

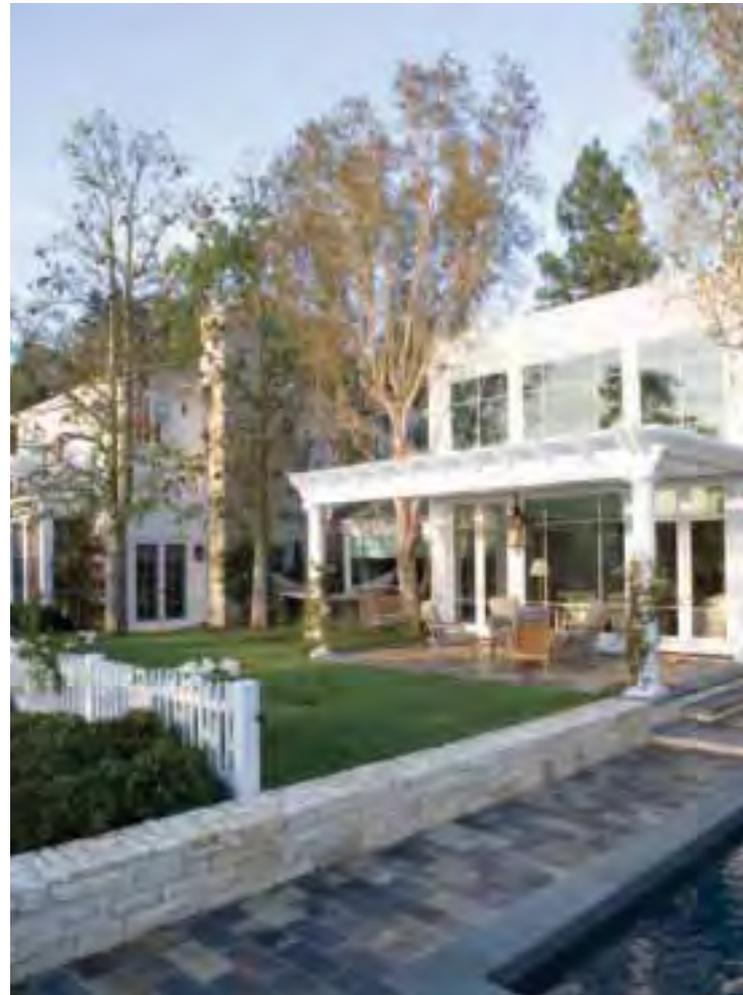
# Inner Gardens

GREEN THUMB DESIGN BY STEPHEN BLOCK by Victoria Charters

Giverny. Hampton Court. Versailles. Cases in point—plant a beautiful garden and people will travel from all over the world to see it. Just ask landscape designer Stephen Block.



Above and Right: For a horticultural remodel of this home in Beverly Hills, Block used English boxwoods to add greenery and accentuate the architecture; delicate flowers and burgundy foliage complete the design. Images courtesy Inner Gardens.



A passion for assembling plants, flowers, and the like into verdant creations worthy of attracting a crowd prompted Block to open Inner Gardens in 1990 with the mission to create “beautiful environments by bringing nature and the art of ornament into your home, garden and workplace.”

“I got into this and immediately was inspired,” says this former ornamental horticulture major. “I’m inspired by beauty.”

Block’s plant knowledge is vast and he has schooled himself in all aspects of flora and foliage. The artist with a green thumb constantly seeks specimens of the most unusual varieties; his design approach is to create plantings that look as though they had been planted long ago.

In addition to his infatuation with plants, Block has a love affair with beautiful and unique containers: ancient, modern and one-of-a-kind receptacles that, when planted with the right vegetation, become something more. “The perfect plant or plants

placed lovingly into the perfect container located in the perfect setting becomes an entity in and of itself...a piece of art unlike any other,” explains Block.

For Block, landscaping is a true art. “All creativity is about problem solving...The challenge about a landscape is that it is organic and dynamic; you need to be able to visualize that landscape 20 or 50 years from now.” ■

Inner Gardens  
Jefferson Showroom & Garden  
6050 West Jefferson Boulevard, Los Angeles.  
310.838.8378.

Melrose Showroom  
8925 Melrose Avenue, West Hollywood.  
310.492.9990.  
[www.innergardens.com](http://www.innergardens.com).