

Worth the Sweat:
Six Boutique Gyms

BY SHELLEY LEVITT

The Zankou Murders:
One Family, Torn Apart

BY MARK ARAX

Los Angeles

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APRIL 2008



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LA HOME:
DRAMATIC
GARDENS



By the Yard

Three inviting gardens showcase three different ways
to embrace the outdoors BY EMILY YOUNG

Rooms For More

Multiple choices replace
former tennis courts in
Santa Monica



Designed by: KeswickRobbins
Landscape Design, Los Angeles,
keswickrobbins.com. **Project:** A
15,000-square-foot backyard

for clients living on what in the 1920s was the Santa Monica Tennis Club. **The grand plan:** The owners wanted a formal garden with several outdoor rooms connecting their study and kitchen to the yard, where the former clubhouse had been converted to a guest house. **The wish list:** The family envisioned a pool, roses, and open space for their dogs. **Site assets:** It was a sizable rectangular lawn, "with a few ficus hedges, which my partner, Kimberlee Keswick, and I left for privacy, and a large mulberry, which we moved and managed to keep alive," Paul Robbins says. **Note-**

worthy features: The pool was placed far enough from the house to appear more like a reflecting pond. "When you walk out for a closer look, you discover the traditional perennial border but with hot-colored California plants: yellow philomis and hibiscus, orange cannas, salvias, and scented pelargoniums." **Hardscape:** While the new Pennsylvania bluestone terrace suits the house and is wide enough for a dining table, a stacked-stone fountain breaks up the long expanse. **Other plantings:** Pastel David Austin roses and lavender catmint bloom inside low boxwood hedges within tall Carolina laurel cherry hedges. Stephanotis and wisteria grow on the guest house and the dining pergola, respectively. "Though evergreens provide color and structure all year, a new deodar cedar actually hides a telephone pole."

Finishing touches: The stone birdbath, from Inner Gardens, is a nod to tradition; the mahogany planters for the spiral junipers are from KeswickRobbins's own line. The Edward Lutyens bench is a classic, "but we painted it powdery blue to stand out." **Tip:** "Keep things simple. Formal doesn't have to feel rigid or overdesigned."



Opposite: A birdbath and a bench serve as focal points on a gravel path through the rose garden. **This page, from top:** A pergola shades a table on the dining terrace; the perennial border provides a colorful backdrop for the pool and the topiaries in KeswickRobbins planters; waterlilies fill a fountain fashioned out of stacked bluestone.

