



Framing The View

Plants in high places put a Bel-Air garden into perspective



Designed by: Lisa Gimmy Landscape Architecture, Culver City, lglandscape.com. **Project:** A 10,800-square-foot garden

around a client's 1960s house in Bel-Air. **The grand plan:** The goal was to turn the hillside property into a contemporary space to complement the remodeled home interiors. **The wish list:** The owner is an art collector, "so it's a collector's garden of unusual specimens with very particular seasonal color and textural interest," Lisa Gimmy says. **Site asset:** Panoramic views of the Santa Monica Mountains to the west segue into views of the city and the Getty Center to the south. **Noteworthy features:** "The zigzagging bush germander frames the mountains in the distance and counters the feeling that you're going to fall off the edge of the slope. Those simple lines are a Thomas Church touch from his midcentury gardens. Around the corner, the fire pit planted with big *Aloe speciosa* that look like they're dancing is a little surprise tucked out of the wind." **Hardscape:** Picking a single material—exposed aggregate with three colors of rock—for both the driveway and pedestrian areas was key. "We used the same rock as mulch to dramatize individual plants. It ties everything together." **Other plantings:** A painterly sweep of red kangaroo paws fronts the house, where giant agaves and dracaenas tower over equally sculptural aeonium 'Zwartkop.' "We also regraded a ridge to create a loop walk of six different ornamental grasses—blue fescue, *Carex buechananii*, white, black, and purple pennisetum, and miscanthus 'Silver Feather'—for an incredible sense of movement." **Finishing touch:** The boulders on the lawn are an homage to Richard Neutra's Kaufmann House in Palm Springs. **Tip:** "Don't just stick to obvious Mediterranean plants like rosemary and lavender. Explore plants from Australia and South Africa. They're visually harmonious and work together from a microclimate standpoint."



Opposite: Shaggy bush germander defines the edge of the hillside backyard and points to a ridge of trees on the horizon. **This page, from top:** Unlike the monumental agaves in the front yard, ornamental grasses sway in the breeze; the front doors open to art inside and snake plant outside; tilt-head aloes help shelter the fire pit.

