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madame ganna walska

Her opera career (and many marriages) may have flopped, but she found her true métier during the decades she spent constructing Lotusland, her estate (now open to the public) near Santa Barbara. LOTUSLAND.ORG



outsider art

Walska's shallow moon pool lined with hundreds of light-reflecting, pearlescent abalone shells would cross over into the realm of kitsch if it weren't so beautiful.



prickly iconoclast Walska bucked the convention of posh front yards, greeting visitors with a connoisseur's collection of cacti.



horticultural curiosities This spiky air plant (or *Tillandsia chispensis*) requires no soil, just occasional water. 9" x 12" MAINFOREST.FLORA.COM



so bad, it's good

A fearlessly flamboyant, neo-baroque shell mirror right after Duquette's heart: 25" x 25 1/2" "Odyssee de Mer" ARCEL1548250.TWOSCOMPANY.COM FOR STORES



playful objects A pair of snarling glazed-ceramic Chinese foo dogs to watch over the dinner table. 10 1/4" x 12" \$350/PAIR. JARDINS-EN-FLEUR.COM



all in the details Small, whimsical features, such as this dragon-head brass spout (for sinks as well as fountains), add a dreamy surrealism. 5 1/2" #527-1124 \$277 AUTHENTICPROVENCE.COM FOR INFORMATION



cast meets west This carved terra-cotta lantern has both a French and a Chinese feel. 28" x 17" "Classique" \$1,980/PAIR. AUTHENTICPROVENCE.COM FOR INFORMATION

outside opulence Walska loved to adorn her grounds with actual giant clamshells, but we prefer this resin one. 8 1/4" x 7 1/2" \$150 PENNOYERNEWMAN.COM FOR INFORMATION



orient express We took a page from Duquette and gave this pagoda lantern a quick coat of glossy scarlet. 26" x 27 1/2" iron and glass \$145 NEIMANMARCUS.COM