

Try this!
MAGNIFICENT
WARM ORANGE
ACCENTS AND
ROUNDED GATE

find
your
STYLE

A lush garden scene featuring a large terracotta pot, a wooden gate, and a bench under a large tree. The garden is filled with various plants, including roses and lavender, and a paved path leads through the garden. The scene is set in a sunny backyard with a large tree in the background.

I. french COUNTRY

Garden party at the Chateau! Even if you have a tiny ranch on a suburban tract, you can feel like you are in the French countryside as long as you have a nice sunny backyard. Start with symmetrical pots and planters all in the same height and color. Lay out symmetrical, facing L-shaped beds on either side of a T-shaped paved space and fill with roses, dwarf evergreens like Alberta spruce and boxwood, and a mix of sun loving, mound forming annuals like allysum, petunias and geraniums. Of course no French garden is complete without lavender! Fill in the gaps with lots of hardy pink rockrose and you are ready for guests in your garden even without a chateau!

GARDENER'S TIP: A decorative single bed frame or furniture door makes a great garden gate when cut down to size and weatherproofed!

PHOTO BY HOLLY LEPERE/LEPERE STUDIO, GARDEN DESIGN BY MARGIE GRACE, GRACEDSIGNASSOCIATES.COM

WHAT makes some gardens so much better than others? Great gardens are in **HARMONY** with their surroundings. Learn the **SECRETS** to your dream garden.

ENTRIES CAN BE TRICKY

WHAT PEOPLE WISH THEY KNEW BEFORE INSTALLING...

Beware of formal symmetry, because if one of your plants goes down, the whole effect will look lopsided and silly.

Keep eventual size at the forefront of your mind with everything you plant, especially rapid growers that tend to make horizontal branches: you do not want visitors or deliverymen to have to beat their way in each time they come to see you. Also avoid spiky, thorny or scratchy plants that can snag clothing or hurt you or visitors.

An entrance garden should give you a clear picture of who is approaching for safety's sake.

Avoid plants with messy fruit or slippery leaves that can create a hazard or liability; you may want to limit plants that attract bees near a doorway, too.

Finally, entry gardens should always be designed for easy access for large deliveries or wheelchair access, should you have a handicapped friend or relative. This means an extra-wide walkway with slow, dignified curves rather than sharp corners. And be sure to incorporate one or two pretty container gardens that can be changed out to bridge the gaps when your inground plants are not in bloom!!!

34. dry IDEA Got mod in your house structure and aren't quite sure how to match your garden to it? Try a mixture of softly flowing lines and bold uprights to blur out the hardness of contemporary building angles. Some great plants for a sunny, drier garden include creeping rosemary, Mexican hair grass, lavender, and lemon trees. In addition to melding with the architecture, these choices will provide lovely scent and be attractive to bees. You can have this garden in a season. Be sure and add some natural accents to complement the wood of the structure and lines of the garden such as the dry-laid rock wall with many different sizes and shapes of stone. The light color of the grass is nearly the same as the color of the rocks, which ties these elements together beautifully! **GARDENER'S TIP:** Creeping rosemary doesn't look so hot when you start chopping the ends off, so place it where it can spread out and do its thing. Once of the best design tips for this plant is to use it to break up stiff upright lines of taller trees or shrubs.

SUSTAINABLE WALL IS A NATURAL BEAUTY

NATURAL FENCE MATERIALS give modern architecture an artistic look and help to soften bold strokes and hard design edges. **CHOOSE MATERIALS** like natural rocks, woven branches, sisal rope and post, wicker battens, willow hurdles, woven bamboo, thin tree trunks at different heights, or logs or recycled bricks piled on their sides and at angles. **IT IS ALL ABOUT** recycling and being green.





PHOTO BY DENCY KANE

84. simply FORMAL

If you always wanted a formal French garden, the pictured garden demonstrates just how easy it is. A French garden begins with symmetry: a low provincial gate flanked by low stone walls, symmetrical pots, then symmetrical planters on symmetrical pillars leading up to a focal feature, a pseudo fountain with a formal shape crowning the center. Low plantings that blend into each other all contribute to the feeling of the French Riviera with its warm climate and full-on sun. Low perennial boxwoods give the garden its formal feel and four annuals make this look come alive: allysum in pink and white, petunias, geraniums, and brachyscome daisies. This garden is perfect for front or back yard enjoyment. **GARDENER'S TIP:** The secret is in the warm peachy-tan color of all structural features and the formal paving and uniform height.



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