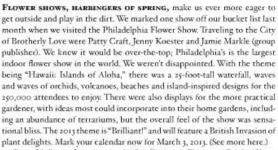


by Patty Craft, Jenny Koester & Rebecca Sweet photgraphy by Jenny Koester & Woodside Images



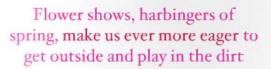
From Philly we flew west to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, where Patty Craft connected with regular Horticulture contributor Rebecca Sweet in Rebecca's hometown. Photographing in the convention-center lighting posed a challenge, but you get a good feel here for what we saw. The show gardens featured native plants for greater sustainability and an abundance of container ideas, including sleek metal pots and recycled materials like graffiti-painted dumpsters. Patty's favorite garden, which was awarded a Gold Award and the People's Choice Award, was The Recycled Garden, designed by Darjit, a family-owned business based in New Zealand. The primary designer was Brent Sumner. The lifesize dragon daintily holding calla lilies in her hand was outrageously wonderful, and all the garden's







Top right: Spring in bloom at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Above, top to bottom: Garden art on display in Philly. Patty Craft, Kathleen Norris Brenzel, and Rebecca Sweet. The Recycled Garden by Darjit, winner of the People's Choice Award at the San Francisco Flower Show.



containers were constructed from recycled materials. Click the link at the lower right to see more photos of the amazing pieces in the garden.

We closed out the month by heading south to the Ball Horticultural Company in Santa Paula, Calif. Rebecca Sweet hopped a plane south to visit Ball on Team Horticulture's behalf. She visited with Anna Ball and toured the facilities where she saw so many exciting annuals, perennials and veggies that it was hard for us to decide which ones to feature here! We love the 3D series of African daisies (Ostenspermum) Ball is debuting in 2012. These are the only double osteospermums on the market today, and not only that, but their flowers don't close up on cloudy days or in the evenings! The series includes solid and two-tone varieties. They work well in containers or planted directly in the ground and bloom best in the cooler temperatures of spring and fall. Cut them back gently after the blooms fade in eraly summer to encourage autumn rebloom. Hardy to USDA Zone 9, these are best treated as an annual. *

Top right: The entry to the Ball Horticultural facility in Santa Paula, Calif. Bottom right: '3D Purple' African daisy, one in a line of impressive new osteos from Ball.





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