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# The Naturally Beautiful Garden

DESIGNS THAT ENGAGE WITH WILDLIFE AND NATURE

RIZZOLI  
NEW YORK





← Gnarled old cork oaks full of character dignify a courtyard relandscaped by Fernando Martos. The trees are underplanted with clipped domes of native *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Phillyrea angustifolia*, with fragrant star jasmines covering the wall.

resinous trees of frankincense, myrrh, and “dragon’s blood.” During this time, it has been interesting to see how two very different types of landscape—the tended garden and aspects of “wilderness”—have been converging in our own backyards.

Many more gardens in the twenty-first century are habitat-focused than in the previous century. In regions experiencing hotter and drier weather than in the past, the wise collection, storage, and careful usage of water is paramount. Those gardening in arid locations and “Mediterranean” climates (hot and dry summers, cool but with variable amounts of rain in winter) are much better served these days, with nurseries selling interesting and climate-appropriate plants.

Grouping plants with similar soil and water requirements is crucial. At Cádiz, in southern Spain, for example, when relandscaping a patio courtyard, with its distinctive cork oaks, landscape designer Fernando Martos planted native evergreens *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Phillyrea angustifolia*, sheared into domes or buns, around the trees. In this pared-down, sophisticated space, they look right together; the shrubs’ watering needs are well matched with the needs of the cork oaks. The great trees would die if they were underplanted with thirstier species gasping for frequent drinks of water. Very different is the mossy, ferny dell in June Blake’s high-rainfall garden in Ireland (page 138), where the lawns also flourish as deeply green as we would expect in the Emerald Isle.