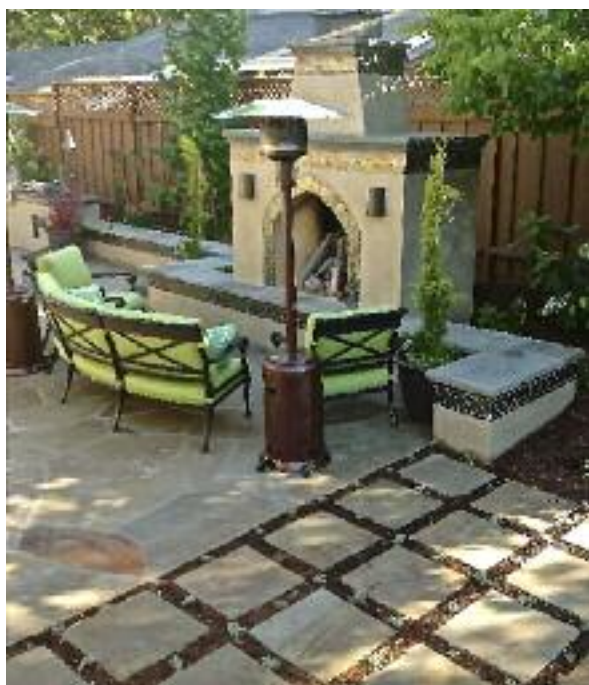


Award-Winning Lamorinda Garden Designs

... continued from page D1



The inconspicuous fencing almost disappears visually but still keeps the deer at bay.



First Place winner, Large Residential Installation: Subdued Moroccan influences show themselves in the Bishopp residence outdoors. Glassy tiles, a material Lambert's crew found, add sheen to the vertical surfaces.

Lambert also installed a series of rock walls to prevent slides. The result, Dickinson said, was a “more stable” back yard; one which her family is “very pleased to use.”

“We use the [sunny] lower part to sit and read,” she said.

Darlene Davidge calls her award-winning yard “really unique.” The yard won a first place in the Small Residential Design/Build installation category. Her first attempt to remodel a portion of her yard was about eight years ago. Davidge, an artist who works in oils, mosaics and ceramics, had already built and designed an outdoor fountain and bird cage. She wanted to give their yard an outdoor living room feel, and gave Lambert “a crummy space” and free reign.

Lambert incorporated the fountain and bird cage in his project, and installed a fire pit and retaining wall. The three open areas became an outdoor living room, bedroom and dining room. Furniture colors of turquoise and orange play tricks in the outdoor light, and while the top of the fire pit and retaining wall looks like marble, it is actually concrete. Davidge credits fellow artist and friend Murphy Adams with her suggestion to outline the fire pit arch with mosaic tile.

The Davidge family, which includes grown children, finds the garden area a peaceful sanctuary. The splash of the fountain, the sights and sounds of the finches and humming birds, the smell of flowers and the sizzle of dinner on the grill makes their new yard a place they don't ever want to leave. “It's almost



First Place winner, Small Residential Design/Build Installation: Turquoise mosaics and lime green umbrella and pillows enliven the horizontal surfaces in Darlene Davidge's yard. Although it appears to be marble, it is actually concrete.

a problem,” she admits wryly, calling Lambert “incredibly talented.”

When Emma Bishopp's family purchased their mid-century Lafayette ranch house 12 years ago it had been completely remodeled inside and out. But Bishopp hoped to update the yard by giving it a Moroccan feel, minus anything that might make the look too dated. “A lot of landscapers have a style [of their own],” Bishopp explained. “I wanted my own... individual look.”

Bishopp knew Lambert after having worked with him previously and having seen his work elsewhere. The finished product, which won first place in the large residential installation category was a complete hard and soft backyard re-landscaping surrounding a pool. It contains

both a fire pit and a fireplace. Lambert began by taking out some diseased trees, which opened up the available space. He removed a play structure, installed stone bench seating around an outdoor fireplace kitchen, and added a patio around the pool. But Bishopp put her foot down when Lambert suggested gas torches for low-light ambiance near the fire pit. “I have three girls,” Bishopp said. “I wanted spotlights and nanny cams!”

The garden improvements have radically changed the way the family uses their back yard, Bishopp said. She adds that Lambert was “lovely to work with.”

“It's nice to support a local family [who does] quality work,” she said.

Garden Lights Landscape & Pool Development
1 Northwood Drive, Suite #7, Orinda, CA 94563
Office (925) 254-4797 • Fax (925) 254-3211
email: office@gardenlightslandscape.com