

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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The Home Designer

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Sculptures Grow Like Flowers

In this Orinda garden, art sprouts from the ground up

By Chris Lavin



Discarded irrigation pipes are beautifully used for dreadlocks.

Photo Chris Lavin

To hear how artist Karen Wyse came to own her house, which she and her husband bought way back in 1974, is to take a trip back in time. Picture Berkeley, picture peasant skirts, bare feet, picture freedom and anarchy. Picture a friend showing up at your door and saying, “You have to see this place in Orinda.”

BART was new. Most fares were 30 cents.

Wyse’s friend had been going door-to-door in Orinda selling powdered laundry detergent. It was a somewhat typical job people did back then, with a commission of 25 cents per box, and he had gone to knock on a door that turned out to be on a 3-acre piece of land that was to die for. ... continued on page D4