

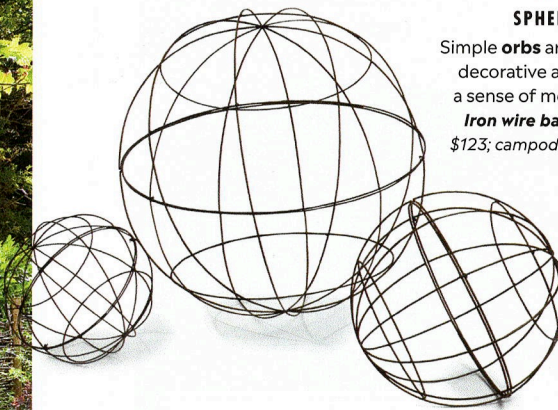
TORUS

David Harber's mirror-polished stainless steel sculpture offers a new perspective through a modernist ring shape. **Torus sculpture**, \$21,312; davidharber.com.



SPHERE

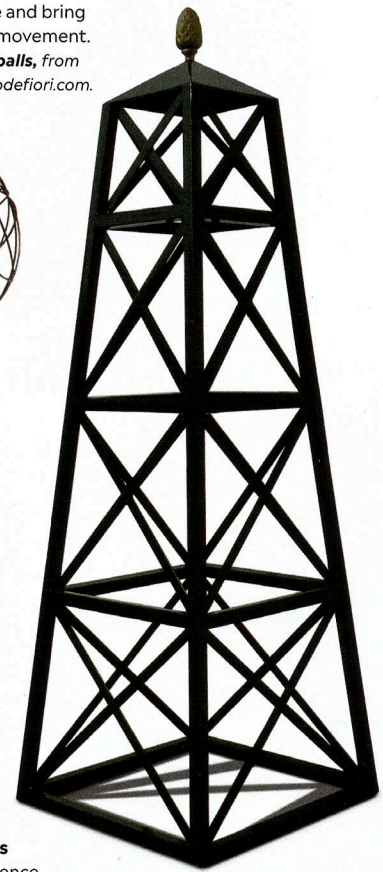
Simple **orbs** are primarily decorative and bring a sense of movement. **Iron wire balls**, from \$123; campodefiori.com.



Fine Geometry



Against the wild, unpredictable shapes of nature, familiar forms bring an air of strength and permanence to the garden.



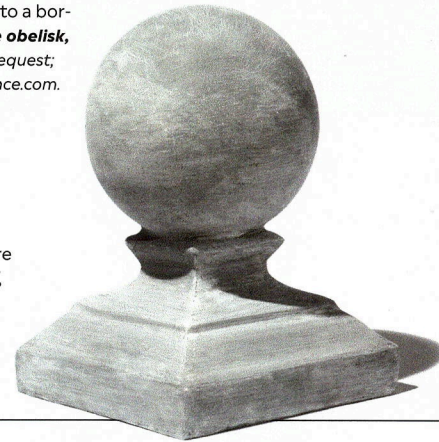
TUTEUR

The pyramid-shaped three-dimensional **trellis** beautifully trains plants. **Leigh planter obelisk**, \$3,950; authenticprovence.com.



OBELISK

The **monolith's** commanding presence lends stature to a border. **Concorde obelisk**, price upon request; accentsoffrance.com.



ARMILLARY SPHERE

Ancient astronomers used it to represent the circles of the heavens; today, many are **sundials**. **Greenwich armillary sphere**, \$1,900; architectural-heritage.co.uk.



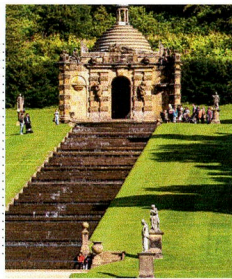
FINIAL

The **rounded ornaments** are used to adorn balustrades, staircases, and gate posts. **Round Cap finial**, \$300; pennoyernewman.com.



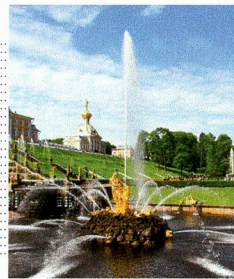
1668-1689

A monumental feat of engineering years in the making, the **Latona Fountain** at Versailles originally spirited water in from the Seine about seven miles away.



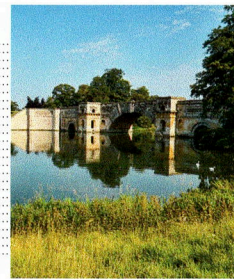
1696

The Cascade at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire flows down more than 200 feet of steps designed to vary the sounds of the rushing water.



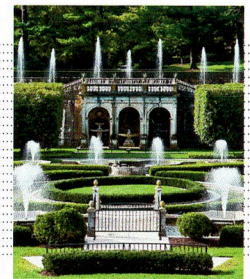
1730s

Sixty-four fountains and 138 water jets regale the Grand Cascade at Russia's Peterhof Palace; crowning these is the spectacularly gilded **Samson Fountain**.



1763

At Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, master landscape architect Capability Brown damns a river to create a **watery mirror** for an existing Palladian bridge.



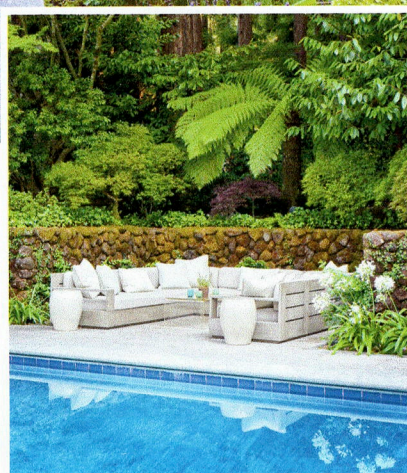
1931

Inspired by Villa d'Este, Pierre S. du Pont's **Main Fountain Garden** showpiece comes alive at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.



Cocktail Hour's Most Coveted

The social queen with all the street smarts: a cottage garden that's layered, livable, and feeds body and soul



THIS GARDEN NEEDED MORE than just pretty plantings. It had to be functional and family friendly," says landscape designer Erica Timbrell. The Bay Area cottage garden is an integral part of a young family's second home, serving as a busy living and dining room, in use day and night. In addition to choosing plants that could handle kids hopping around the garden, Timbrell devised a program of rooms around the pool that are equally welcoming to children and adults.

She refinished an existing pool and chose gray limestone pavers as decking to extend into the living spaces, including where a dining terrace is framed by a pair of L-shaped garden beds. "Raised vegetable beds are typically messy, not something you want front and center,"

says Timbrell, who tidied these up for more prominent placement with large-scale willow panels from the Willow Farm in Pescadero, California. "It's a creative way to dress up less-predictable plantings." And by aligning the kitchen garden with the dining table, Timbrell delivers more than an additional sense of order. "Now you know just where to go when you need an extra sprig of mint for a mojito," she says. And the show-stoppers: a leggy parade of Incrediball hydrangeas lighting up a leafy privacy wall of English ivy before

giving way to a natural stone border. This seems to merge with the hillside, which stretches into a woodland of California redwoods. "Depending on when you arrive, you can hear kids playing or birds singing," says Timbrell. "It's designed as a primary living area."

Ross, California
♦ ♦ ♦
DESIGN BY **ERICA TIMBRELL DESIGN**



WHAT THE JUDGES SAID

"This garden has so many inviting places to gather. There's restraint in the plantings. And those beds with the wattle fencing! I would not have thought of that."—BUNNY WILLIAMS



FROM TOP: Strawberries, mint, and shishito peppers grow in wattle-enclosed beds alongside Incrediball hydrangeas, Agastache, and Hidcote lavender; a teak sectional commands a stone-wrapped alcove; dwarf lemon, bay laurel, gardenias, and lemon trees scent the seating area by the back door.