The design approach for this garden was directed towards a newly married couple and the wife’s two teenage children. The house was leveled and a new contemporary home took its place. A modern organic feel incorporating steel, glass, concrete and wood in harmony was our objective. It was also important to create several different types of spaces for intimate gatherings or family entertaining.
More private spaces were created in the lower rear garden. A glass tile veneered circular fire pit is surrounded by another circular wall and bench design. The lower garden had to be interesting from above, as the house looks out over the garden as well the unobstructed Laguna Beach coastline beyond.
The city’s four foot height limit in the front yard inspired low profile custom designs such as a low rectangular concrete fireplace glowing nightly with sparkling fire ice. A custom made steel and glass water feature welcomes you at the entry and creates privacy to the patio just behind it.
This home is sited high in the hills of Laguna Niguel with expansive views of the town below, nestled under the shade of mature trees provided wonderful light quality to plan a garden under.

The design approach for this garden remodel was a "Craftsman-Zen" style. The clients had a clear vision of what they wanted to see, but no idea how to make it all come to life.

Flagstone footpaths meander through the gardens featuring woodland plants and Asian water features.
To enhance the back yard’s usability we added a large stone edged patio with a custom built gas fireplace connected to a new outdoor kitchen with a long serving counter.
A serpentine baffled wall separates the front yard from the street, but a welcoming wood gate enhances the entry. Many unusual perennials, shrubs and grasses create seasonal interest and visual “Zen-Like” enjoyment. (right)

The spa, in dire need of a facelift, received stacked stone veneer and redefined spillways.
Set high on a hill in Temecula, this property combines the rustic nature of the surrounding environment and the desired modern style of the owner.
Taking years to build and a focus on details, this Modern ranch house is blended beautifully. With a large circular driveway in front of the house, dappled with wild flowers and native grasses, you feel comfortable with the sense of casual elegance. The long rectangular lap pool tucked up closely to the back of the house provides amazing views of the surrounding valley floor.
Attention was paid to installing many native plants around the property so to maintain respect of the rural setting and keep landscape maintenance to a minimum. The simple clean lines are visually calming to the senses.
WITH AN UNINTERRUPTED VIEW OF BALBOA BAY, THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW HOMES THAT ENJOY THE LUXURY OF A LARGE, SUNNY COURTYARD.
This house must be one of the very few left on the Newport Peninsula with a large existing a front courtyard. The house and garden have an uninterrupted view of the Balboa Bay, which we needed to enhance and bring closer to view. Most people would have enlarged the house into this space, but these clients longed for more usable “outdoor rooms” for their summer retreat.

They claimed when they entertain no one sits out in the courtyard, so it was important to “draw” guests out into the space.

We accomplished this by extending a sizable patio cover out into the yard. Under this we created a sitting area off the kitchen, a small lounge area facing a gas fireplace and a dining area lit by a custom wrought iron chandelier.

The patio’s central focal point was a new terra cotta fountain, which bubbles to mask nearby traffic. The beds are packed full of colorful Mediterranean plants such as climbing bougainvillea, potted citrus, lavender, cannas and Kangaroo paws. The surrounding walls were covered with Passion Vines for the neighbors to enjoy.
Inspired by east coast architecture and a more ranch style setting, this garden focused on creating surprises and a varied use of plant species that brought color and interest throughout the year.
My clients were very interested in different uses of unusual plants and creating secluded paths leading to intimate spaces to relax or enjoy the family.

Curving slate pathways carry you to the front porch and entry. We painstakingly placed large boulders on mounded rock gardens, created dry stream beds, gravel and flagstone pathways, which were flanked with a variety of colorful perennials and shrubs and trees. The rear garden showcases three large copper pipes extending from a curved rock wall spilling water into an oval swimming pool flanked by a raised spa both surrounded by flagstone patios.

Extensive woodwork such as arbors, gates, porches and an extensive covered gazebo complete with a custom stone fireplace articulates the cape cod feel.