

ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS

# the designer

Fall 2018



2018 APLD  
INTERNATIONAL  
LANDSCAPE

# Design Awards

Designer of the Year: Margie Grace, APLD,  
Grace Design Associates, Inc.



silveraward

The "lagoon" pool  
under nighttime  
lighting becomes  
a reflecting pond  
at dusk.


**RESIDENTIAL DESIGN OVER \$100,000**

**Blue Bayou, Valley Village, California**

**Laura Morton Design**

**West Hollywood, CA**

PHOTOGRAPHY © ROSS WHITAKER 2017

A photograph of an outdoor cabana with a striped awning. Three colorful towels (blue, orange, and blue) are hanging on a dark blue wooden wall. A wooden bench is visible on the left. The scene is brightly lit with shadows cast across the wall.

**A custom-made outdoor curtain keeps light and air circulating in the cabana.**

**USDA ZONE: 10A**

**JUDGES' PERSPECTIVE:**

**A highly functional space with places to play and entertain; solid site design and implementation.**

There is ample space for family cookouts and gatherings by the fire pit.



The clients of this Valley Village, CA, home requested pool and play areas for their kids, adult gathering spaces including a fire pit and cooking/dining space, plus new pool decking. The 5,400-square-foot backyard was half compacted turf and half pool and concrete deck. One design goal was to reinterpret the kidney-shaped pool as a lagoon/reflecting pond, making it a focal point as well as imaginative play area. Full-color bluestone replaced concrete for patios, steps, and coping. Natural edge slabs were sited around the pool as “jumping rocks” and boulder groupings add dimension. Two new *Butia capitata* Palms and lush foliage anchor the oasis around the pool. An existing fence was painted blue to shimmer in the pool’s reflection. Lawn area was reduced by one-third and replanted with California “native mow-free” for a soft meadow effect. Surface runoff and gutters were redirected to planted swales and infiltration zones, keeping water on-site, while drip irrigation was installed in planting areas.





**Above:** Plantings soften the edges of the hardscape and the high roofline.

**Left:** A reclaimed fence board partition floats above the permeable paving.

**Far left:** Behind the curved seating, tomatoes and herbs grow.

**STEAL THIS:**

The area around the pool and shower is permeable gravel bonded with resin to provide the appearance of loose stone while preventing scattering and slippage.