

ground rules

Saladino strikes the perfect balance between serenity and excitement. He creates calm by using the same palette in the house and garden and by repeating forms, such as rounded plants with stone balls. He then creates visual interest by breaking up that sameness in important ways.



furnishings

Saladino's secrets for a well-furnished garden:

- **seating** Have places to sit in every area. Make some on an intimate scale, others large for entertaining.
 - **pots** "A plant and its pot are like a marriage- the two must be compatible." He insists on gray containers for silver plants and terra-cotta for green ones.
 - **the mix** Use "the humble with the aristocrats."
- Chairs from Smith & Hawken surround a table made of an ancient stone. Mod square pots sit beside a 15th-century column

trademark periwinkle

Saladino's trademark color appears throughout the garden. ■ **blossoms** *Echium*, *Iris sibirica* 'Ceasar's Brother,' *Lavandula* 'Goodwins Creek Gray,' *Salvia memorosa* 'East Friesland,' agapanthus, and *Verbena bonariensis*. ■ **walls** Saladino created a wash by watering down a blue paint. He used only one coat so grain is visible and the look mellow. ■ **pots** Some are glazed blue, others are the color of lead. From Turk Hesselund or Botanik, Summerland, CA.



deliberate foils

Have a few deliberate foils to create a little tension

- **green on silver** A little dark green is necessary to make the mostly silver garden appear beautiful and pale. "One sees color only in juxtaposition." Some dark green favorites are rosemary, yew, and Italian cypress.
- **break it up** When planting a large sweep of one plant, like santolina, that you let grow free, plant one nearby that you clip into a perfect ball. A few vertical forms, like the columnar yew, punctuate the many rounded shapes.
- **consider the contrast** The whiteness of the double chaise pops in front of a blue wall.



variations of blue

Saladino uses many variations on blue: "I play it up and down like a musical scale." While the garden colors run from white to almost purple, the overall effect is of a shimmering silver. ■ **silver and gray foliage** Some of his favorites are *Teucrium fruticans*, *Lavandula dentata*, *Stachys byzantina*, *Santolina incana* 'Gray Tuft,' *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle,' *Westringia rosmariniformis*, and of course, olive trees. —DEBORAH NEEDLEMAN **S**

