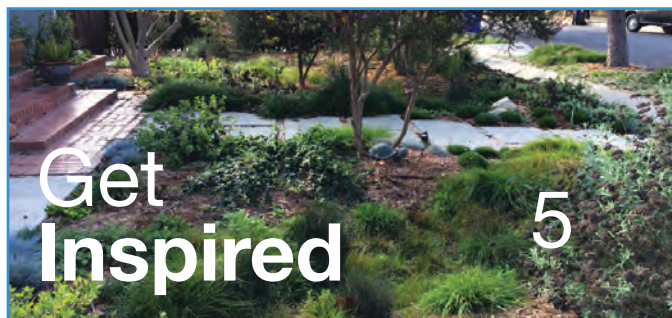


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Waterwise Landscapes

Stout Design Build, Inc.

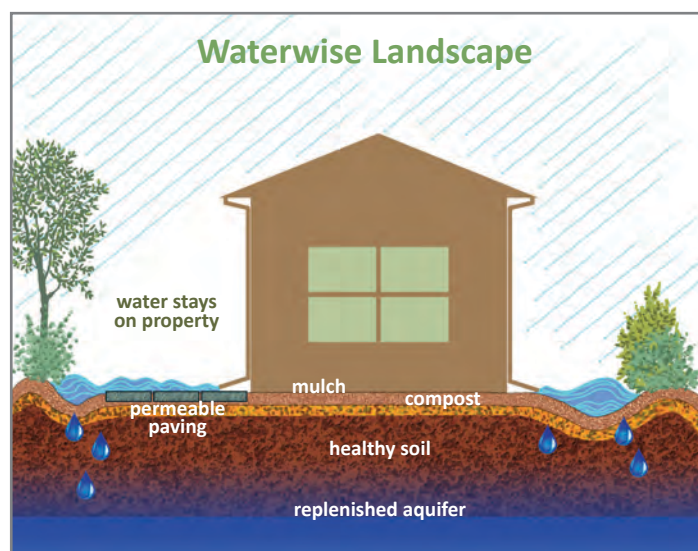
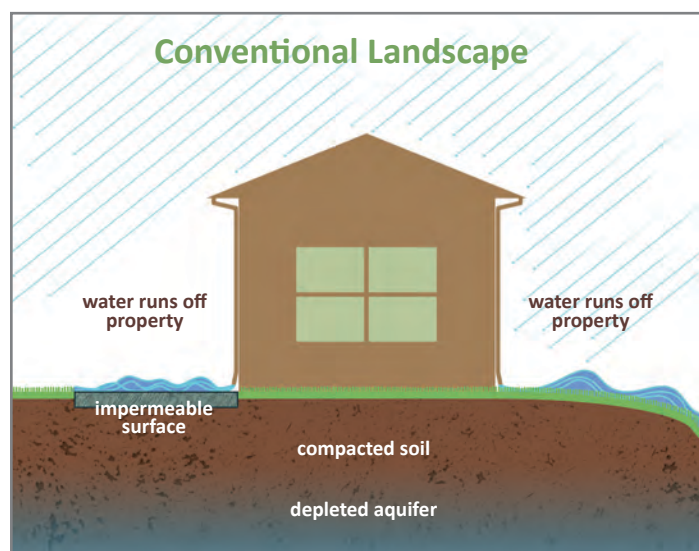
These Beautiful gardens...

require less water, but don't look dry; they are attractive, lush and evergreen because they were transformed from grassy yards using the principles of sustainable landscaping.

While some conventional landscapes may waste water by allowing water to run off the property, waterwise landscapes are designed to hold on to rainwater and reduce the demand for supplemental irrigation. In the pages that follow, you'll see inspirational gardens that allow us to continue enjoying Southern California's varied and amazing climate and outdoor lifestyle, while conserving valuable natural resources and creating a diverse habitat of plants and insects.

If we want landscapes that are truly resilient to changes in climate and ecosystems, we need to go beyond sustainable and water wise principles to begin managing each property as though it were a mini-watershed. By paying attention to the design of the garden, building soil and keeping rain on our properties, selecting climate-appropriate plants and managing supplemental irrigation, we transform our grass-covered landscapes into abundant watershed wise enhancements to our properties and neighborhoods.

Now dig in!



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In three **Easy Steps**

Stout Design Build, Inc.



see **BEFORE** image on p.26

Flower to the People



Flower to the People



Healthy soil is made by adding compost, covering your garden with mulch, and by avoiding soil disturbance as much as possible. Compost boosts soil organisms that reduce diseases and pests. There's no need for adding fertilizers or pesticides on sustainable gardens.

Maintaining 3" of small-size organic mulch on top of every open space in the landscape keeps the garden looking clean while slowly building the soil. The mulch holds in water, so less irrigation is required (see p. 63).

When downspouts are directed to these landscapes, the soil becomes a giant sponge that helps keep plants healthy and happy, whether it's raining or we're in a drought.

Selecting climate-appropriate plants like those from Mediterranean climates and, even better, from Southern California's own native plant communities, makes your garden automatically adapted to the seasonal summer drought, wet winter months, and various microclimates. Many plants from the five Mediterranean climates, (South Africa, area around the Mediterranean Sea, Chile, Australia, and certain regions of California) are appropriate for our gardens, but the Southern California summer is drier than the other Mediterranean climates.

Local native plants benefit the local native birds and insect species by providing food and nesting materials! There are many dry-adapted evergreen and long-flowering California native plants. When you use them in your garden, you get year-long interest and a garden filled with life, on reduced summer irrigation (see p. 48).

There may be years when there isn't enough winter rain, or you may have plants you love that struggle to thrive in the long, hot, dry summers. In those cases, you want to apply supplemental water through a highly efficient irrigation system.

Efficient irrigation makes sure every drop of water applied to the landscape stays there for the benefit of the plants. By using weather-based "smart" irrigation controllers and drip irrigation that applies water directly to the roots of the plants, you can keep your landscape healthy without wasting water (see p. 65).

You also can reduce your irrigation use just by paying closer attention to it. Grab a cup of coffee and get to know your irrigation controller!