

Melly McCutcheon Home Garden Tour at 1128 Harvard

Melly is a 3rd generation gardener from Georgia. Her garden reflects a blend of her mother's whimsy and her grandmother's taste for formal flower beds. The combination ended up with an actual metal "flower bed" in her yard and a formal sitting sofa blooming with flowers and a huge chicken painted with a Monet style pattern. The backyard took 8 years to complete her vision. First a paver walkway with a flower design patio was installed. Then her friend, Lisa Owens, came from Georgia and spent several months painting the mural on the side of the garage wall. Stone walls edged the flower bed and slowly plants were added. The final touch was adding the quote from Wordsworth to the Juliette balcony, "A poet could not but be gay, in such a jocund company". Her mother-in-law loved William Wordsworth and when she passed, Melly dedicated the garden to her with homage of 1,500 bulbs! Melly feels her garden brings her closer to the people she has loved and who influenced her the most in her life.

Shirley Jones Home Garden Tour at 1237 Bay Oaks

The ravine that took up half the lot was both a challenge and an opportunity for both building her home and designing the garden. The front yard is flat and spacious, allowing for manicured hedges, and colorful flower beds circulating well established trees. A water fountain graces the front steps and a lovely Rangoon creeper Vine has been trained to span the width of the garage doors. The side yard encompasses the ravine which collects runoff water that feeds into White Oak Bayou. Entrance to the side yard takes you through an oriental feeling Arbor, where you are greeted with yard art and natural stone steps that take you down, lower onto the property. You follow a stone path, past a sculpture and then onto another water feature with various plantings. Here, Shirley has planted trees and plants that can tolerate the occasional flooding. She has a producing orange tree, beautiful magnolia and a fragrant almond tree.

We suggest that you wear sturdy shoes that are comfortable for navigating the few narrow stone steps going down to the ravine. Mrs. Jones has graciously extended the use of her porch which is slightly cantilevered over the side yard and ravine. The tropical feeling porch offers a wonderful bird's eye view of the side yard. Mrs. Jones will be on hand to answer your questions.

1817 and 1820 Columbia, John Gardner, and Micki Fine and John Pavlicek

Micki Fine and John Pavlicek bought the empty grass lot at 1820 Columbia next door to their home in the fall of 2013. Over time, they turned it into an organic pollinator garden and kept bees for some time. They have a combination of mostly native plants with non-natives as well. There are lots of Gulf Coast Pink Muhly Grasses, plumbagos, frog fruit, a Kidney Wood, Thunbergia, coral vine, passion vine, raised beds for vegetables and herbs, and others. Micki and John are the sole care-takers so they look for ways to manage the garden with more ease. Across the street at 1817 Columbia, John Gardner, the 'Garden Guru', has been on a long and interesting gardening journey. "It feels like I have always been interested in plants and nature. So, when we moved into our Heights bungalow in 1993, I was ready to garden. In the many years since then,

my primary focus in the garden has changed. And changed. And changed again. Vegetables! Gingers! Bamboo! Then herbs, Texas natives, rain gardens, butterflies, beneficial insects, fruit trees, worm farming and on and on. It seemed that every year had a different passion. Now my focus is on design. At this point "design" means making sense of the hodgepodge that has built up over the years. As an amateur photographer I enjoy close-up shots. The detailed intimacy of a close-up brings out the essence of an organism. I look at gardening the same way. The closer you look the more beauty and interest you can find in nature. So, yes, my garden may strike you as a hodgepodge at first but keep looking closer and closer. I assure you: you will be pleased. upgrading his lot using organic gardening practices for many years and favoring native plants."

611 West 15th Emma Meister Residence Garden

Thirteen years ago, we moved to Houston from Miami, where I had a lovely tropical garden. I wanted to do something different with this garden.

I started by removing the front lawn and two Pear trees, brought in soil to amend the ground and then the planting got started with native salvias and grasses. About eight years ago bluebonnets were planted and they took off. They now cover our path in Spring.

For the last few years, I began sowing wildflowers, starting in October and every month after until the end of the year. The goal was to feed bees, birds and butterflies. They now call the garden home. A side effect and benefit is that it is enjoyed by non-fliers as well.

1701 Rutland Biel Residence Garden

Inspired by English gardens, Biel enjoys taming the wildness, but also keeping it natural looking. This is a small personal garden where you see the owner's personality in the picking and placement of plants coming through. Her pallet of succulents, tropicals, and flowering plants are artfully arranged into distinctive garden 'rooms'. And while this is a small garden, it is densely packed with new discoveries at every turn.

Be sure to see the new greenhouse garden room addition to the back of the house that demonstrates how to get the maximum amount of plant viewing happiness out of a small room. Nothing better than sitting and watching plants grow. Of course, friends make it even nicer.

This garden invites quiet sitting and reflection. The gate will be open on at 10am and you are all welcome.