



“Small is Beautiful”

By Irma Vitale

The garden that I would like to show you is on the Costa del Sol, Marbella, located in Malaga, on the edge of a golf course; winner of the “Gardeners Club of the Costa de Sol” prize.

It is a small garden house with an area of 140 sqm, built in January 2005. It is of subtropical Mediterranean style, typical of Marbella, with some formal touches through the symmetry in the placement

of plants etc in the form of beads that point the way to the entry of the house.

It is facing a golf course, so the purpose of the design was not to block the view but provide continuity to the garden and to make it seem bigger. However, to give privacy from neighbours, a mix of shrubs that are decreasing in height towards the golf course was planted.

It is a low-maintenance garden in which most species are resistant to drought and the salinity from the sea. In both corners slow growing palms were placed as sculptural elements. The planting scheme is based primarily on the use of plants of different textures and colors within the range of green. The two most important palm trees, planted in the corners are a grayish green that blend with the gray of Gazania and Arctotis as well as with reddish tones of Alternanthera.

The green foliage of cream Phormium combined with the yellow flowers of Gazania match the blue sky hues of the Plumbago, repeating the predominant colors in the interior of the house. The Strelitzia, along with the composition





Rose banksiae begin in March, followed by jasmine, then the coves in April, Arctotis in May, Gazania at the end of May as well as Plumbago, hibiscus along with Stephanotis. In June the solanum jasminoides, together with the above, remain in bloom throughout the summer.

of Phoenix roebelenii Schifflera and placed symmetrically on both sides of the garden, provide volume while functioning as hedges.

The varying scents of the garden are highlighted with the flowering of Trachelospermum, Stephanotis, and Lady of night. The climber Parthenocissus covers the walls of the entrance with a copper red color in autumn.



The color palette is dominated by soft colors with accents in the ranges of green. Color is used both in the foliage and flowers. The flowering of the plants means that throughout the year the garden retains its interest. The begonias bloom throughout much of the year.

Any combination of textures, colors and perfumes results in an intimate space for relaxation while overlooking the golf course and the sea, further enhanced by the site's remoteness.

