



TOLEDO GARDEN

Designer: Fernando Martos Location: Talavera de la Reina, Spain This Spanish retreat sits in a quintessentially dry landscape, north-east of the city of Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Toledo municipality has an exceptionally harsh climate, with high summer

temperatures and low annual rainfall. The property consists of a group of low-rise houses (originally livestock stables) and a traditional farmhouse. Locally sourced granite boulders give

character and connect the garden to its rural location. To the east, large windows and doors look out onto a garden bordered by a low dry stone wall, recalling its

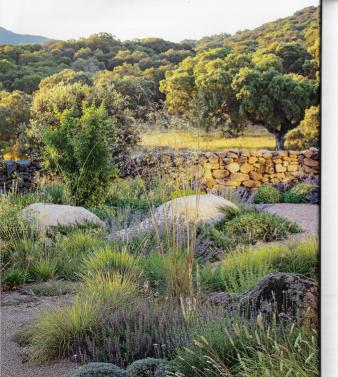
ancient agrarian heritage. In the distance, gentle hills are covered with evergreen oak trees - Quercus ilex and Q. suber.

Native and non-native planting design by Fernando Martos, assisted by Carlos Rodriguez Molina, is characterised by an array of herbacoous species. to survive sporadic irrigation.

The only tree is Acer monspessulanum, a droughtand heat-resistant native species with semi-evergreen foliage. Prostrate rosemary is used for cohesion,

grouped amongst the planting. The herbaceous layer consists of a matrix of Sesleria 'Greenlee', a low-growing evergreen grass of unknown parentage that acts as a filler plant. Stachys byzantina, with its distinctive creeping silver foliage, sits at the edges together with Euphorbia seguieriana and groups of mat-forming used in the middle of beds, such as Salvia praterssis, S. officinalis, Phlomis viscosa, Adfillea umbellata and Stipa gigantea - this tall native grass is particularly

evocative catching rays of light at sunrise and sunset.







EDO GARDEN