

THE ORANGE COUNTY HOME REDEFINED™

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MOLLY WOOD

MOLLY WOOD GARDEN DESIGN

After a childhood spent enjoying the outdoors, Molly Wood began her garden design career, quite literally, from the ground up. “I started working in private gardens in my early 20s, doing maintenance and literally ‘digging in the dirt’ as a one-woman operation,” she says. Realizing that a career in garden design would satisfy both her creativity and her passion for nature, Wood eventually opened Costa Mesa’s Molly Wood Garden Design in 1995, and has now expanded her repertoire to offer both design services and an eclectic retail space filled with plants, outdoor furniture, fountains and new and vintage garden ornaments. Wood recognizes the importance of flexibility—“Our work is best characterized by the nature of our design approach instead of a specific garden style,” she says—and remains committed to achieving her clients’ individual goals. She attests, “We like to say that we are here for our clients from concept to candlesticks.”

GARDEN FIND

Go Club Chair, \$575;
loll designs.com



What defines your style?

As a boutique firm, we pride ourselves on each job being unique, and based on the clients’ needs, architectural style, geography and climate. Whether a large estate or intimate garden, we create personalized outdoor spaces that successfully achieve the status of brick-and-mortar home additions.

How long do you typically spend on one project?

In a perfect world, we are part of a design team that’s put in place at the beginning of the conceptual phase. We like to have the input of the architect, interior designer, contractor and, most importantly, the client.

How do your clients contribute?

It really is an intimate relationship. For us to do our jobs well, we need a clear understanding of our clients’ lifestyles. Additionally, the architecture of the home is always honored. From Mediterranean to high-concept modern, all our design solutions provide dynamic environments that express our clients’ visions.

What would people be surprised to learn about your work?

One cannot be fooled by my relaxed, gentle demeanor. I can be ruthless in my attention to detail.

What is your most unusual landscape design story?

We were hired last year to create a lush, but water-wise, garden in Kuwait. It has been an extraordinary experience.

What inspires you in your work?

My children. They compel me to create responsible, timeless gardens.

What should homeowners splurge on when it comes to their gardens?

The first splurge is design. Having a master plan is a critical element in the long-term success of a garden. Beyond that, it varies—every client has that one element that will make them smile every time they see, hear or smell it. The fact that it is different for everyone is what makes my job limitless.