

PLANT-DRIVEN DESIGN

Creating Gardens that Hono(u)r Plants, Place, and Spirit

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putting plants first

plants are partners in the design rather than subordinate to it

rustic formality, Gordon and Mary Hayward garden, Vermont
bromeliad mania, Jesse Durko garden, Davie, Florida
dryland mixed borders, Lauren's former garden, Masonville, Colorado
naturalistic garden, Red Butte Botanical Garden, Salt Lake City, Utah

learning from a plant—capturing its spirit

daffodils face southeast toward spring sunlight—our backyard, Fort Collins, Colorado
Agave ovatifolia and *Beschorneria septemtrionalis* rosettes romance a limestone slope,
Scott's design, Austin, Texas
an oddly shaped Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Pendula') dresses our foundation
grasses and translucent foliage glow in autumn light in our backyard--ruby muhly grass
(*Muhlenbergia reverchonii*) and New Mexico olive (*Forestiera neomexicana*)

finding intriguing plants

genuflecting at *Brunsvigia radulosa* in eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa
robin's plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*)
'Bartzella' intersectional Itoh peony
silver Mediterranean fan palm (*Chamaerops humilis* v. *cerifera*), *Lespedeza liukiensis*
compact blue indigo (*Baptisia minor*)
extra narrow-leafed evening primrose (*Oenothera fremontii* 'Shimmer')
moon vine (*Lonicera reticulata* 'Kintzley's Ghost')

gardening where you are

creating a sense of place: connecting with architecture, site, region

David Culp and Michael Alderfer country garden, Downingtown, Pennsylvania
locally mined shells for paving, Naples Botanical Garden, Ogden/Smith design
Lauren's former Colorado foothills garden
forest clearing with Les Brake's garden, Willow, Alaska

Blending into a site/meeting site challenges

silver foliage and grasses fit into sere shortgrass prairie beyond, Lauren's foothills garden
perennial matrices blend into hayfield, Ogden design, Scriptor garden, Niwot, Colorado
Lauren's foothills garden through the seasons
skimpy beds in hardscape--*Kniphofia* 'Alcazar', larkspur, purple coneflower, roses,
columns by Little and Lewis; Lauren's design, Denver Botanic Gardens
steep hillside path planting with catmint, dianthus, stonecress (*Aethionema schistosum*) Lauren's
"hellstrips" with same and lots of *Penstemon grandiflorus*

concrete house foundation, small space—stacked troughs at Wave Hill, New York City

layers of self-sufficient plants:

steep slope with *Abies procera* 'Glauca Nana', ferns, bellflowers, Keith Wiley design, the Garden House, Devon

autumnal colors blend with groundcovers and evergreens, Marco Polo Stufano design, Wave Hill, Bronx, New York

Helictotrichon sempervirens, prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), *Fragaria* 'Pink Panda', 'Globosa' Colorado spruce, cushion spurge, dwarf bearded iris

chaparral planting--*Yucca constricta*, agastaches, oenotheras, Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), bristlecone pine, zauschneria, blue grama, little bluestem in our garden

matrix planting:

Narcissus 'Hawera' with striped flag (*Acorus calamus* 'Variegatus')

dried *Allium albopilosum*, *Eryngium bourgatii*, *Astrantia major*

Turk's cap mallow (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*), *Alstroemeria psittacina*, *Lilium formosanum*

Perovskia xhybrida, *Salvia lavandulifolia*, *Anaphalis margaritacea*, *Euphorbia nicaensis*, Weihenstephan, Germany

lessons from nature

the primordial experience of plants' essence in the wild

maidenhair fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*) on limestone seep in the Texas hill country

ferns on limestone and coral fountain, Scott's design, Naples Botanical Garden, Florida

grasses and *Kniphofia caulescens*, southern Drakensberg, RSA

Ladyfarm garden, Mary Payne and Judy Pearce design, Somerset

inspiration from natural plant communities...

meadow and prairie:

needle and thread grass (*Hesperostipa comata*), Sandhills, Nebraska

paintbrush, prairie larkspur, *Salvia farinacea*, south-central Texas

stylized meadow with *Echinacea pallida*, *Rudbeckia maxima*, *Allium albopilosum*,

Calamagrostis xacutiflora 'Karl Foerster', Piet Oudolf design, RHS Wisley

daylily 'Golden Chimes', valerian, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, Pam Lewis design, Sticky Wicket

Miscanthus sinensis 'Gracillimus', cleome, cosmos, verbenas, Weihenstephan

threadleaf coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*), sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), giant

blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia maxima*), goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), Weihenstephan

our steppe with small bunchgrasses, *Tulipa vvedenskyii*, *Pulsatilla* spp., *Phlox bifida*

our steppe garden with fescues, *Bellevalia pycnantha*, *Anemone blanda*, dwarf daffodils

our short sedge meadow with rainlilies (*Zephyranthes* 'Grandjax) after summer rains,

Austin, Texas

matrices of North American prairie natives, our designs for moist and moderately dry areas at Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield Arboretum

woodland:

fall in our garden with *Acer tataricum* 'Hot Wings', ruby muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia reverchonii*)

redbud, deciduous azalea, mixed forest, Garden in the Woods, Massachusetts

understory of dwarf palmettos (*Sabal minor*), Palmetto State Park, Ottine, Texas

bluets (*Hedyotis caerulea*), ferns, dogwoods, Mt. Cuba Center, Delaware

amphitheatre built into the woods, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania

Trillium grandiflorum and ostrich fern (*Matteuccia pensylvanica*)

foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), eastern columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), ferns

Wasatch maple (*Acer grandidentatum*) contrasts with evergreen Colorado spruce

ditto early lilac (*Syringa oblata*) with lacebark pine (*Pinus bungeana*)

autumnal woodland floor--fallen leaves and mushrooms—senescence begets new life

natural patterns, placement, and process

repetition of plants:

Thermopsis lupinoides, daffodils, cushion spurge, milky iris (*Iris lactea*), emerging grasses in our meadow

grasses and sedges repeated through planting, Lauren's foothills garden

bamboo sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*), *Angelica* sp., *Actaea ramosa* 'Brunette',

Rodgersia tabuliformis in a damp meadow planting, Piet Oudolf design, Bury Court

Yucca recurvifolia 'Margaritaville' with rainlilies (*Zephyranthes* 'Grandjax', *Z. citrina*,

Z. 'Ajax') in our sedge lawn

clustered placement and different sizes suggest process:

grouping of white fir (*Abies concolor*)

Carex caryophylla 'Beatlemania' between flagstones

Agave mitis, velvet creeper (*Tradescantia sillamontana*), ladder brake fern, Ogden design

the gardener's hand

the dance between spontaneity and control

clipped and unshorn: boxwood, scented geraniums, garlic chives (*Allium tuberosum*),

flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), creeping thyme, Page Dickey garden, New York

Santolina rosmarinifolia, lavender, *Artemisia versicolor*, *Salvia officinalis* 'Berggarten',

seaholly (*Eryngium* spp.), Piet Oudolf design, Bury Court

stalwart and aggressive plants: astilbes and *Iris pseudacorus*

Agave 'Macho Mocha', *Sedum mexicanum*

rampant native bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*), Abell ranch, Llano, Texas

self-sowing hollyhocks, larkspur, clary (*Salvia sclarea*), Wave Hill

self-sowing poppies, red orach, and mulleins amid perennials, Les Brake garden, Alaska

surprise, discovery, and playfulness

peekaboo gate with *Daphne* and Russell; eggs in the sedum--real or not?

water dish mirrors autumn skies and *Solidago* 'Wichita Mountains' in our garden

view through window to pond, Classical Chinese Garden, Portland, Oregon

mosaic wall and bromeliads, Naples Botanical Garden, Ogden/Smith design

celebrating sensuality

abundance

penstemons, *Nepeta* 'Walker's Low', poppies, blue flax in Lauren's foothills garden
seedless table grapes 'St. Theresa', 'Himrod' on our trellis
our front path in fall: *Symphotrichum lateriflorum* 'Lady in Black', prairie dropseed
(*Sporobolus heterolepis*), *Verbena bonariensis*, Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*),
golden rain tree, *Diascia integerrima*

light effects in the garden

Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) fiddleheads in early spring
Florentine tulip (*Tulipa sylvestris*), striped iris (*Iris pallida* 'Aureovariegata')
translucent ferns and new spring foliage in the woods, Chanticleer, Pennsylvania
Maximilian sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*), switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*) in fall
Christmas luminaria along our snow-bound front garden path.

fragrance

winter iris (*Iris unguicularis*); little sweeties (*Narcissus jonquilla*)
Wisteria sinensis draping a limestone wall
old garden roses around Lauren's corral
sheared lavender, Matanzas Creek Winery, Sonoma, California, Gary Ratway design
fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) in our garden
Brugmansia over pool, Tom Hobbs/Brent Beattie garden, Vancouver

connecting

invitation, journey, destination

seductive entry gate covered by Hacienda Creeper vine, Scott's design, Austin, Texas
sheared yews punctuate path through garden rooms, Tintinhull
sun and shade in courtyard with tropicals, Chanticleer, Wayne, Pennsylvania
bamboo path (*Bambusa multiplex* 'Alphonse Karr') leads to sunny spot, John Greenlee
garden, Pomona, California
banana "umbrella" for patio seating, Hotel Escalante, Naples, Florida
pergola overlooking the Hudson River, Wave Hill; our firepit in autumn

sharing the garden with creatures

goldfinch on black-eyed Susan
anole on agave in Texas
monarch butterfly on Spanish iris in our Texas garden
bumblebee on meadow rue in Alaska
tiger swallowtails on larkspur in our Colorado garden
Edie the cat and Rose the Pyr in our back garden
Mr. Maurice, keeper of the pots
mama and baby bobcats in client's garden, Colorado Springs