Homeowners maximize living space with basement excavation

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Drought-tolerant superstars

How to grow succulents year-round without much water

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O N T H E C O V E R
Succulents come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colors and can grow in just about every micro-climate along the Peninsula. Courtesy Getty Images.

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While the large home on a corner lot in Old Palo Alto seemed to suit Jenny Shilling's growing family in 2007, it wasn’t without flaws. To get to the outside pool and patio, one had to meander around a couple of guest bedrooms.

But it wasn’t until 2016 that she and her family got serious about totally changing the layout and flow, swapping those guest bedrooms for a family room with access to their poolside yard.

“Many design iterations later,” Shilling said, they decided to dig down and excavate a full basement, allowing them to replace those two bedrooms and add 2,600 square feet of space for many more amenities.

The new basement provides more than enough space for two guest rooms with en suite bathrooms, a wine cellar fashioned after a home seen in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as well as a den/movie room with an intricately designed tray ceiling with cove lighting. There is also an exercise room, arts-and-crafts room and mechanicals for the house.

From the outside, much appears unchanged. Only the home’s roofline was modified to allow for expansion of the upstairs bedrooms.

On the inside, instead of a galley kitchen, the home now boasts a huge space, with a mega-island in the

**New digs**

Homeowners maximize living space in Old Palo Alto with basement excavation

**BY CAROL BLITZER**
middle, perfect for both cooking and entertaining.

“We wanted a space where multiple people could cook, and we love to entertain,” she said, pointing to the French doors that lead to an extension of the cooking and dining area. A gazebo boasts heaters and lighting to enhance the outdoor dining experience.

Shilling, who grew up in the East Coast, wanted to retain the home’s colonial feel, but with modern touches.

“The house told me what it wanted to be. ... I try to keep things timeless, not too trendy,” she said.

Throughout the house, Shilling paid close attention to detail — from the huge pendants over the island and library sconces in the kitchen to the color palette behind the wall of cabinets in the family room that picks up the teal in the art. The floors throughout are French white oak with a reactive stain, which “creates depth and interest,” she said.

Just off the kitchen is a huge pantry, including a coffee station, tray and platter storage and pullout drawers for easy access to everything.

Beyond the pantry is the mud room, equipped with two computer stations (one for each teen for remote learning), as well as space for backpacks and sports gear.

Shilling’s office overlooks a grove of 93-year-old redwoods.

Little was changed in the living room, except to add parallel color accent walls.

The family room, with its lowered floor, now smoothly segues outside to a new Connecticut bluestone surround at the lap pool. Southland bifold doors open to a seating area around a fire pit, much used by the family.

Top left: The new basement boasts a movie room with cove lighting. Top right: Instead of a galley kitchen, the Shilling family’s remodeled home now boasts a huge space with a mega-island for cooking and entertaining. Bottom left and right: Shilling, who grew up on the east coast, wanted to retain the home’s colonial feel, but with modern touches shown here. “I try to keep things timeless, not too trendy,” she said. Photos by Helynn Ospina.

(continued on page 8)
Upstairs, the master suite not only has a large bathroom with two sinks, but boasts two vanities separated by a wall. One faces a large tub and shower; the other is adjacent to his-and-her closets. The decor is Bella marble, what Shilling describes as lighter and calmer marble with less veins than Carrara marble. A marble cap tops the marble wainscoting.

Each of the two other bedrooms upstairs has its own bathroom, one with a two-tone weave floor tile pattern in Carrara and white marble, another with pendant lights rather than sconces.

A laundry room features a basket-weave tile backsplash and permanent racks for drying sweaters or towels.

Shilling was very involved in every step of the design — she now works as both an interior designer and an owner’s representative who helps guide projects from start to finish — and is pleased that, as her own client, she made very few (or costly) changes. It helped that she truly knew what she wanted.

Email Freelance Writer Carol Blitzer at carolgblitzer@gmail.com.

RESOURCES

Architect: Catharine Garber, Fergus Garber Architects, Palo Alto, 650-459-3700, fg-arch.com

Building contractor: Pete Moffat Construction, Palo Alto, 650-493-8899, petemoffat.com

Interior designer: Alder and Tweed, Park City, Utah, 435-487-8430, alderandtweed.com; and Jenny Shilling, Shilling Design, San Jose, ShillingDesign.com

Cabinets: West Summit Cabinetry, San Jose, 408-392-0889, summitcabinetry.com


Goals of project: Improve layout and access to outdoors, enlarge kitchen, add office, mudroom, seismically upgrade, make more energy efficient

Challenges: Digging full basement to make up for lost guest bedrooms on first floor

Year house built: 1929, remodel 2018

Size of home, lot: 5 BD, 4 BA, 3,600-sq-ft home; now 5 BD, 5 full + 2 half baths, 6,300 sq ft, on just under 10K-sq-ft lot

Time to complete: about two years
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Succulents have become the darlings of the plant world, and it’s easy to understand why: They come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes and colors. They are easy to grow indoors or out. They don’t need much attention and are great for craft projects. Some are elegant, some are quirky and some look like alien life forms, but across the board, succulents are some of Mother Nature’s most amazing creations.

As the Bay Area faces water restrictions due to drought conditions, there’s even more to love: They don’t need much water and can grow in just about every micro-climate along the Peninsula.

For those looking to add these beautiful, exotic-looking and drought-tolerant plants to their homes, here are some facts and growing tips to help you get started:

What is a succulent?
The name “succulent” comes from the Latin word “sucus,” which means “sap” or “juice,” and refers to any plant that stores water in its leaves, stems or roots to survive periods without water. Succulents can be found in more than 40 different plant families throughout the world.

They typically have thick, fleshy appendages and shallow roots that are able to absorb as much moisture as possible close to the surface of the soil. Many types have ridges, which allow the plant to expand when water is available. This feature also allows the plant to shrink to reduce exposure to the sun.

How do succulents store water?
All plants have tiny openings called “stomata,” which enable them to transfer moisture during photosynthesis. While other types of plants open their stomata during the day, succulents and their cactus cousins have unique chemistry that allows them to open their stomata at night. This means they can collect carbon dioxide while minimizing moisture loss. In this way, succulents have evolved in arid locations and are able to survive for long periods with far less water than other plants.

How to keep succulents healthy
Whether your fondness for succulents extends to an entire garden or just a few pots, there are a few simple things that will keep your succulent plants happy and healthy. In general, succulents need good drainage, enough light, a little water and some fertilizer.

The ideal location for succulents is one with bright morning sun and afternoon shade. Although these plants need plenty of light, they don’t like blazing sun and can actually get sunburned. To determine the best location for a succulent variety that is new to you, start by putting it in a spot with filtered light and gradually move it to a sunny location and see how it does.

Once you decide where your succulent will live, if it is to be planted in the ground, be sure the spot has good drainage. Creating small, raised areas to plant your succulents is a great way to achieve adequate drainage in an otherwise flat location. This will also add visual interest to your overall design.

Succulents do very well in pots and since their root systems are shallow, they can be very happy in small spaces and even crowded together. Have fun experimenting with different containers like strawberry pots. Here again, make sure there is adequate drainage, and be sure to use the right kind of potting soil. Soil designed for cacti or palms will work well, or you can add extra perlite to regular potting soil.

Most succulents prefer temperatures between 50 and 85 degrees, but many can (continued on page 14)
LOOKING TO ADD DRAMA AND COLOR TO YOUR LANDSCAPE? VISIT THESE SUCCULENT GARDENS FOR INSPIRATION

Whether you’re looking to create an exotic and dramatic-looking garden, incorporate more drought-resistant plants into your existing landscape or just want to add some colorful container plants to your home, these local succulent and cactus gardens (yes, all cacti belong to the succulent family) can provide some inspiration, as well as a fun opportunity to explore the many textures, shapes, colors and sizes of these prehistoric-looking plants in a garden setting.

STANFORD’S ARIZONA GARDEN
Stanford University, Stanford

The Arizona Cactus Garden is home to a collection of rare cacti and succulents hauled out of the Mexican desert and is one of Stanford University’s oldest living attractions — older than the university itself — with roots reaching back to 1881. Located off the university’s beaten path, the garden is filled with cacti and succulents of all shapes, colors, textures and sizes, including agave that measure nearly 25 feet in diameter, prickly pear that stand 15 feet high and a cactus plant that weighs about 300 pounds.

Built for Leland and Jane Stanford, the 17,000-square-foot garden was one of several drought-tolerant gardens, known as “Arizona Gardens” created by landscape architect Rudolph Ulrich.

His design blended formal symmetrical plantings with the textures and colors of imported succulents. In its heyday, the garden included thousands of varieties of cacti and succulents that rarely, if ever, grew naturally in the Bay Area.

After World War II, the garden was mostly forgotten until 1997, when the university launched a restoration effort that transformed it back to its original state and expanded it to include a number of rare and unusual flora, such as a floss-silk tree, spiral aloe and century plants.

Over 500 varieties of cacti, succulents, ice plants and other rare and unusual specimens now grow abundantly in the 58 stone-lined garden beds, including a dozen or so original species from the 1880s.

The garden can be difficult to find. Park in the lot at Welch and Quarry road. The path directly opposite Welch leads to the garden.

PHELAN CACTUS GARDEN
Villa Montalvo Arts Center, 15400 Montalvo Road, Saratoga

Located within a network of hiking trails and gardens at the 175-acre Villa Montalvo Arts Center, the Phelan Cactus Garden features an exotic combination of various succulents and cacti with different textures, shapes and colors.

Senator James Phelan, who built Villa Montalvo as his private estate in 1912, planted the garden in 1920 to showcase these interesting and unusual plants. The original garden included two prehistoric-looking ponytail palms from Mexico. Over time, the surrounding trees grew, creating shadier conditions that weren’t suitable for the palms or other plants in the garden. In 2009, a group of volunteers began to rehabilitate the garden with a collection of succulents and cacti more suited to the location.

The garden, located just north of the Italianate Garden, isn’t the only one at Villa Montalvo that features succulents. The property’s newer Blue Garden, inspired by Santa Barbara’s famed Lotusland public gardens at the historic Ganna Walska estate, uses bold blue foliaged succulents, shrubs and trees to saturate the area in various shades of blue.

PALO ALTO DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
851 Center Drive, Palo Alto

Santa Clara County, UC Master Gardeners maintains a selection of succulents in the water-wise section of the Palo Alto Demonstration Garden at Eleanor Pardee Community Gardens. The garden showcases beautiful landscaping with native and drought-resistant plants. The demonstration garden provides an opportunity for the public to get an up-close look at succulents and other plants in a garden setting, ask questions, and get plant and garden advice from experts. While many succulents thrive in full sun with little water, others may need occasional water or full shade. Some are hardy to sub-zero temperatures while others are frost tender. Master gardeners can share information about each plant’s different requirements. They typically staff the garden every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon, May-September and during scheduled events.

— Linda Taaffe
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tolerate chillier conditions, and some are hardy down to 20 degrees. They do not like cold, wet feet, so when temperatures dip below 40 degrees, it’s best to keep them fairly dry. When they start needing moisture, water when nighttime temperatures are above 40.

Succulents in pots are more prone to cold weather damage than those in the ground, so if frost is in the forecast, cover them with a protective cloth or move them to a sheltered area. If you don’t have a sheltered area, move them inside. Indoor succulents make great, low-maintenance houseplants. Once they are potted correctly, all most of them require is adequate light (four to six hours near a bright window) and proper watering.

Fertilizing and watering
Succulents are very thrifty and need far less water than other plants. In fact, the most frequent cause of succulent death is over-watering. During the warmest months, weekly watering is usually all they need. Be sure to let the soil dry out between watering and then water thoroughly.

Succulents can be either summer or winter growers that are dormant the other half of the year. During a particular plant’s dormant period, they will not require much water. Summer dormant varieties include aloe, kalanchoe, crassula, aeonium, portulacaria and sedum. Winter dormant varieties include agave, echeveria, euphorbia, pachypodium and sempervivum. Each variety has slightly different requirements, but over-watering is usually the cause of problems. If the leaves or other parts start to become mushy, it’s probably due to over-watering.

Healthy succulents also need good ventilation so don’t place them in damp, stuffy locations: This is why they don’t do well in terrariums. Succulents need a little fertilizer during their growing season to do their best. You can do this with monthly applications of a balanced organic fertilizer — those with nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) numbers such as 10/10/10 or 20/20/20. You also can apply a balanced, slow-release form every few months or use a diluted solution (1/4 strength) each time you water.

Propagating succulents
Growing your own succulents from plants you already have is very easy. Some varieties like aloe and agave do it on their own by producing “pups,” or little replicas of the parent plant, which can be transplanted two or three weeks after appearing near the parent plant. To start a new plant from a piece of an existing plant, just select a leaf, stem or section and set it in a tray for a few days before planting it in a new location. Do this for “pups,” too. The waiting period allows the plant to form a callous, which seals it off from potential infection before the roots can form.

Whether you plan to add a variety of succulents to your landscape or just bring a few indoors, these plants exotic-looking plants can provide endless creative opportunity for beauty and interest.

The echeveria gibbiflora features wavy to ruffled foliage. Courtesy Judy Maier.

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Maggie Mah is a UCCE Master Gardener and food industry consultant. For more about Master Gardeners, go to ucanr.edu/sites/MGsSMSF
EASY-CARE SUCCULENTS TO GROW AT HOME

MASTER GARDENERS SHARE FAVORITE VARIETIES FOR GARDENS, CONTAINERS

Experts from UC Master Gardeners shared their list of favorite succulents that can easily thrive in Peninsula gardens without much water and still look beautiful.

CENTURY PLANT
Mature size: 6 feet wide, 10 feet tall
Water requirements: low; water every three weeks
Sun/shade requirements: full to half sun
Features: yellowish green flowers, tall stalks

Photo by Mike Goad. Courtesy Pixabay.com.

CORAL ALOE
Mature size: 1-2 feet wide, 2-3 feet tall
Water requirements: low; water every three weeks
Sun/shade requirements: full sun
Features: Large, broad, fleshy leaves with tall clusters of red-orange flowers

Photo by Bernard Dupont. Courtesy commons.wikimedia.org.

SPIDER ALOE
Mature size: 2-4 feet wide, 2-3 feet tall
Water requirements: very low; water deeply several times a summer
Sun/shade requirements: half to full sun, shade
Features: interesting form with red-orange flowers

Photo by Himesh Mehta. Courtesy pexels.com.

BULBINE FRUTESCENS
Mature size: 2-3 feet wide, 1 foot tall
Water requirements: low; water every three weeks
Sun/shade requirements: half to full sun
Features: good evergreen border plant spikes of star-shaped yellow flowers and pencil-shaped leaves

Photo by Massonori. Courtesy deviantart.com.

PIG’S EAR
Mature size: 2 feet wide, 3 feet tall
Water requirements: low; water every three weeks
Sun/shade requirements: half to full sun, shade
Features: bright green, red-edged leaves; does well in containers


HEN AND CHICKS
Mature size: less than 1 foot wide and tall
Water requirements: low; water every three weeks
Sun/shade requirements: half sun to shade
Features: filler or edging plant with pink, red flowers with yellow tips; does well in containers

Photo by Flamesofeden. Courtesy deviantart.com.

AUTUMN JOY
Mature size: 2 feet wide, 1-2 feet tall
Water requirements: low, water every three weeks
Sun/shade requirements: half to full sun
Features: upright stalks with pink summer blooms that fade to a rust color

Photo by Flamesofeden. Courtesy deviantart.com.

Go to mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu for more information about succulents, including varieties that the group has propagated for sale.

— Information from UC Master Gardeners
When remodeling and building homes for families, a contractor is helping clients create future memories. So many life events happen at home from celebrations to prom night. A functional, comfortable home that fits a family's lifestyle has never been more important.

Michael Mok, CEO and co-founder of Bridges MR Development, feels that a building contractor is woven into the lives of the clients. While working so closely together, his team develops a strong working relationship based on clear and honest communication. They are grateful that people trust them in an industry that is perceived to be low trust.

Mok grew up in and currently resides in Palo Alto. He was inspired to become a builder after seeing his parents go through a challenging home remodel while he was in high school. Mok started his career as a scientist in biotechnology but decided to change his career after getting his MBA from Santa Clara University.

Denise, Mok’s friend and former co-worker, had seen the team’s work on Facebook and contacted Mok for a major remodel of her poolside master bathroom.

It was time to remove the ceramic tiles of the 70s to create a Zen Modern bath. The bathroom had a planter box next to the shower, which is quite unusual.

As a general contractor, Bridges MR Development is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the ideas of the homeowner, architect and designers come together. They assemble the team so they can plan everything from design to finances. A detailed plan prevents change orders which can prolong the completion of a project. At the end of the day, planning is the best way to create a dream home in a timely manner.

Bridges MR Development brought in design partners Lisa Cross and Gemma Jackson of C&C Designs. Denise described her family’s ideas for the space. They wanted a natural theme that tied together the outdoor BBQ, backyard and pool using wood tones mixed with hexagon patterns. Denise wanted a retreat where she could relax after the kids had gone to sleep, as well as double as the pool shower.

Lisa Cross, owner/interior designer with C&C Designs says, “We love designing master bathrooms, as they are often the

Building dreams together

STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND THOUGHTFUL PLANNING HELP FAMILIES MODERNIZE THEIR LIVING SPACES

This bathroom was featured on the cover of the April 2022 issue of the National Kitchen and Bath Design News publication. The master bathroom remodel features his and her vanities divided by a makeup application area. The shower area features a recessed area for toiletries. Photos by Caroline Tudor Photography.
first space our clients enjoy when they wake up in the morning, and the last space they go to unwind at the end of a busy day.”

“Well-thought-out design can make such a difference in how one starts their day getting dressed and ends their day relaxing,” added C&C Designs owner/interior designer Gemma Jackson.

C&C Designs created an organic and modern look for the bathroom. They tied in the modern style to mirror the outdoor BBQ area. The master bathroom design included porcelain countertops on the dual vanities and luxury vinyl plank flooring that resembles wood. At the client's request, a special area for applying makeup was created between the vanities. The water closet is hidden on the side for privacy when both people are in the bathroom.

Once the design was finalized, the general contractor submitted the permit to the city. They were fortunate that there were no revisions. The only changes came after they opened up the walls and discovered some foundation damage. A structural engineer was brought in to address the required repairs. When remodeling it is common to find unforeseen damage hidden behind the walls. Bridges MR Development helped the client navigate the challenges by keeping them apprised of these events and providing solutions.

Health and safety are important for all who enter the work area. Plastic zipper walls controlled the dust and prevented the children from entering the construction zone. A portable HEPA filtration system also helped to minimize the dust in the workspace. This project finished in a timely manner despite the delays posed by the early days of the pandemic.
From the ornate Victorians to the early shingle-style Craftsman to the Spanish Colonial Revival look championed by homegrown architect Birge Clark in the 1920s to the mid-century modern Eichlers that began popping up in the 1950s, Palo Alto boasts a hodgepodge of architectural styles that span more than 100 years as well as several notable local architects who helped define the area’s cityscape.

This column takes a look at the history and significance of the Queen Anne-style homes that became fashionable in the 1890s. These houses, recognizable for their corner towers and flamboyant gables, began popping up in Palo Alto’s earliest neighborhoods near the turn of the 20th century.

With decorative trim, towers and turrets, the Queen Anne architectural style has been called a collision of volumes and elaborate features. Originally an English style formulated in the 1860s, the Queen Anne went through many transformations before it arrived in Palo Alto the 1890s.

The emergence of these Victorian homes in Palo Alto can be linked with the opening of Stanford University in 1891, which brought many young professors from the east and Midwest who chose to buy their own lots rather than lease campus land. As a result, some of the best examples of Queen Annes in Palo Alto were built between 1893 and 1898 in the College Terrace and Professorville neighborhoods, which were not part of the Stanford campus. Leland Stanford reportedly was never able to negotiate the purchase of the farmland that became College Terrace and later part of the town of Mayfield. And so many professors bought property just beyond the campus in the area south of Homer Avenue in Palo Alto that the neighborhood became known as Professorville.

Anyone who has driven through Palo Alto has probably seen at least one Queen Anne. These homes resemble earlier Victorians but are much less formal and include details reflective of the era’s opulent lifestyle, such as steeply pitched roofs, relief panels that fill triangular pediments, patterned shingles, fake half-timbering, brightly colored siding with contrasting trim, balconies, large wraparound porches with classical columns, bay windows and ornamental trim details.

The most readily identifiable feature of a Queen Anne, however, is its broad, round tower with a conical roof, usually found on just one of a home’s corners, making the façade asymmetrical.

But since Queen Anne is not a straight style, many variations of its key features can be found in Palo Alto.

Stanford’s early professors brought extravagant Queen Anne architecture to Palo Alto

Ornate towers and turrets still visible in city’s oldest neighborhoods

By Bo Crane

With decorative trim, towers and turrets, the Queen Anne architectural style has been called a collision of volumes and elaborate features. Originally an English style formulated in the 1860s, the Queen Anne went through many transformations before it arrived in Palo Alto the 1890s.

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Two houses built on Stanford University’s campus in 1892, for example, have matching round towers on both front corners. These mirror-image Queen Annes were designed by Charles Edward Hodges, the university’s resident architect appointed by Leland and Jane Stanford. The houses originally backed up to each other on faculty rows. They now sit side by side on O’Connor Lane.

In downtown Palo Alto is an ornate 1893 Queen Anne with a single corner tower. Tucked between a single-story commercial mall and a four-story parking lot at 418 Florence St., the home was relocated from its original location on the corner of Bryant Street and University Avenue to clear space in the busy commercial district in the years immediately following the city’s incorporation in 1894.

And Palo Alto’s Queen Anne towers aren’t always round, either. The home at 2275 Amherst St. has a square tower and pyramid roof. Another at 510 Waverley has a hexagonal tower facing the rear door of Starbucks.

In addition to the large Queen Annes, single-story cottages also were built with minor stylistic flourishes, such as those located at 1215 and 1229 Stanford Ave. These smaller cottages are called “restrained Queen Annes.”

One common feature most all Queen Annes shared at one time was their bright exteriors. A Queen Anne’s colors could brighten even the stiffest Victorian. The 1890s Queen Annes of Palo Alto have been variously colored over the years, but most now are subdued.

The city’s most notable and best example of a “fanciful full-blown Queen Anne” is located at 1023 Forest Ave., which at one time was located just outside the city limit. The house has mismatched round towers at both front corners. The larger right-hand tower had a conical roof, made of copper, which was destroyed in the 1906 Earthquake, perhaps by a collapse of the adjacent brick chimney. Stored for years in the basement, the cap was eventually scrapped for metal in World War I, and the tower now has a flat roof. The façade is far from symmetrical but does have both unique and repeating trim patterns, enhanced by the detailed blue and white paint scheme. The home has been called “the Grande Dame of Crescent Park.”

— Bo Crane is a Palo Alto native and graduate of Stanford University. As secretary of Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, he organizes and leads architectural/historical tours of Palo Alto neighborhoods. He also is a board member of Palo Alto Historical Association and historian for the Menlo Park Historical Association.

Above: This Queen Anne at 450 Kingsley Ave. was built in 1894. Courtesy Bo Crane. Top right: This 1898 Colonial Revival/Queen Anne earned a preservation award from the Palo Alto Stanford Heritage (PAST) nonprofit preservation group in 2018 after its turret was restored. Courtesy Palo Alto Stanford Heritage.

HOW TO IDENTIFY QUEEN ANNES

≈ Corner towers: can be round, square, octagonal, hexagonal.
≈ Typically asymmetrical design
≈ Steep roof line, gables
≈ Variety of textures/siding materials: brick, clapboard and shingles.
≈ Cantilever bay windows
≈ Deep overhangs, covered large porches that sometimes wrap around a corner, second-floor balcony that often overhangs the home’s entry.
≈ Ornamental details: Classic columns, dentils (small rectangular blocks used as a decoration under the soffit), relief panels, balustrades.

Many of these features are not unique to Queen Annes, except when combined with the towers.

WHERE TO FIND THEM IN PALO ALTO

≈ 552-556 O’Connor Lane, Stanford University: Built in 1892, these mirror-image homes are symmetrical and feature matching round towers on both of their front corners.
≈ 418-420 Florence St.: Built in 1893, the home was relocated to its present site and features an octagonal tower.
≈ 1027 Bryant St.: Built in 1898, the home was restored in 2015 and features a single tower.
≈ 706 Cowper St.: Built in 1894, the home features a single tower.
≈ 2275 Amherst St.: Built in 1893, the home features a square tower. It has been called the “crown jewel” of College Terrace.
≈ 510 Waverley St.: The home features a hexagonal tower.
≈ 1215 and 1229 Stanford Ave.: Single-story cottages known as “restrained Queen Annes.”
≈ 1023 Forest Ave.: The home is a prime example of a fanciful, full-blown Queen Anne. It is considered the “Grande Dame of Crescent Park.”
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ONLINE CLASSES

Monthly plant clinic
Saturdays, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10; 10 a.m.-noon
Free; mgsantacara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar

UC Master Gardeners hosts a monthly online plant clinic via Zoom for gardeners who want to chat with an expert to diagnose a plant problem or listen and learn while other people ask questions. Advance registration is required. Priority will be given to questions that are emailed in advance; instructions are in the Zoom registration confirmation.

‘Integrated Pest Management for Weeds’
Thursday, July 21; noon-1 p.m.
Free; mgsantacara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar
Learn how to control unwanted weeds in your lawn or landscape using integrated pest management practices. John Roncoroni, retired weed science adviser will lead this online session hosted by the UC Statewide IPM Program. Zoom registration is required.

‘Romantic Summer Blooms’
Saturday, July 16, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto
$129 [members], $149 [nonmembers]; gamblegarden.org

Spend a morning at Gamble Garden learning how to artfully design a seasonal arrangement with colorful summer blossoms such as roses, lisianthus, Veronica and Queen Anne’s Lace. Instructor Gamble’s floral arranger Katherine Glazier will show participants how to enhance their floral designs with color harmony and texture and share tips on how to care for summer blossoms. Participants will leave this class with a luxurious arrangement and some new floral design skills.

GARDEN & NATURE TOURS

‘Signs of Summer’
Tuesday, Aug. 2, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve, Edmonds Road (near Hassler Road), Redwood City
Free; openspace.org
Join Docent Naturalist Liz Foreman to explore for signs that summer has arrived. Participants will hike the Blue Oak and Dick Bishop trails and climb to the top of a ridge on the Dusky-footed Woodrat Trail to take in views of the San Francisco Bay and surrounding hills. There will be an elevation gain of about 600 feet on this moderately paced outing with some uneven terrain. Meet at the preserve parking lot on Edmonds Road.

Summer Nights at Filoli
Thursdays, now thru Sept. 22, 4-8 p.m.
Filoli; 86 Cañada Road, Woodside
$15-$25 (advance tickets required)/filoli.org
Every Thursday night through-out the summer, Filoli is open for extended hours so visitors can experience the tranquil setting of twilight at the historic estate’s formal gardens. Food, wine, beer and cocktails are available during extended hours at the Bluebird Bar and Cochinita Food Truck. The Irish Session Band is scheduled to perform traditional Irish session music at the Pool Pavilion each evening from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

— Linda Taaffe

An assortment of colorful flowers blooms at Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto. Photo by Adam Pardee.
Summer 2022 Design Trends

1. Rattan Material
2. British Revival
3. Built-In Storage
4. Sculptural Sofas
5. Warm Tones
6. Repurposed Dining Rooms

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An atrium that extends an enthusiastic open-air invitation to pop in for a neighborly visit.

For a deeper look into the customization of this mid-century modern landscaping, visit Harrell-Remodeling.com/Imagine

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