





There want's a fist place in sight for a house, a pool, or a garden. The three-ocre site was dramatic: a steep (2:1) slepe with huge boulders and chaparral vegetation with south-facing views over the ocean. Susan Yan Atta's goal was to create a seemingly natural landscape that celebrated the character of the location and united the new contemporary bouse with the rocky slopes and native chaparral.

She and architect. Jan Hochhauser "invented" the house into the fillialide. The main house, past most, and wrist staffs were designed as spearier surrouters before retain the alopse, creating flat outdoor spaces for the entry drive court and pool. The flat mortigan were transformed into a series of quadres linked together with a system of plate that twest and turn and clinic through the rupped indiscipes. Noclead calong the trails are filled with flow-growing native plents to emphasize the correspt that the chapman is a partier.

Within the larger chaparral garden are small pocket gardens, each with an individual thems. A Ferry Seep flexibing the front door comprises native ferrs and delicate plants adapted to shady slopes with seeps, day-lighting water sources. Estisting chaparral plants merge with Pacific Coast irs, Eschict was myttle (Myrico colifornico), mountain illas (Ceonothus orboreus), and chalk dutlleys (Dutlicya Individualistin).

For the Romero Caryon trail gurden. Van Atta necesated a striking plant community that she came upon while highly in the footbills to the east. Varying in texture, the sparking sheep y plants include evergeen perennal white sage (Solvio oppinos), chaparan yucca shoon as OLL card's cardie (Feleproynccow shippin), the broadlast buckwhaat, and multibached white native chamine (Adenostome fraccioutum) that dominate the chamine, and the succession, that is continued to the contraction of the contraction of

If the nord gardens were not fist, no one would suspect that they were not on terra firma. The cramertal verts and skylights that pop up in the vegetation are, however, dead givenawys. For the root of the main bouse, gwest house, and studio, Van Alta selected plants for extended bloom times and low water use. Two other roots were planted with mattey grasses, including Caryon Prince will be condensators Caryon Prince? A medium stall gray-blue evergreen, "Caryon Prince" is sort frought in status on a time visited of the coast of

is only found in nature on a tiny isand on the coast of San Miguel Island, the northernmost Santa Barbara Channel Island. The choice of plant color and texture was key to blending the gardens in with the native chaparral when viewed from a distance.

Chaparral Garden

Susan Van Atta Van Atta Associates Montecito, California







Architect Jan Hochhouser, AlA

Photographs Susan Van Atta (178 center, 179) Diedre Walpole Photography (176, 178 left and right, 179)

Climate Special considerations SUNSET Western Garden Zone 24 Summer drought: fire hazard zone. Existing conditions

Steep rocky site at the edge of

natural chaparral vegetation; 3

acres of 2:1 or greater slope.

As lovely as the green roofs are, they were also designed to modulate the temperature within the house. The soil and plants insulate the roof from the heat retained by the dark rocks on the slope. The green roofs keep the buildings cool, reduce glare, slow storm water run-off, and protect the roof membrane.

In nature, the chaparral is adapted to fire. Although the winters are mild and wet, the summers are hot and dry. The shrubs growing on the mountains that surround Montecito are drought tolerant and have tough, thick evergreen foliage to reduce water loss.

As this rocky hillside is located in a high-frie hazard zone, the irrigated green roofs provide essential protection. In addition Van Atta designed a Firescape Garden on the slopes above the house. She stabilized the slopes above the house with a mulch of native stone and frie resistant low-growing perennials including sedum and echeworia.

Preceding pages: The walkway from the parking area to the residence widens to create a timester tensor. A steppingstone traverses a line of thyme punistuated with Festuce owing disease. Since steps carved into an outcrop lead to the guest house.

Opposite far left: Three roof gerdens bring the chaperal landscape into the architecture. This path from the bedroom level connects to the trail system on the property. Thyme flourishes between the flegistories; yellow-blooming Fremondodenshiro cellfornice grows behind the skylights.

Opposite center: Steps leading to the Romero Canyon trial are made of rough-hewn sandstone from the house excevation. Chaparral youca known of Chr Lord's cardle (Hesperoyucca whipple), multiterenched, white native chemise (Advisostoms Secciedarum), and sucoulert, shalk dudleys re-create the frontfills bediscuse.

Opposite right: To create the overlook known as the stone gazebo, a flat ferrors was constructed at the base of two huge boulders. A store bench is diminished by their huge presence. Luvander pride of Madeira (Echium condicons) fromes the view.

Right: A level area was inserted into the slope to provide width for both path and plants. The decomposed granite Mediterranean walk works around olive trees, California iris, nepeta, and levender on rouse from the artist studio to the projectors.

