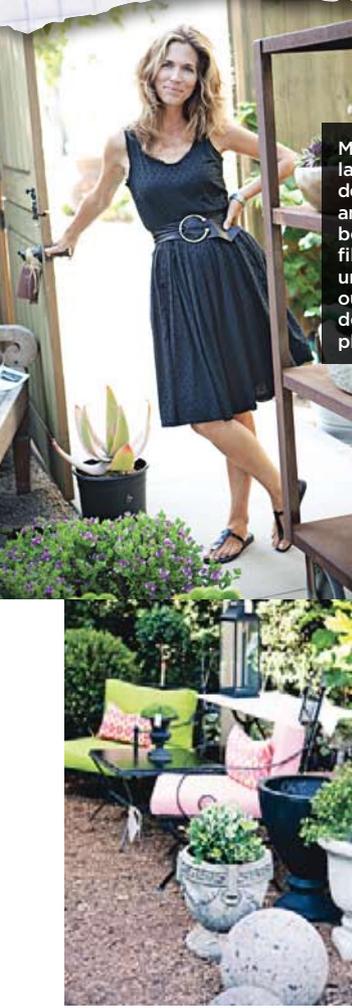


home OUTSIDE

3 TIMELY TIPS



Molly Wood's landscape design studio and garden boutique is filled with unique outdoor decor and plantings.

COSTA MESA

Molly Wood, Green Goddess

Brought up in Oregon by a mother whom she affectionately describes as “a hippie,” landscape designer Molly Wood recounts rainy days collecting wild moss and sailing tree bark canoes down muddy rivers. “My Barbies were very outdoorsy. We were always in nature, and without knowing it, I began creating organic environments early on.” These days her collections are a trove of vintage objects such as zinc pails, hand-thrown Egyptian clay pots and antique Hungarian egg baskets used as plant containers, all housed at **Molly Wood Garden Design**,

which also serves as her studio. Whether conceiving plans for her own property or that of a client's, Wood considers the existing land and cultivates drought-tolerant gardens which integrate hardscape finishes like vintage tiles and repurposed stone. “I've always been about less is more and reusing materials,” says Wood. “Finally, everyone else agrees!” 1660 Orange Ave., Costa Mesa, 949-548-1611; mollywoodgardendesign.com. CHI-LIN SUN

Planting before the winter rains ensures roots are well established in time for summer's heat, making October the best month to replace underperforming annuals and perennials and plan for new blooms.

NORCAL Transplant azaleas and camellias and consider adding primrose and cyclamen bulbs, which will bloom slowly during the winter and then fully blossom in spring.

CENTRAL Seeding of native wildflowers is perfect for a small area that allows overgrowth. Try California poppies, globe thistle and lupines from seeds. **SOCAL** Trim roses after their last flush of blooms, remove any diseased leaves and give them a good spray to discourage mildew.



LOS ANGELES FAUX FIREFLIES

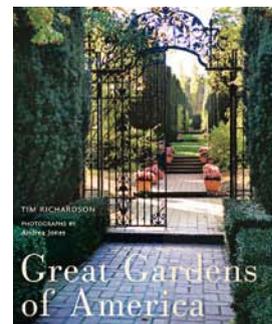
The best use of five hours of hot L.A. sun? Recharging **Solar Buds** so sunset socials will have the perfect green glow. *Plug Lighting*, 8017 Melrose Ave., L.A., 323-653-5635; pluglighting.com.



SAN FRANCISCO

NOW AND LATER

For a fresh S.F. gift, skip the fruit-of-the-month club and send **Rose and Radish's** Before and After Floral Subscription. Bouquets will arrive in all things reusable, from linen napkins to sky-blue porcelain. From \$200/month; roseandradish.com.



IN PRINT

➤ **IT SHOULD COME** as no surprise that five of the 25 gardens in *Great Gardens of America* (Frances Lincoln, \$50) are in the Golden State. From the public wonders of San Marino's Huntington Desert Garden, Cornerstone Place in Sonoma, Santa Barbara's Lotusland and Woodside's Filoli to the private sanctuary of Sonoma's Donnell Garden—each define what author Tim Richardson calls “America's embrace of the wilderness ideal.”



Filoli

The Huntington's Desert Garden