

GARDEN DESIGN



\$15.00 US | \$18.00 CAN



12 PLANTS FOR YOUR
MIDSUMMER GARDEN

TOP DESIGNERS ON CREATING
INSPIRED BACKYARDS

ISSUE
187



HANDMADE CHARLES PROWELL



For Northern California craftsman Charles Prowell, woodworking is a family affair. Raised in a household of home builders and furniture makers, he opened Prowell Woodworks in 1977. A generation later, son Ben joined the thriving business.

Now their handmade custom garden gates, fences, and other outdoor structures grace the landscapes of clients around the U.S. Working exclusively with cedar, Prowell's distinctive style is fused with Asian elements and influenced by modernist architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

Customers can choose from options on the studio's website, though occasionally designs are conceptualized from scratch, with each piece tailored to the client's site. "It's important that the structure not detract from the home or landscape," Prowell says.

Final designs are cut and assembled with the time-honored craft of joinery, where interlocking joints are fashioned and fit together. No screws, nails, or other hardware are used in the assembly. Finished pieces will not sag or warp, and are made to last for decades.

Each structure can take anywhere from two to three days to several weeks to complete. For a family that takes pride in its long tradition of fine craftsmanship, the end result is worth the wait. —Janet Loughrey

EAT

CAKEBREAD CELLARS



At Cakebread Cellars in Napa Valley, California, visitors are treated like family. "We value the time our customers spend with us, and we want to make sure they take away something special from their experience here," says second-generation co-owner Dennis Cakebread.

Now in its 41st year, the winery offers small group tours (by appointment only) and culinary classes, as well as the requisite wine and food tastings. Guests can enjoy sweeping vineyard views, observe farm operations, or take a leisurely stroll through the vegetable garden that supplies fresh produce for on-site events. Classes are a hands-on experience. "Participants engage directly in the preparation and cooking of the featured meal," Cakebread says.

The ever-popular American Harvest Workshop, which takes place during several days in September, showcases an on-site farmer's market, wine and food pairings, farm tours, and working the grape harvest. Multi-course dinners held on two separate evenings are elaborate affairs, drawing 75 people at each sitting. Fresh, locally sourced ingredients are prepared by guest chefs from around the world.

As an establishment that takes its food, wine, and customers seriously, Cakebread Cellars offers a gastronomic adventure that visitors won't forget. —J.L.

VISIT

Getting Back to Nature in L.A.

When The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County added the "Nature Gardens," it replaced asphalt with habitat. The 3.5-acre gardens now connect the museum's research and indoor exhibits to its front yard. Says Carol Bornstein, director of the gardens, one of the main purposes of the new landscape is to show residents and visitors how to get in touch with the local ecosystem.

The team of designers for the gardens, including Los Angeles-based Mia Lehrer + Associates, succeeded in creating a dynamic landscape that's fascinating all year, offers opportunities to teach the public about nature, and welcomes wildlife. Since its launch, the Nature Gardens have been thronged with visitors. Insects, birds, and other wildlife have also discovered this oasis. With about 500



taxa of plants represented, there's always something—flowers, foliage, or fruit—to see.

Traversing the landscape toward the main entrance of the museum, visitors encounter the Transition Garden tracing the history of Southern California flora, the Living Wall, a naturalistic pond, the Listening Tree, a bird-viewing platform, an edible garden, and an amphitheater. Just inside, complementing the gardens and linking them to the indoor displays, is the interactive Nature Lab. The final, newest, piece of the puzzle—the Pollinator Garden—contains all-native plantings representing habitats from across the state. Any creature that can fly, walk, or crawl to the gardens will surely find something to satisfy. —Jenny Andrews