

# ROMANTIC Garden

You can recreate this enchanting garden at home.

BY OLIVIA BOUNVONGXAY  
PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF THE CITY OF  
BEVERLY HILLS



*The Greystone garden is simple and elegant—  
and just might be that missing element to make your  
dream home complete.*

**LOS ANGELES IS OFTEN SEEN AS AN URBAN JUNGLE,** with concrete mountains and freeways that swirl the city. But nestled within lies a lovelier side of LA: an enchanting secret garden.

Surrounding the Greystone Mansion, the garden is a charming addition to the city. German landscape architect Paul Thiene designed this three-tiered project in 1926, when the mansion was built. First owned by the Doheny family, it now serves as a cultural and educational center owned by the City of Beverly Hills.

Locals and day-trippers unwind at the garden, which is styled with Italian and English accents, and surrounded by tiered fountains and white roses. Overlooking the city, it exudes romance with the classic style of an Italian villa.



One of Los Angeles' historic sites, the 429-acre ranch overlooks the city.



**Opposite:** Use boxwoods to recreate the structure of your house. The spiral green mimics the pointy tips of the roofs, adding whimsy and wonder.

## Get the Look:

### Simple Prepping

Planning is key. To get the Greystone Mansion ambience, you may have to do some research. Remember that where you live plays a big role in finding the right plants to suit your surroundings, so keep it simple—especially when working with a small area. Plants like white blooming iceberg roses are low maintenance, yet elegant and stately.

### Garden Charm

Topiary shapes and symmetry are whimsical elements that exude a classic look. Boxwoods are ideal for the traditional English garden, because they are very adaptable and well-suited to growing in containers. Use an antique vessel to hold your sprouting sculptures, then get creative. Add a touch of charm by trimming your boxwood into cones or tiered spheres which complement your home's architecture. Use wires to help hold the shapes in place.

### Beyond the Basics

If you walk through your garden and see an empty space, fill it by adding fixtures to your home. Forego the white picket fence and invest in accessories that will not only last, but truly make your landscape a garden sanctuary. Modern fountains and birdbaths are ideal because they are relatively lightweight and inexpensive, yet still effortlessly chic. Sculptures come in a myriad of shapes that will fit any style. Whatever you choose, be sure it represents you, while also complementing your home.

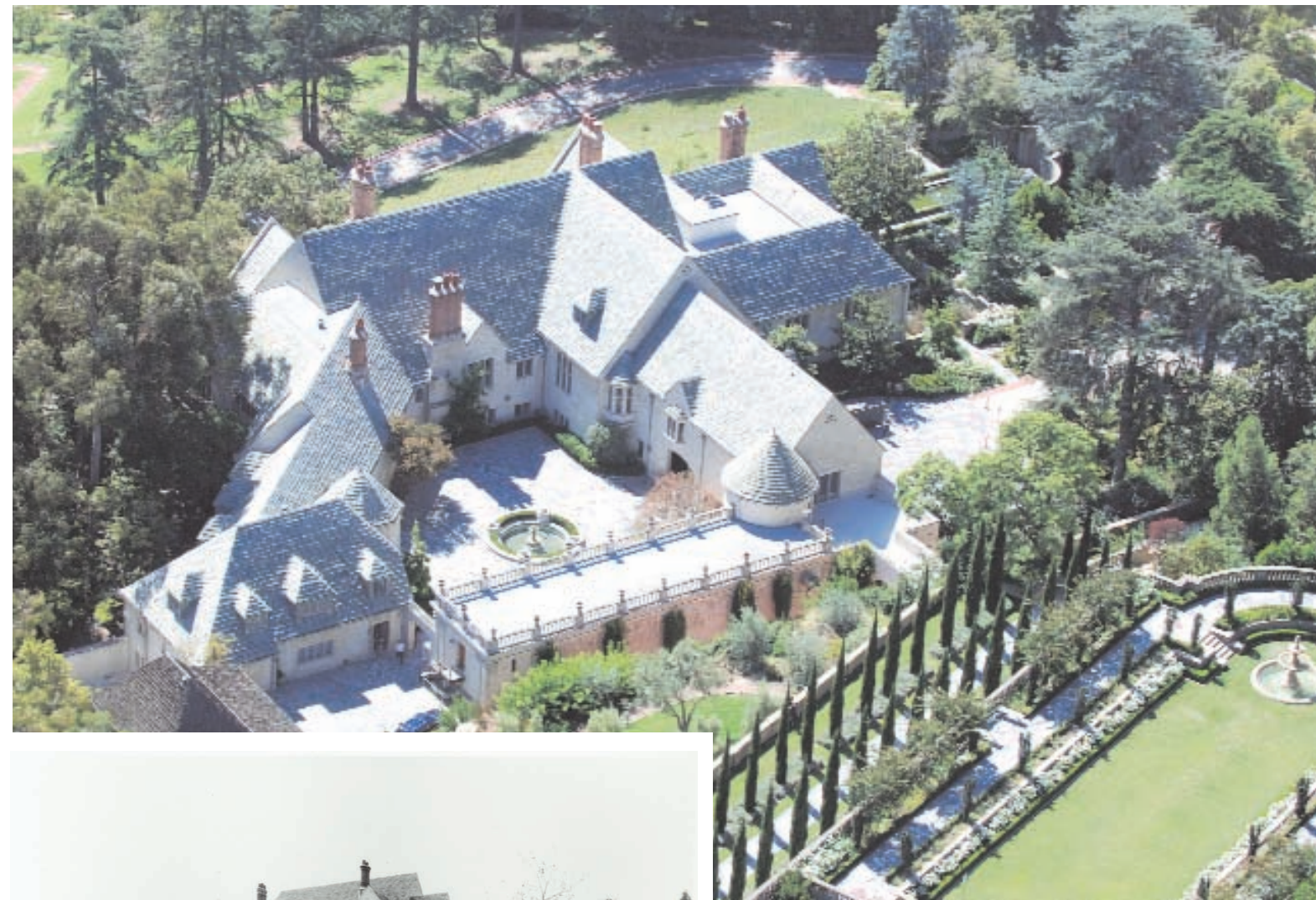
### Natural Shades

English gardens are well-known for their tranquility and charm because they produce a "natural" feeling as if planning were unnecessary. However, with most gardens, there needs to be some structure. Choose primary plant colors, then balance them with soft shades like pink, soft white and lavender, so they don't take away from the landscape. Finally, always trim your flowers. The more you cut, the more opportunities you'll allow for future blooms.

### Outdoor Nook

After you've put in all these efforts to create your dream garden, what better way to enjoy it than in a comfortable and cozy space with guests? An English garden calls for rustic colors and antique furniture. Scour thrift stores and architectural salvages, and consider buying furniture with waterproof pillows and cushions.





Greystone Park is located at 905 Loma Vista Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210. For more information, visit [greystonemansion.org](http://greystonemansion.org).

**Clockwise:** Elegant flowers are just as beautiful as sculptures or fountains. Used as a centerpiece, the base serves as a platform for an organic work of art. • Don't invest in expensive fixtures for your garden. Rustic skeletal furniture is an easy thrift find that will work for your budget, and fit in with the style of an English countryside. • A raised view of the Greystone garden shows the structure and layout of the landscape. • A cozy sitting area in the garden allows you to relax and appreciate wildlife and nature. Even as simple as two antique chairs, having a shady nook is essential. • This rectangular pond is perfect for the symmetrically shaped garden. Complimenting the home, the landscape is beautiful, clean and well structured.