

“Juan was busy at the time, so we said we’d wait,” Dale recalled.

Juan finally met with Maria and Dale in November 2013 and developed a plan to divide their property into four distinct areas.

A concrete bridge over a dry riverbed accented with drought-tolerant plants would serve as the focal point of the front yard, which faces east. Crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia*) and jacaranda (*Jacaranda mucakaranda*) trees provide colorful blossoms throughout the summer. Northern California craftsman Carl Waite was commissioned to build a custom reinforced redwood front gate.

The north-facing side yard already had a wall separating the Disharoons’ lot from their neighbor’s property. Although Japanese lantern trees (*Crinodendron hookerianum*) partially obscured the cedar fence, it wasn’t enough.



Raised vegetable beds and fruit trees bear produce throughout the year including radishes, edible flowers, lemons, kumquats, strawberries and apples. MINDY MELLEBRUCH

“The houses are on tiered lots, so I ran a stainless steel cable supported by 4x4-inch pressured-treated posts in front of the fence and planted red and

pink trumpet vines (*Campsis radicans*),” Juan said. “The eye is drawn to them, and the cable keeps the fence stronger because it isn’t supporting the weight of

plants, which can get woody.”

Inspired by the contemporary design that they first saw on Juan’s website, Maria and Dale decided on separate outdoor living areas, at two elevations, both with Cordoba cream travertine floors.

In one corner of the backyard is a single-step, cantilevered elevation for a dining area with table and chairs for 10 guests, along with a kitchen with a 16-foot L-shaped polished concrete countertop. The charcoal-burning barbecue is wrapped in Mangaris hardwood. A contemporary shade sail rated to withstand winds of 75-80 mph offers protection from the elements including stray golf balls. The canopy was purchased from So-Cal Shade Sails.

In the opposite corner, a two-step cantilevered elevation serves as a living room with a ventless fireplace veneered with

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