

Garden in Atwater Village

3787 Glenfeliz Boulevard, Los Angeles, California

Purpose: This 4600 square foot garden, for a single father and his two young daughters, challenges the designer to maximize space while providing flexibility. The client, who works in the entertainment industry and has a home office, requested a landscape that would complement his small Spanish bungalow; provide a welcoming entry for guests; create adaptable areas for family use and entertaining; and provide privacy for the bedrooms.

Role of the Landscape Architect: The Landscape Architect participated throughout the design process and collaborated closely with the client and architects to make every square foot of space useful and beautiful. The Landscape Architect developed the concept of the entry and rear garden as courtyard rooms, detailed all the hardscape elements including custom gates, fountain, and pool, and designed the planting, irrigation, and lighting.

Significance: The project demonstrates that small can be beautiful and that refraining from overdevelopment allows for the creation of intimate and pleasurable garden spaces. The owner has revealed that neighbors walking by the house compliment him on the design and express their appreciation for contributing to the transformation of their neighborhood.

Special factors: Each element of the project was carefully designed, balancing historical reference and the contemporary desire for simplicity. The entry fountain and pool are a unique combination of board-formed concrete, stone, and custom decorative tile. The laser-cut gates reference Mediterranean traditions while using contemporary technology.

The small size of the garden required that some features and spaces be multi-purpose. The jacuzzi doubles as a formal fountain that separates the dining area from the play lawn. The play lawn is Grasscrete and can be used for parking when required.

The property is located on a 'reverse corner lot', which has special restrictions. The team worked closely with the planning department to gain approval for the pool enclosure, which incorporates a vehicular gate.