

Zen and now

A minimalist garden complements a contemporary Santa Monica house

BY SHARON COHOON | PHOTOGRAPH BY DOUGLAS OLSON

1 Vertical plants

A grove of tall tipu trees (*Tipuana tipu*) and a multitrunked naked coral tree (*Erythrina coralloides*) counter the strong horizontals of the roof and garden walls. A shorter bamboo hedge hides a patio to the left of the front gate.

2 Warm wood

The same Brazilian ipe used on the house forms the entry fence and gate; its reddish bronze hue offsets the garden's cool blue and gray palette.



3 Low-key groundcover

A carpet of *Dyandra margaritae* provides the same simplicity as lawn but uses a lot less water. Its gray tones also pick up the colors of the house and garden walls.

4 Edgy accents

Steel pipes with a rust finish serve as planters for ornamental grasses, and give the garden an urban edge.

5 Curved walls

The curve of the concrete walls echoes the bold swoop of the roof. Their medium gray is the same color as the house's stucco walls, but a shade deeper.

DESIGN Samuel Kim, SQA, Los Angeles (sqlainc.com or 213/983-1788)