



RESIDENTIAL DESIGN OVER \$100,000

Whimsical Retreat, Santa Barbara, California

Margie Grace

Grace Design Associates, Inc.

Santa Barbara, California

Left: View looking south from upper slope to entry courtyard. Above: Overview the of back yard (looking east)

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOLLY LEPERE, LEPERE STUDIO

USDA ZONE: 9B

**JUDGES'
PERSPECTIVE:**

“Playful design meets the brief requirement to respond to the architecture. Living spaces are well thought out and detailed. Very appropriate plant palette.”



This young California family needed outdoor areas for play, adventure, and outdoor living, reflecting their love of nature, curiosity, and fun. And as it happens sometimes, their property also offered the challenges of grade changes, as well as rocky, shallow, and compacted soil. Feeling up for the challenge, designer Margie Grace terraced the property using an enormous amount of sandstone boulders and cobbles that echo the desert-like environment, adding water-wise sculptural plants in unexpected combinations.

To complete the landscape, Grace added an outdoor cooking area, a bocce ball court, and two water features. Drought-tolerant plants are fire-resistant and colorful, perfectly reflecting their surroundings. The resulting landscape is ideal for relaxing, entertaining, and taking joy in the natural world.

JENNY PETERSON

STEAL THIS: Make the plant palette work to not only to reflect the architecture of the home but also to serve as a bridge between the landscape and untouched wildland.

