

Philadelphia Flower Show Bursts With The Wonderful World Of Color

BY LOU ANN GOOD

PHILADELPHIA — Snow, ice and slush coated the city of brotherly love this week, but inside the Civic Center splashes of brilliant color greeted those who toured the Philadelphia Flower Show.

Brick terraces, patios, tranquil pools and wisteria-laden arbors enhanced ornamentals, fruit trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and ground covers that creative gardeners fashioned for the event.

A gazebo framed by elegant displays of hybrid rhododendron surrounded by a hedge of white azalea showed the beauty of combining nature with designing talent.

Albrecht & LP Cowan, Narberth, built their sprawling "Over the Rainbow" display around ideas from "The Wizard of Oz." There were thatched roofed houses and a bridge over a pond with lily pads and a winding road that creeps through hundreds of colorful flowers such as tulips, primroses, begonias, lilacs, gloxinia azaleas.

Once Country, Chester County landscapers, captured the PHS Flower Show award for the Best in Show of Commercial Aesthetic. A beautiful old Chester County barn with original walls was transformed into a gracious home and garden. The copper sunflower sculpture outlined the formal entrance court and thrilled the crowd with its breathtaking landscaped beauty.

Vick's Wildgardens showed that professional planting differs from random planting. Their display pictured Jake's campsite. Ferns, wildflowers and trees spread pungent woodland smells that mixed with the fragrance of hyacinths scattered among the displays. The camping gear, tents and cabin set among the campground added an authentic touch to the man-made woodland setting.

"Color Through the Season," designed by Waterloo Gardens, Exton, portrays a garden showing the colorful splendor of the four seasons, each seen from a different window of the house. The spring garden features the beauty of pink tulips, daffodils, grape hyacinths, English daisies, and iris, accented by pastel pansies. Bowles periwinkle ground cover blooms under a stately 22 foot oak. The traditional flowering shrubs and trees, dogwood, rhododendren and azaleas make up a stunning array of color thta only spring can provide.

The summer garden features late blooming Japanese dogwood, American elm, impatiens in an aura of colors, geraniums, petunias, snap dragons, daisies, dusty millers and more.

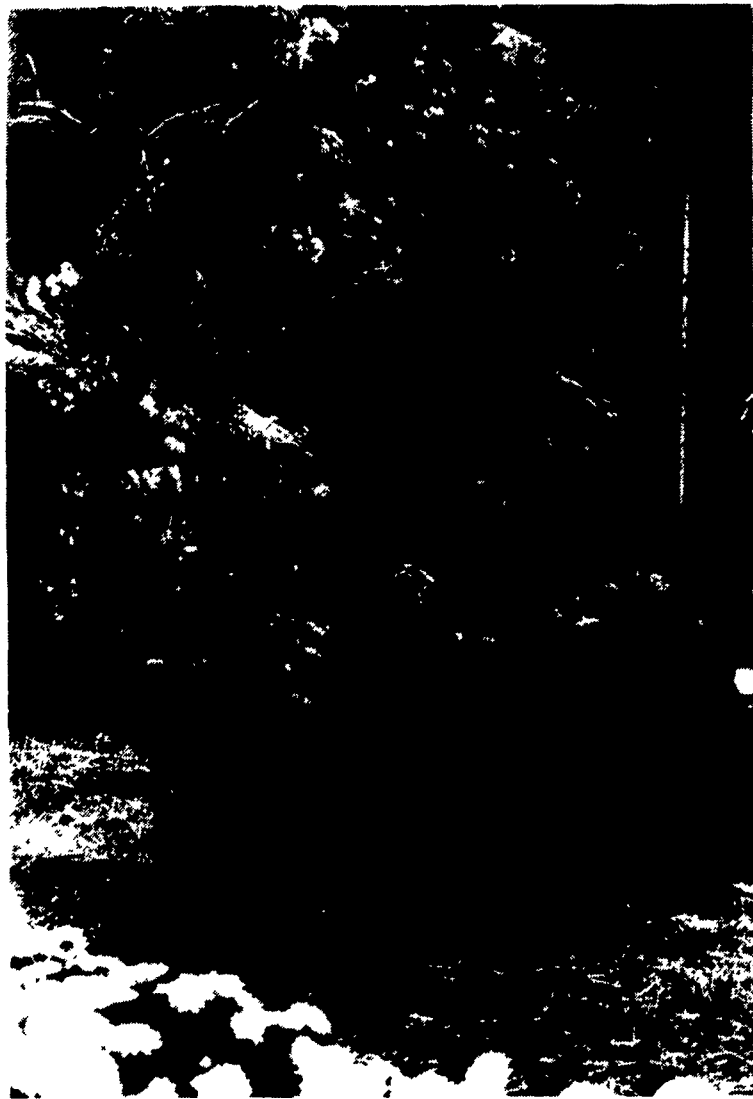
The conservatory style garden looks over the winter garden. Colorful orchids, and unusual bonsai and topiary specimens interspersed among red berried American holly and contrasting deciduous trees.

Window boxes for apartment dwellers showed superb suggestions for bringing color to city occupants.

Students from Delaware Valley College presented ideas for maintaining gardens through xeriscaping, an innovative landscape design to achieve water conservation.

Indoor floral designs and pictures with pressed and dried flowers offered competition for designers.

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Homestead Notes

