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## SHOWCASE GARDENS FLOURISH AT 30TH SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

*Top Garden Designers Create Blooming Masterpieces For All To Enjoy – 2015 Top Garden Winners To Be Chosen*

**SAN FRANCISCO – (March 16, 2015)** – The 2015 San Francisco Flower & Garden Show will showcase more than a dozen dazzling theme gardens Wednesday, March 18 through Sunday, March 22, at the San Mateo County Event Center. Leading landscape designers and craftsmen will spend five hectic days creating these masterworks – full-sized gardens that are the stars of the show. From sustainable and drought resistant to sublime and spiritual, these gardens utilize thousands of blooming flowers and exotic plants, and are sure to inspire gardeners of all levels.

Since the show's inception as the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show in 1986, the showcase gardens have been the heart of the show. A panel of industry experts will award the top gardens with a variety of awards including gold, silver, bronze, people's choice and more. Following are details on this year's garden inspirations:

### Sublimation

**Garden Designers:**

Eric Arneson &  
Nahal Sohbaty

**Garden Creators:**

Academy of Art University  
San Francisco, CA

The contrast of heavy and light brings "Sublimation" to life. Most commonly associated with dry ice and the transition of a substance directly from solid to gas, "Sublimation" is redefined in the gardenscape by emphasizing the transition from solid to void and from hard to soft. Stones, gabions and bold specimen plants are juxtaposed by an ethereal wire sculpture, epiphytic green walls, flowing grasses and other vegetation that thrive in the California coastal climate. Circulation throughout the garden is a sublime experience of contrasting elements resulting in artistic harmony.

### Transformation

**Garden Designer:**

Nathan Beeck &  
Juan Chavez

**Garden Creators:**

Clearwater Design  
San Jose/Sacramento, CA

Our disposable society has taught us to throw away the old and replace it with the new. In the new landscapes of today the same thing is true. We tear out old trees, shrubs and lawns and haul them away to the landfills. These landscape elements are the building blocks of Hugelkultur. Hugelkultur turns landscape waste into new organically rich soil and an underground sponge that holds moisture, and encourages the development of a mycorrhizal web of life. Inspired by the book "Where the Wild Things Are," our garden is a transformation through Hugelkultur techniques, water purifying bogs and the conversion of the familiar living environment back into nature.

### Country Clutter

**Garden Designers:**

Marty & Debbie Thorsson

**Garden Creators:**

DMT Design  
Petaluma, CA

This space will incorporate the fun and charm of country accents that create a warm and cozy place to hangout. All hardscape is built with recycled/repurposed material to add to the charm. Succulents and low growing shrubs complimented with flowering plants and grasses will make for a casual, but interesting environment. The garden will feature a wrap-around pergola creating an inviting place to entertain or an intimate place to relax.

## **Growing an Artful Garden**

### **Garden Designers:**

Max & Joanne Nagaele

### **Garden Creator:**

Foothill Design,  
Meadow Vista, CA

This urban garden showcases the enrichment of our lives through creativity and artistic endeavors. The vibe is serendipity. The ornamental garden, vegetable garden and the vintage potting shed provides the viewer with a vibrant tableau. Our resident artist has created a scenic thyme table complete with a feast. The scene awaits her canvas.

## **Gaia – Garden Goddess**

### **Garden Designer:**

Benjamin Goulart

### **Garden Creators:**

Goulart Designs  
Hayward, CA

In Greek mythology, Gaia was the great mother of all: the primal Greek Mother Goddess: creator and giver of birth to the Earth and the Universe. She is the personification of nature itself, and we are creating her with nature itself in our garden. She is the life-giving water that will be represented with a waterfall that will spill naturally down. Her hair will flow with an array of plant material chosen for its color and uniqueness, giving her figure only a feeling of a rolling hill. Our goal with this garden is to create a natural representation of mother earth herself.

## **Meadow MindCraft**

### **Garden Designer:**

John Greenlee

### **Garden Creators:**

Greenlee & Associates  
Brisbane, CA

One of the most popular children's video games is "*Minecraft*." To play the game, you build a virtual garden. The game literally comes to life in this garden. This is "Meadow Mindcraft." A garden will be whatever you want it to be! Meadows are one of the fastest growing movements, sustainable gardening and lawn alternatives. Meadows can be whatever you want them to be. A dry southwestern meadow, a Mediterranean 'tropical' meadow or a cottage garden meadow. Follow this garden as it changes throughout the show! What will your dream meadow be? This garden was funded in part with a generous donation from the Krehbiel Family Foundation in honor of Posy Krehbiel and her love of gardening.

## **Living Water**

### **Garden Designer:**

Andrea Hurd

### **Garden Creators:**

Mariposa Gardening &  
Design  
Berkeley, CA  
Pollinator Posse  
Oakland, CA  
Dig Coop, Oakland, CA

The drought in California is a concern in the industry as water is crucial to the proper care and management of any garden. This garden is designed to demonstrate how we can continue to create beautiful gardens, wash our laundry and maintain our current water usage in an environment that is drying out. Using innovative technologies that have been researched, and implemented over the past 20 years, we have designed a home and garden combination that re-uses gray-water and rainwater to minimize water consumption, while creating a lush and beautiful garden. The garden includes a large living stonewall that leads into a stacked stone fountain that uses stored rainwater. It also features rainwater catchment that supplies a toilet and washing machine. The washing machine water is then pumped into a living fountain that captures the water, cleans and bio invigorates it, and then is sent out into a drip irrigation system to irrigate the garden. This closed loop system allows the homeowner to have a lush and verdant garden without any water being overused or wasted.

## **Living Light**

### **Garden Designer:**

David Warren

### **Garden Creators:**

Old World Design  
Oakland, CA  
Sterling Log Cabins  
Vashon Island, WA  
Green Gallery Landscape &  
Harkness Landscape  
Berkeley, CA

This garden illustrates a fresh, healthy approach to urban living, not a concrete jungle, rather a conscious footprint on planet earth. The garden represents new awareness, practical, magical, uncommon edibles, medicinal, animal husbandry and land stewardship. Assessing our immediate environs and deciding living light is a better balance for our needs. This model works for urban infill, suburban yards or vacant unpaved, remove lawns and go "AGRO"; health to your mind, body, and spirit – freedom to thrive return to the garden of eating.

## **Beauty Gone Wild**

### **Garden Designer:**

Dan Pozzi

### **Garden Creators:**

Restoration Landscape  
Petaluma, CA

Going Wild is as soon as you step out the door. As much as humans try to tame nature there is struggle. Beauty is in nature itself but its elegance is in the way it shows us how little effort it takes to recycle, since to nature it's merely the cycle of life. The garden is not how nature fits into our building, but how our building fits into nature.

## **Bring Nature Home**

### **Garden Designer:**

April Owens

### **Garden Creators:**

SUN Sustainable Urban  
Natives, Sebastopol, CA  
National Wildlife Federation  
Washington DC  
Nancy Bauer &  
Charlotte Togovitsky

A wildlife habitat garden is much more than outdoor decoration: it is a community of plants and wildlife in relationship to each other. The design provides the three essential ingredients of a habitat garden: food, cover and water. Vertical layers of trees, shrubs and ground plants provide cover and food in the form of nectar, pollen, seeds and berries through the seasons. Bee and bird nest boxes offer additional nesting sites. The focus is on native plants – the plants our wildlife species evolved with and sustainable landscaping practices are used throughout.

## **Antithesis**

### **Garden Designers:**

Richard Radford &  
Sandy Ayers

### **Garden Creators:**

The Garden Route Co.  
South San Francisco, CA

This representation of "Going Wild" shows two opposite design philosophies. We present "Antithesis!" We go wild, but initially we present what has become the prevailing landscape design trend in urban culture – clean, contemporary, sensible, careful, behaved, calm, civilized, manageable, orderly, tidy, cultured, refined and sophisticated. We then present "Going Wild" agitate, encourage, incite, irritate, lose, release, surrender, allow, free, let go, liberate, mend, rebellious, exciting, interesting, unmanageable, untamable and strong.

## **Room is a Garden – Garden is a Room**

### **Garden Designer:**

Iftikhar Ahmed

### **Garden Creators:**

Treeline Designz  
Portland, OR

For millennia, humans have cultivated the landscape for food and enjoyment. Over the long course of history, many early garden management practices have been forgotten. Some of those ancient gardening methods can be effective today when we look to places with our shared ecology – places with the same conditions of water, light and temperature. The "Room is a Garden – Garden is a Room" creates a sense of privacy and enclosure, and garden elements such as raised planters, artistic narrow three-color pavers and art divert attention from everyday stresses. This urban sanctuary encourages an inward journey of meditation and contemplation. Natural materials and handcrafted art meld the energies of the earth and the spirits of the artists into a tranquil, healing setting.

## **Uproot**

### **Garden Designers:**

Students of Landscape  
Architecture

### **Garden Creator:**

University of California,  
Berkeley, CA

Wilderness invokes the feeling, in many of us, of a place that is beyond human control: uninhabited, isolated and powerful. This pure idea of nature has often played the muse for designed landscapes but being constrained by scale, these parodies are really exaggerated constructions of the human imagination. They are idealized hybrids that hide both their constructed nature and natural processes beneath a beautiful surface. In our design, the intention is to render the hand of the designer self-evident from without, while synthesizing and exaggerating the form of nature from within. The visitor is immersed within the bowl of hyper-nature, yet the landscape arises modestly from a grid of poles. We intend to create a dual experience whereby the landscape must be entered to be understood.

For the first time ever, the more than 6,000 exquisite and rare plants that are used to create the showcase gardens will be for sale at near wholesale costs. Interested shoppers can view the plants for sale online or tour the gardens and decide which plants interest them and register to purchase them through the show's website [www.sfgardenshow.com](http://www.sfgardenshow.com).

**About the 2015 San Francisco Flower & Garden Show**

The 2015 San Francisco Flower & Garden Show will be open to the public Wednesday, March 18 through Sunday, March 22, at the San Mateo County Event Center, located at 1346 Saratoga Drive, in San Mateo, Calif. Show hours are Wednesday Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for a one-day adult, \$20 for a one-day senior admission and children 16 and under are admitted free. Special workshops tickets are also available. For advance tickets and more information please visit [www.sfgardenshow.com](http://www.sfgardenshow.com), [www.facebook.com/sfflowershow](https://www.facebook.com/sfflowershow), [www.twitter.com/sfflowershow](https://www.twitter.com/sfflowershow) and [www.instagram.com/sfflowershow](https://www.instagram.com/sfflowershow). Official hashtag: #SFGardenShow.

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