



Festival of Flowers coming to St. Mary's

The fourth annual Festival of Flowers will once again bring a bevy of blossoms to the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption at 1111 Gough Street, on Cathedral Hill, during the first weekend of October.

Because it is also the 40th anniversary of the cathedral, floral designers and arrangers from throughout the Bay Area and beyond are coming together to create a special feast of color and scent in the soaring 19-story modern space. Workshops will explore flowers in art and the history of the cathedral. Music and food will also be presented.

For more information about the festival and a full schedule of events from September 30 through October 3, call 567-2020 or visit cathedralflowers.org.



The new garden takes advantage of the various levels of the lot to create separate spaces for different activities.

Renovated Backyard Has Rooms for Outdoor Living

CHRISTINE GEMUEND, who lives with her husband Markus only a couple of blocks from Fillmore Street, decided last year that their garden needed a total revamp.

The terraced backyard was filled with overgrown and unattractive plants, the concrete retaining walls were deteriorating and the wooden deck was rotting. So she enlisted Janet Moyer Landscaping to transform the unsightly mess into a useable space where the couple could read and entertain.

"We wanted to enjoy our garden — not only for our viewing pleasure, but also for actually living in it," says Gemuend.

The Gemuends' new garden design takes advantage of the various levels of the

lot to create separate spaces for different activities.

The top terrace in the back features a pergola that supports a climbing rose and wisteria, underneath which the Gemuends enjoy reading and relaxing. The middle level features a serene reflecting pool surrounded by travertine tiles, a bit of lawn and a line of purple-tinged *Podocarpus* saplings that will eventually fill in and provide some separation from neighboring yards. This area is the prominent visual accent, and while there are no fish in the pool, Gemuend happily reports that the water lilies bloomed this year. The deck level closest to the house is accented with outdoor tables, chairs, a heater and a grill

— all easily accessible from the house.

For the most part, the new landscape features a formal and symmetrical design. Plant selection was based on a color palette of white, pink and lavender, so there are plenty of roses, agapanthus, fuchsias and other decorative plants. To minimize watering, the landscapers installed an irrigation system that has significantly reduced water waste.

"The levels make the garden interesting and inviting," says Gemuend. "We love the urban scene, so having our home near Fillmore where we have easy access to that upbeat lifestyle suits us. Yet we can enjoy our home and garden as a place of serenity and comfort."