

LOS ANGELES

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GRACE DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC.
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GRACE DESIGN ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Margie Grace, Principal, Lead Designer

Dawn Close, Vice President

YEAR ESTABLISHED	2000	AFFILIATIONS	AIA, APLD, GBA
MEDIAN PRICE OF HOMES COMPLETED	\$2.5-24 MILLION		
OFFICE LOCATION	SANTA BARBARA, CA		

Margie Grace is the lead designer and a principal of Grace Design Associates, a landscape design and build firm. She was awarded the 2009 "International Landscape Designer of the Year Award" from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, the highest honor in the field. Grace works in a wide range of styles, from classical and highly formal to contemporary and naturalistic. She has restored several historic gardens, establishing a reputation for designing and building gardens that are both site sensitive and sustainable. Grace has been an invited guest on an exclusive panel to pioneer new protocols for green building standards in landscaping. She often works closely with the architect-contractor-designer team from the outset on properties located in the Western United States and increasingly, nationwide.



LOCATION: Hope Ranch, CA

ACREAGE: .3

FEATURES: This Asian garden is one of 13 gardens created specifically for this bluff-top estate. It was created using the owners' vast collection of antiques amassed during their world travels.



LOCATION: Santa Barbara, CA

ACREAGE: 3

FEATURES: This custom-built pergola, which shelters an outdoor dining area and several antique urns, is covered in a vibrant tangle of roses and clematis.

WHAT ARE THE KEY INFLUENCES IN YOUR WORK TODAY?

My work is dictated overall by process, and not a specific aesthetic. I look first at the land and its context—geology, climate, existing and proposed structures, heritage of the region. Then I work with the client to articulate their personal vision. All these factors influence and shape the final design.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO STUDY LANDSCAPE DESIGN?

Ever since I can remember, I've loved plants, rocks, wildlife, beautiful scenery, old houses, exotic cultures, music, art and history. My formal training is in geology and biology—the rest I learned by observing and doing.

WHO HAS MOST INFLUENCED YOUR WORK?

My mother. She was an engineering geologist. She inspired my love of nature, insatiable curiosity, civic-mindedness and the need to have work I'm passionate about.

WHICH AWARDS MEAN THE MOST TO YOU?

The APLD 2009 "International Landscape Designer of the Year Award." Receiving top honors from an international body of my peers is both thrilling and humbling.



LOCATION: El Pueblo Viejo, CA

ACREAGE: 1.25

FEATURES: This international award-winning LEED-certified home was once a barren, flat lot. Imparting drama and beauty, Grace Design Associates has since transformed the property into an ocean of movement and light.



LOCATION: Ojai, CA

ACREAGE: .5

FEATURES: Using succulents, roses and herbs, this Romanesque pot is a twist on traditional plantings.



LOCATION: Shadow Hills, CA

ACREAGE: .5

FEATURES: The English garden in the foreground transitions to an open meadow and panoramic ocean and mountain views.

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