

# PHOENIX HOME & GARDEN

*The Magazine of Southwest Living*

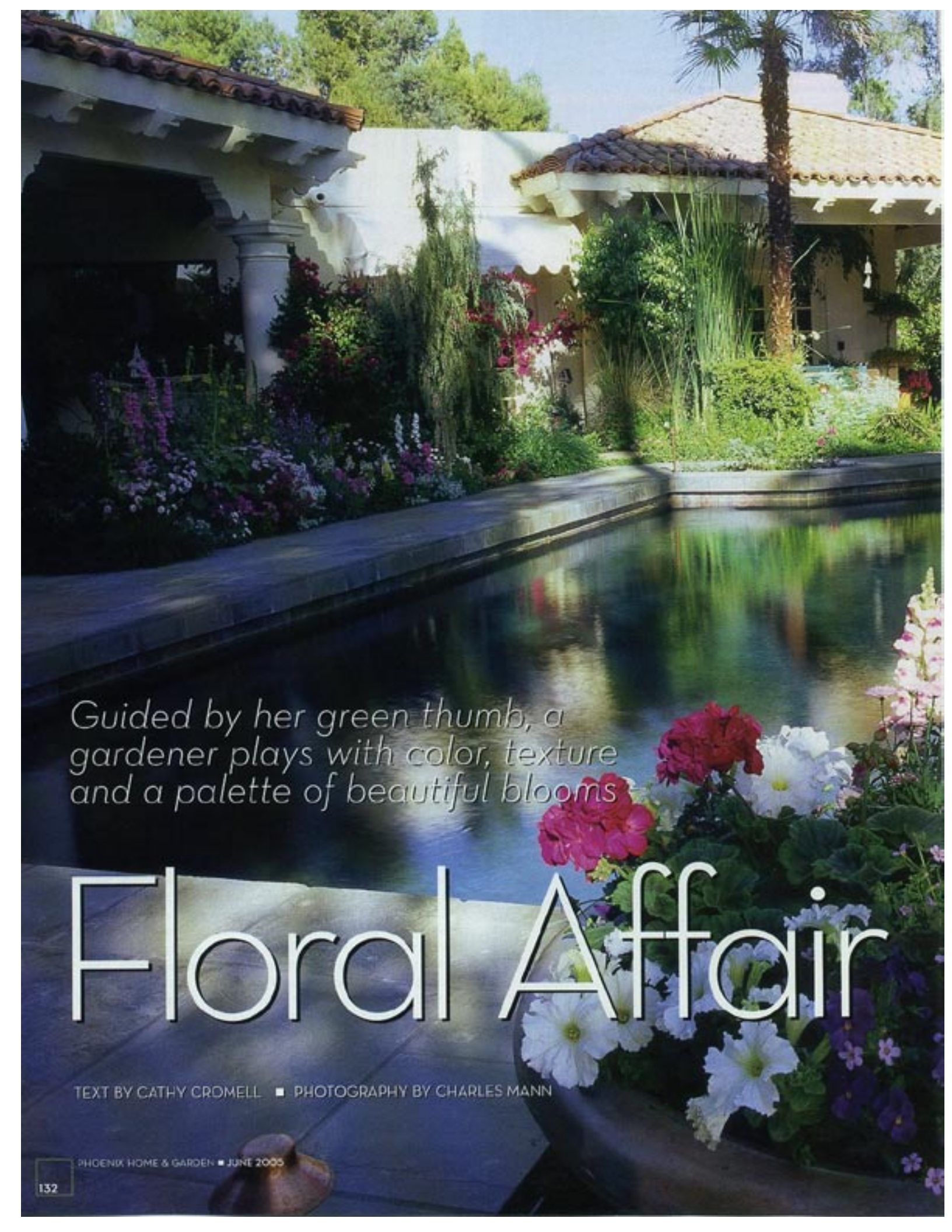
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## Special Kitchen Issue

Dream Kitchens  
Cool Cuisine  
Smart Countertops  
and More



A photograph of a garden featuring a pond, various flowers, and a building with a tiled roof. The scene is lush and colorful, with a mix of greenery and vibrant blooms. The pond reflects the surrounding environment, and the building has a classic architectural style with a tiled roof and white walls. The overall atmosphere is serene and beautiful.

*Guided by her green thumb, a gardener plays with color, texture and a palette of beautiful blooms*

# Floral Affair

TEXT BY CATHY CROMELL ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLES MANN



**Left:** Flower beds and containers explode with color in Don and Lil Cashman's back yard. The pool was resurfaced in black pearl Pebble Sheen® to resemble a pond. **Above:** A Tolleson's weeping juniper hints at something magical: the entrance to a secret garden. Nearby, a blue plaque reads: "Fairies live in the bottom of our garden."

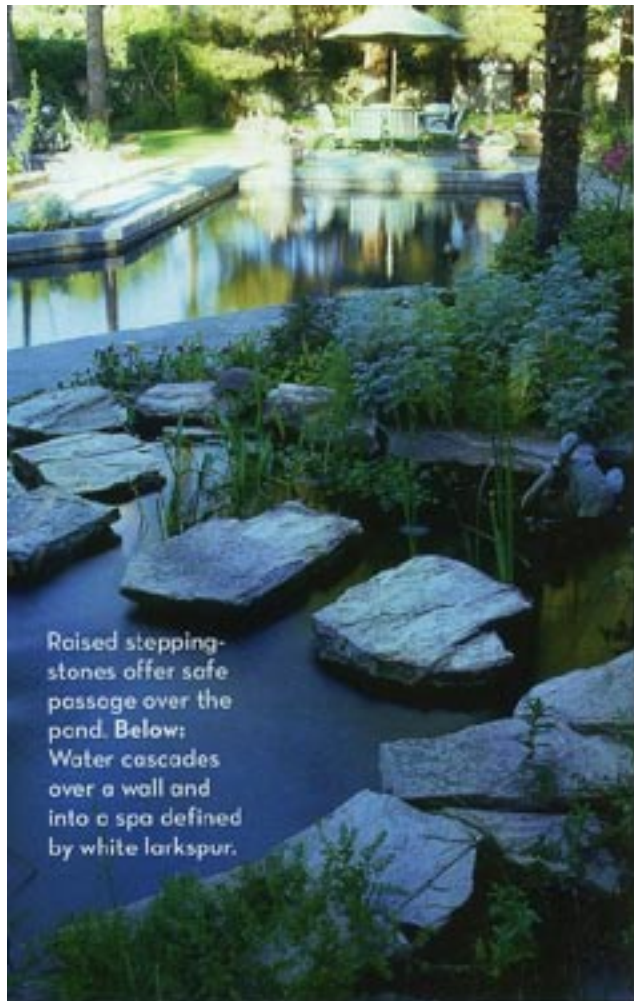
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receive enormous pleasure from gardening,” says Lil Cashman. “I just planted five more containers, and I’ve been grinning all day.”

Lil and Don Cashman have lived in their Paradise Valley home for 16 years. There was little that was unique about the landscape when they moved in: It was made up of citrus, palm and pine trees, a few shrubs and a swimming pool. With guidance from landscape architect Greg Trutza, Lil, an avid gardener, set about transforming the yard into charming spaces for activity or relaxation.

She and Trutza have collaborated on gardens at two homes over two decades, giving them plenty of time to confer on plant and design preferences. They have incorporated various elements, such as a waterfall and spa to create a strong visual impression from the front entry and also to obscure traffic noise.

Ponds and a stream were added another year. “I wanted a water feature close to the house, and Greg suggested creating a natural-looking creek that



Raised stepping-stones offer safe passage over the pond. Below: Water cascades over a wall and into a spa defined by white larkspur.



A quiet sitting area surrounded by greenery looks out onto the pond, where horsetail reed sprouts out of the water.

flows into a fish pond," says Lil. Today, yellow jasmine tumbles over the rocks into the water, providing color and fragrance.

The couple enjoys dining alfresco in a patio alcove that protects tender banana trees, ficus trees and split-leaf philodendrons from cold and direct sun. Nearby, water from the pond gurgles soothingly. The effect is one of dining amid nature within steps of the kitchen.

"Lil has always been one of my 'Garden Ladies' with a green thumb," remarks Trutza. "We experimented with all kinds of great plant combinations, and she would add her loving touch to ensure success." Now the landscape abounds in sweet scents and color year-round.

Lil's attractive annual and perennial flower combinations transfixed visitors who viewed the landscape during the 2003 *Phoenix Home & Garden* Grand Tour of Gardens. Even so, Cashman is equally moved by the colors and textures of shrubs that form the backbone of the plantings, including variegated hibiscus and pittosporum, and an impressive 8-foot loquat that shows off coppery new growth and delicate sprays of whitish-pink flowers.


"I think of the garden as a blank canvas, and I use plants to add color, texture and form," she says.

With the exception of mowing, Cashman handles all of the gardening tasks herself, including pruning. "My pet peeve and joy is pruning," she says. "Hedge trimmers make plants into round balls or squares. I like things to look natural, so I do everything by hand with my clippers. I'd make a good barber."

One of her favorite areas in the landscape is a "secret garden" that evolved for grandchildren but is equally enchanting for adults. Weeping juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum* 'Tolleson's Weeping') obscures the entrance with long, droopy branches that are reminiscent of Spanish moss. Visitors crouch down to follow steppingstones into a shady nook enclosed by tree-size shrubs. A bench allows believers to wait patiently for the arrival of garden fairies.

"I love to have things in the garden for children to enjoy," Lil remarks. "It takes me back to being a little girl in my grandmother's garden in Chicago, when cherry blossoms drifted down on me like snow. It was magical." □

See *Resource Guide*.



Poolside plantings include purple delphinium, reddish-pink salvia, pink marguerite and yellow-flowered Jerusalem sage. A walkway of Tioga stone winds around the pool to a secret garden.