time when this garden shows its best. Bearded irises and hollyhocks produce bright colors that emphasize the cool blue of the garden's pool and fountains. The gazebo is outlined with colorful flowers of all varieties and the garden statuaries, collected throughout Europe during the couple's many vacations, stand proudly among the vivid and fragrant flora.

The husband's favorite roses, in excess of 80 bushes of all kinds, can be found throughout the garden. “I love roses but I don't like too many in one place,” he said. “Roses harmonize well with other plants so we've placed

Photos by
David Moore
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Garden fountains and statues were discovered by the owners while traveling throughout Europe. The front, side and back yards of the estate are filled with specific flowers and plants that create what the husband calls a "good backbone" or foundation for all plantings. The pergola, his favorite garden vignette, is where there is no strategic planning. "Everything pops up," he says of the unexpected flowers that emerge each season.

GROUNDS/from AZ8

climbing roses, hybrid tea roses, you name it, in different spots throughout the yard."

A businessman by profession, the husband's love of gardening is attributed to his father, although "his was not an elaborate garden by any means. I come by it naturally and my older son also has a love of gardening."

Although he does believe in seeking advice for gardening problems, one thing the gardener does recommend is taking chances on what you want to see grow in your garden. "You don't always need to listen to what others tell you won't work in Arizona, in your garden, in a certain location," he explained. "Don't be afraid to try. Sometimes all it takes is a different exposure. Sometimes annuals work as perennials and vice versa. Just keep trying and that's half the fun. It is amazing what does well and makes you happy."

What makes this gardener happy is to take a daily stroll through his garden, preferably both morning and evening, and discover what has popped up since his last visit. "Every day there is something different," he said. "It is both energizing and relaxing to encounter new growth. And a little tending to the weeds is not bad for your health either." *DL*

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