

Moorish Garden

Some of the world's earliest pleasure gardens originated in the Middle East, built as refuges from the surrounding desert. These gardens were traditionally constructed around irrigation channels and a central water reservoir in a foursquare pattern (called the *charbagh* by the Persians), considered today the basis for all formal



garden design in the western world. Begun in the time of the Egyptians, refined by the Persians, and adopted by the Islamic world, these gardens came to represent a vision of Paradise, a walled and private space protected from the outside and filled with shade, color, abundance, and the sound of water.

Working in a desert climate, the designers of these gardens were masters at maximizing the effect of water in the landscape. The original water reservoir transformed into a central, cooling fountain. Color and pattern, in the form of ceramic tiles and carved stone, overcame the limitations of long dry seasons when plants were not in bloom. Traditional plantings included cypress, sycamore, and almond, interspersed with pomegranate, fig, and citrus. Jasmine, lilac, and rose provided fragrance, while iris, tulips, and lilies completed the color palette.

The simplicity of this foursquare plan, its strong structure and formality, delineates this walled space. The off-center fountain references the original *charbagh* but leaves room for outdoor living in a limited space. Although simplified, the tile, paint colors, and wall stenciling reference traditional elements of desert gardens from Spain to India. In this Sonoran version, the cypress is replaced by alligator bark juniper, the sycamore by Mexican blue oak, and the almond by a native peach. Fragrant flowering plants include Arabian jasmine and roses. Non-natives were selected in this instance because no substitutes were available and both are appropriate for the oasis zone. Conversely, rain lilies, blue creosote, and other natives provide the color.

Garden quotes:

Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.

— Stanley Horowitz

Nature is not a place to visit, it is home.

— Gary Snyder

A garden is made up of stories, not things.

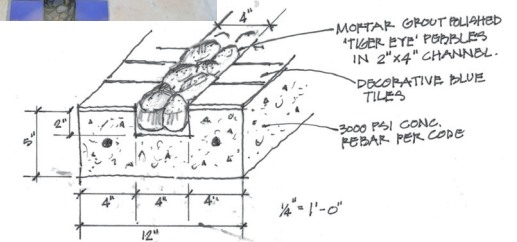
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Hardscape

- Concrete walls of 4x4x16 slump block (Old Pueblo Brown AZ Block 2000 color) capped with clay roof tiles
- Freestanding wood trellis patterned after Moorish arches in Seville, Spain
- Wall colors: *Cobalt Blue* and *Whisper* (Dunn Edwards)
- Above grade glazed ceramic fountain head and basin set on "tiger-eye" pebble-covered metal grill set over underground water reservoir

- Patio surface of rectangular and square snap-cut flagstone pavers in "recs and squares" pattern with inset detail of tile and "tiger-eye" pebbles (*Horner Rust*, Tierra Stone)

- Stuccoed and tiled CMU seat wall capped with snap-cut flagstone pavers (*Azul*, *Gold*, and *Ruan Pour* crackle-glazed, patterned tiles, Mexican Tile Company)
- Stuccoed CMU wall with cut clay pipe stacked in window openings; custom stencil (Cook & Co. Signmakers)
- Large, glazed ceramic planters (Pottery Blowout)
- Wall inset and freestanding landscape lighting (FX Lighting)



Moorish Garden Plant List

Map Location	Botanical Name	Common Name(s)	Typical Height x Width	Landscape Use	Secondary Use	Lowest Water Use	Medium Water Use	Highest Water Use	TCP Greenhouse
3	Acalypha stachys	Raspberry fuzzies	0.6 x 1	GC		L	M		✓
23	Aquilegia chrysantha	Golden columbine	1.5 x 1	P	WF		M	H	✓
29	Asclepias subulata	Skeleton milkweed	2 x 1.5	P	A	L			✓
33	Astrolepis sinuata	Wax-leaved star fern	2 x 2	F	A		M	H	
43	Brahea armata	Mexican blue palm	30 x 10	PA			M	H	✓
44	Brahea elegans	Elegant palm	6 x 6	PA	A		M	H	✓
54	Carex tumerericola	Berkley sedge	0.75 x 1.5	G	GT		M	H	
98	Guayacan coulteri	Blue creosote	5 x 5	SH		L	M		
100	Heucherea sanguinea	Coral bells	0.6 x 1	P	GC		M	H	✓
101	Hesperaloe parviflora	Red yucca	2 x 4	A		L			✓
109	Jasminum sambac	Arabian jasmine	6 x 6	V	SH			H	
114	Justicia candicans	Mexican honeysuckle	4 x 4	SH			M	H	✓
126	Merremia aurea	Gold coin vine	12 x 10	V		L	M		✓
153	Prunus andersonii	Arizona peach	12 x 8	T	SH	L	M		
155	Punica granatum 'Nana'	Dwarf pomegranate	4 x 3	SH			M	H	
156	Quercus oblongifolia	Mexican blue oak	30 x 30	T			M	H	
161	Rosa 'Flutterby'	Flutterby climbing rose	4 x 8	SH	V			H	
167	Ruellia brittoniana	Ruellia	2 x 2	P			M	H	✓
175	Salvia clevelandii	Chapparal sage	4 x 5	SH		L	M		✓
181	Salvia greggii 'white'	White autumn sage	3 x 3	SH			M	H	✓
184	Salvia greggii 'Furman's Red'	Furman's Red sage	1.5 x 2	SH			M	H	✓
206	Telosiphonia brachysiphon	White trumpet	1 x 3	GC	CN		M	H	✓

Key

- A - accent
- B - bulb
- C - cactus
- CN - container
- F - fern
- G - grass
- GC - groundcover
- GT - grass/turf
- P - perennial
- PA - palm
- SU - succulent
- SH - shrub
- T - tree
- V - vine
- WF - wildflower
- ✓ - generally available in Tohono Chul Park Greenhouse

