The garden’s focus is to convey John’s message through the principles of good garden design. Showing how sustainable practices can be integrated into a residential setting. Our first objective is creating an outdoor living space to enjoy today and every day in San Diego’s wonderful Mediterranean climate.

Achieving a peaceful setting for contemplation and meditation — both crucial aspects of John’s life — is a must for all of us who lead busy lives in our modern society. The various grasses in the garden convey a sense of peace as they sway in the breeze and are accented by pops of flower color supporting the garden show’s theme of “Flower Power.”

Critical to not only the future generations, but to all the other creatures with whom we share this small, blue planet is a world with unpolluted water, clean air and plentiful food. With sharing comes responsibility, we are all stewards of Mother Earth. By incorporating simple sustainable practices into the design, we raise awareness that we all share the planet.

Our garden display shows how to build a successful garden, but one of the most important components to keeping plants healthy and thriving is invisible. Most of us think of our gardens first as the flowers and plants and then as soil. What you can’t see are the microscopic microbes that are in good healthy soil: beneficial bacteria, protozoa, nematodes and fungi. Fungi are amazing decomposers of wood mulch and the fungal network can stretch for miles. A good mulch provides organic matter that is decomposed by microbes adding nutrients to the soil. Other mulch benefits are keeping the soil cooler, retaining moisture, creating good soil structure, and combating weeds.

An easy way to add organic material to the soil is by using a worm bin. It gives gardeners a way they can contribute to the health of their garden using minimal space. Additionally, a worm bin is an excellent way to get children involved in a sustainability practice at an early age.

Another key aspect to sustainability in a garden is cutting down on green waste, which reduces our carbon footprint and maintenance costs. For that reason, the plant palette not only is low water use, but also very low maintenance. Native plants attract birds and insects and create a wildlife habitat. Succulent plants are water thrifty because they store water in their leaves, stems and/or roots. The selected grasses are not only low water and minimal maintenance but also add motion and texture to the garden.
Botanical Name | Common Name
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Achillea millefolium 'Paprika' | Paprika Yarrow
Achillea 'Moonshine' | Moonshine Yarrow
Agonis flexuosa | Peppermint Tree
Agristis pallens | Native Bentgrass
Arctostaphylos 'John Dourley' | John Dourley Manzanita
Arctostaphylos manzanita 'Dr. Hurd' | Dr. Hurd Manzanita
Asteraceae | California Mugwort
Agrostis pallens | San Diego Sagewort
Baccharis pilularis 'Pigeon Point' | Dwarf Coyote Brush
Bulbinella frutescens 'Tiny Tangerine' | Tangerine Stalked Bulbine
Cercis occidentalis | Western Redbud
Climbers | Blue Atoll Hens and Chicks
Echeveria 'Blue Atoll' | Red Velvet
Echeveria harmsii | San Miguel Island Buckwheat
Eriogonum grande var. rubescens | Woodland Strawberry
Fragaria californica | Stratosphere™ White Butterfly Flower
Graptopetalum | Blue Arrows Rush *
Kniphofia 'Rockette Yellow' | Elk Blue California Gray Rush
Leptom condensatus 'Canyon Prince' | Rockette Yellow Torch Lily
Mimulus aurantiacus 'Mimapi' | Canyon Prince Wild Rye
Mimulus aurantiacus 'Minredda' | Curious TM Orange Monkey Flower
Populus fremontii | Curious TM Red Monkey Flower
Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii | Western Cottonwood *
Quercus ilex | Catalina Cherry Tree
Quercus lobata | Holly Oak
Ribes viburnifolium | Valley Oak
Salvia 'Bright Eyes' | Evergreen Currant
Salvia clevelandi 'Betsy Clebsch' | Bright Eyes Sage
Sedum nussbaumerianum | Betsy Clebsch Cleveland Sage
Sesleria autumnalis | Coppertone Stonecrop
Westringia fruticosa 'Grey Box™' | Autumn Moor Grass
* Note: These are high-water—use plants native to wetland and riparian areas.

San Diego County Water Authority

The San Diego Horticultural Society is proud to have their garden sponsored by San Diego County Water Authority. To learn more about the Water Authority visit sdcwa.org.

eGuide to WaterSmart Lifestyle

The “eGuide to a WaterSmart Lifestyle” is your go-to resource for living water-efficiently in San Diego County.

Visit watersmartsd.org/residential-guide

San Diego Horticultural Society

Garden Designed by: Kimberly Alexander

Allele Landscape Design
alleelandscapedesign.com

Garden Installation:
Tony Vitale, Landscape Logic
mylandscapelogo.com

Plant Suppliers:
Delta Bluegrass Company
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Modern Builders Supply
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tazzlighting.com

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San Diego Horticultural Society

The San Diego Horticultural Society meets the second Monday of the month from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Surfside Race Place at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Meetings are free for members and $15 for non-members. For a full list of our events and to join, visit sdhort.org.

Peace, Love & Garden Happiness!