



The Molly Wood Garden Design showroom focuses on the outdoors.

IN FULL BLOOM



PHOTOS: JOHN BARBER AND TRINA ROBERTS

Bestsellers:

Custom succulent arrangements, vintage abalone bottle openers and recycled glass beads

Keep your eye on:

John Kelly Designs garden furniture and Wood's custom hanging daybed

From her succulent staples to her penchant for beach-themed objects, Molly Wood has been coaxing the land around OC's coastal homes into modern but intimate outdoor rooms. Along the way, she has been finding decorative objects, accessories and furniture, some of which she has installed in her garden design projects in neighborhoods from Shady Canyon to Newport Harbor.

It was only a matter of time before Wood opened a showroom for all those finds – a place in which exteriors and nature – not interiors – are the muse.

"The original concept was to have a showroom to better serve my design clients," Wood says. "This is a single location where they could have access to the most functional and current furnishings that complete the gardens we created.

"We always welcomed 'walk-ins,' and over time we just sort of organically grew the retail side. Today, a lot of our customers shop at our store to freshen up their space or to find the perfect accessory or gift."

If, from the outside, the Molly Wood Garden Design showroom looks like a house, that's because it was exactly that. "It's in a 1920s bungalow just off 17th Street on Orange Avenue in Eastside Costa Mesa," she says. "Given its age, it's not your typical retail location, and I think the charm and character of the house and garden make for a great backdrop to work with."

The inspiration of the showroom "comes largely from the area we live in," Wood says. "Most all of our merchandise represents or is meant to enhance the coastal Southern California outdoor lifestyle."

Inside and outside, Wood's space is a manifesto for her love of clean lines, ocean-inspired themes, unexpected furniture combinations, and a lot of breathing room. Pearlescent glass floats sit next to white faux starfish. White Verner Panton chairs flank an outdoor wood-slatted table with black iron legs. Vases are filled with succulents and plants with sculptural qualities.

"Our motto has always been 'from concept to candlesticks,'" Wood says, "and the store provides us the opportunity to truly embrace that." - LISA LIDDANE

PLANT IT

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