



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Envision a romantic English Garden boudoir, replete with a large Gothic canopied bed as the focal point... the fantasy creation of Eric Solberg and Pamela Ingram of Sassafras Nursery and Design. The garden is surrounded by ten foot tall pillars, sculpted with Tudor roses by artist Jim Sullivan. The bed is canopied with flowing shear fabric that wafts with every breeze. A romantic candelabra provides sensuous lighting. A patio features a pond and topiaries. The garden uses multi-faceted ground cover created out of light moss, dichondra, and a path created out of glistening charcoal quartzite. Roses and English perennials grace the garden which opens through a suspended gate. Designer Eric Solberg has been with Sassafras for fifteen years. He was raised and educated in New York, and began his design career in Buffalo, NY. His innovative work has been featured in Time, Town & Country and House and Garden Magazines. Pamela Ingram's award-winning designs and "render choice of color" have provided her international recognition. She is unofficially credited for the growing influence of the English Garden in Southern California through her use of old fashioned roses and English perennials.

The wildly romantic garden by Sassafras Nursery of Topanga called "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is an outdoor bedroom "with a Gothic kick," according to designer Eric Solberg. Although the idea of sleeping in a garden surrounded by roses is tempting, this garden is really a fantasy.

Screened by giant topiaries, a massive Gothic iron bed with matching candelabra sits on a rug of dichondra edged in Irish moss. Giant faux-concrete pillars covered in climbing roses make it a partially enclosed garden room, and there are more roses and other typically lush English plantings at the base of the pillars. One pillar stands in an ornamental lily pond and each has an old Tudor rose sculpted into the cement finish.

Display gardens are the highlight of any garden show and some at the Los Angeles show are good enough to take home ribbons from London's fabled Chelsea show. Like the Chelsea exhibits, a few could be lifted up and set down in someone's back yard after the show closes, but most are much too fantastical.