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The Hotel Del Coronado as seen from the beach

Last week I was fortunate enough to spend a couple of days at the [Hotel del Coronado](#) in the San Diego area, courtesy of the hotel and [Proven Winners](#). The historic hotel, which fans of Marilyn Monroe will recognize as one of the settings for the movie ‘Some Like It Hot’, has recently undergone a landscape renovation featuring Proven Winners plants planted and maintained by the [Brickman Group](#) landscape maintenance firm.

The results are spectacular. Bold colors from [annuals](#), [perennials](#), and succulents in landscape beds, hanging baskets, and raised planters throughout the hotel grounds provide a welcome change from customary humdrum hotel landscapes consisting of sheared shrubs with a few token splashes of color.

The new gardens are an extension of the hotel’s original enclosed courtyard patio garden and existing sustainable [vegetable](#) and [herb](#) garden, which provided some of the delicious food we

enjoyed at elegant dinners and receptions. Labels throughout the gardens identify the plants so that visitors can duplicate their favorite plant combinations in their own gardens.

You can see some a few of the plant combinations below. If more commercial landscapes and public spaces would follow the lead of the Hotel del Coronado, I believe that more homeowners would be inspired to upgrade their home landscapes and everyone would benefit from the greater beauty and diversity afforded by such plantings. As you can see from these photos, you can start small, and still pack a punch with a few well-placed plants.



View of the herb garden from the balcony of my room



Hanging baskets with Lucia Dark Blue lobelia, Supertunia Giant Pink petunia, Snow Princess alyssum, and Superbells Yellow Chiffon calibrachoa



Succulent bed with Lemon Coral Sedum rupestre, Zorro Echeveria, Maraca Portulaca molokiniensis, Tiptop Aeonium arborescens, and Topsy Turvy Echeveria runyonii



Campfire Crassula coccinea glows with color in this beachfront planting.



Planting bed combination of Supertunia Sangria Charm, Supertunia Vista Bubblegum, Lucia Dark Blue lobelia, and Blue Mohawk Juncus effusus

<http://www.bhg.com/blogs/everydaygardeners/2011/06/24/proven-winners-at-the-del/>