

Cargill & Bradley Families Desert Living Courtyard



Located in the Sonoran Desert, one of the most botanically diverse desert regions of the world, Tucson enjoys about

350 days of sun a year. The result may be a year-round growing season, but gardening in Tucson is not quite like gardening anywhere else. The desert's temperature extremes, intense sun, minimal rain, and poor soils, all contribute to the need for a different approach to landscape design and maintenance. Our unique climate means unique gardens. The *Desert Living Courtyard* displays distinctly different approaches to landscape design, offering new and creative ideas for using water-conserving plants in livable landscapes.

Divided into ten distinct garden vignettes, specific areas of the *Courtyard* feature different southwest regional themes, from the arrangement of cacti, succulents, and annuals in pots that highlight their form and color, to a "natural" landscape attractive to native wildlife. We also re-interpret the style of historic gardens from other places with similar climates, such as the Moorish gardens of old Spain; and re-invent the philosophical character of a Zen garden by using native plants to replace traditional, but exotic species.

- Barrio Garden – a peek behind the walls of one of Tucson's traditional barrio

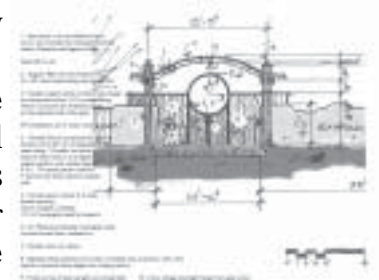
gardens filled with bright colors, rusticated and recycled materials, and unconventional containers

- Container Garden – for the homeowner with limited space, containers provide many alternatives to in-ground plantings, including a "potted" water feature!
- Moorish Garden – reflecting the sensual tranquility of a shaded Moorish-inspired garden laid out around a cooling fountain in colors of blue, white and yellow
- Xeriscape Garden – a demonstration of the classic principles of Xeriscape design clearly defining the "zone" concept and blending into the surrounding landscapes
- Wildlife Garden – this boulder-strewn desert landscape features a shallow "natural" pond, plants have been selected for minimal water use and their attractiveness to small wildlife
- Dry Shade Garden – for those gardens with less than abundant sunshine, the spotlight here is on native and arid-adapted plants that thrive in partial or total shade
- Winter/Summer Garden – garden beds filled with plants that bloom in either of Tucson's most extreme seasons – the cold of winter or the heat of summer
- Meditation Garden – inspired by the simplicity of a Zen garden, this smallest of the ten vignettes demonstrates that even a tiny space can become a peaceful

refuge with carefully chosen plant material and hardscape symbolizing the natural environment

- Outdoor Living Garden – here architecture and plants combine to create a sense of place that is informal, comfortable, adapted to our desert surroundings, and inviting for year-round outdoor family living
- Utility Garden – a practical demonstration of gardening basics from tool storage and potting benches, to composting and low tech water harvesting, including a kitchen garden in a cattle tank

Designed by Jeffrey Trent, with the expertise of Tohono Chul Park staff Russ Buhrow, Curator of Plants and Lee Mason, Director of General Services, the garden combines color, texture, and function to provide easily replicated take-home ideas for outdoor living spaces that encourage us to "garden where we live."



Visit the Park to walk the Courtyard, and log onto our website to download garden descriptions, layouts, plant lists and resources.

www.tohonochulpark.org/desertliving.html

