

ROB & KAREN'S GARDEN THAT CRAIGSLIST HELP BUILD

March 12th - Near 22nd and Swan

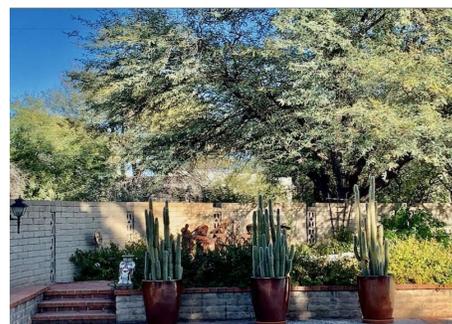
Hidden near a busy Tucson intersection is a special natural desert neighborhood where Rob and Karen went to work to create a lush and diverse landscape. They have been working on the gardens in their 2.25 acre property for the past 5 years. The front area is mostly still native desert with added accent plants.



Their walled back yard's focal points are groupings of huge rose-quartz and chocolate lava boulders showcasing many specimens of cactus and succulents. Serpentine reddish flagstone paths wind through planting beds. The area outside of the sunken garden portion was started about 5 years ago. Aside from a few fruit trees, the entire area was a 4" deep layer of dirty white rocks with black plastic underlay with lots of weeds. It was a massive job to remove. The sunken garden only had bermuda grass until



about 18 months ago. They removed that and brought in new soil to make low berms and positioned new boulders found on Craigslist.



They then planted trees and laid flagstone paths. Aside from a few trees and agaves, Rob found all of the other plants on Craigslist. The reason he scoured Craigslist was because they could get affordable mature plants so that this garden, begun less than 2 years ago, would look mature.



They have a wide variety of plants throughout the garden, and many trees to provide filtered shade. A rusted ironwork gazebo, outdoor shower, pergola, wrought iron aviary, goldfish pond, an original 1963 3-lobed swimming pool and art add focal points to their landscape. This is a large landscape project completed in an impressive short time frame.



SOIL: They usually use Palm & Cactus mixed with some native soil
WATER: Cactus about every 3 weeks in winter, weekly in summer



PESTS: The main problems have been with agave snout beetles, running bugs and Texas longhorn beetles. They've had luck with a systemic pesticide once in the spring and by frequent inspecting and removing some pests by hand.

TIPS: If you are energetic and and trawl Craigslist, you can create an amazing mature garden quickly for cheap. Specific details on their many projects will be available in handouts the day of the tour.



Limited handicap access