

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for November ...read on page D9

Award-Winning Lamorinda Garden Designs

By Cathy Dausman



Beauty abounds in Lamorinda gardens; the East Bay chapter of the California Landscape Contractors Association says it's so. Lamorindan Steve Lambert of Garden Lights Landscaping Development entered six landscape projects for consideration – five in Orinda and one in Lafayette – and garnered a total of seven awards, from second place to Sweepstakes in the categories of large, small or custom residential design and building, special effects lighting, and sustainable landscape.

CLCA awards are handed out in 15 categories, from landscape design construction and maintenance on both residential and commercial properties. Each project is reviewed and judged anonymously by industry experts from outside the area.

Lambert is most proud of his Sustainable Landscape award. "This was the first time I've ever entered a project in this category," he said. But Lambert is no stranger to the contest criteria; two years ago he helped judge the CLCA North Coast Chapter submissions. *Lamorinda Weekly* spoke with three of the owners who won the contractor's awards.

Kathy Dickinson learned just recently that her project won the Sweepstakes Award. Her family has lived in their hillside Orinda residence for 15 years; she said her outdoors is a "pretty challenging environment" because of the wind.

"It's a very natural setting with about 20 oak trees," Dickinson explained, and it has an overabundance of gophers and moles. The family's first attempt at landscaping was to plant vegetation the deer wouldn't eat.

"That was a fool's choice," she laughed, having learned since that deer will eat practically anything. They were unsure whether to simply give up or to install fencing. Dickinson asked Lambert to infuse their yard with color and protect their oaks.

He planted a combination of native and drought-tolerant Mediterranean-style plants.

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Sweepstakes Award winner for Sustainable Landscape: Kathy Dickinson says her yard has "a very natural setting."

Photos courtesy Garden Lights Landscape Development