



# Betty's Garden

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Garden: Betty Ann Marshall (Betty Ann Marshall Design), 10611 Butterfield Rd Cheviot Hills CA 90064

Most of us know the adage, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade..." We search for a bright side where problems can quickly become challenges worth every effort. Betty Ann Marshall did just that by creating lovely focal points within her backyard garden from the 1994 earthquake's rubble. Remnants from her brick chimney meander through catmint and rosemary as a path to be discovered. Camellias, Japanese Maples, and a showpiece Staghorn Fern enjoy the cool canopy. Her English-inspired "haphazard" garden, with its less-is-more waves of color, invites the shoulders to drop away in relaxation.

"If you've lived in Cheviot Hills you're spoiled," Betty Ann asserts. A proud resident since 1973 first on Cheviot Drive and now Butterfield Road, Betty Ann acknowledges all the privileges she and the many Cheviot plant lovers enjoy. "We're

10% cooler than downtown LA and I cannot remember the last time we had frost." True, Cheviot boasts the ideal location; a temperate climate created from golf course open spaces and the ocean breeze. But most importantly, it's the Cheviot Hills climate, the climate of "pride of ownership" where most see value not in the garden as a façade, but as a contribution to the community's sense of place.

One of the greatest draws to Cheviot is its close proximity and access to many quality schools. "Overland Elementary children would come by with their teachers on field trips. It would make me really happy to see them stop and enjoy the soft touch of Lams Ear—and to smell the roses." Betty Ann muses, "A garden should be friendly and invite people to stop." And today bright electric orange "Jimmy Carter" roses on Betty Ann's parkway greet those heading west to school down Manning Avenue.

With our changing weather came a necessary change in Betty Ann's yard. "I installed drip irrigation, to be drought tolerant." She pulled up the patch of grass, but the new water distribution will not affect her favorite rare Anemones, her front garden's splash of gentle purple, or the abundant fig trees that seem to forever fruit. Like all of our evolving gardens, Betty Ann has adapted with the times—and smartly so.

Cheviot Hills residents have been proactive and many have created ways to save water and money without losing the fruits of the garden. We who live in Cheviot make lemonade with less water but may add a bit of garden mint (and sugar...). We "spruce up" the garden as Betty Ann suggests, by "streamlining" and planting less—for more benefit to our greater California community.