

Sunset

African daisies with reddish orange flowers skirt the front of the Wilkinsons' garden. Just behind are *Aloe marlothii* with saffron-colored flower spikes and kalanchoe with pink bell-shaped blossoms (left). Evergreen shrubs bring up the rear; from far left to right are New Zealand tea tree (*Leptospermum scoparium* 'Ruby Glow'), *Leucaclendron* 'Safari Sunset', and a treelike protea.



South African flavor in Southern California

Even if your favorite plants aren't traditionally used in cottage gardens, don't assume that they won't work; the trick is to use multiple varieties and plant them for an unstudied effect. That's the lesson behind Alan and Angelika Wilkinson's exotic cottage garden in Los Angeles.

When the Wilkinsons moved to Southern California, Alan realized that the climate offered the opportunity to use plants that he had grown up with in South Africa. (Both Southern California and South Africa's western Cape Province have Mediterranean climates, characterized by long, dry summers and mild but wet winters.) Alan started a wish list of plants—including acacia, aloes, arctotis, kalanchoe, and leucaclendron—and asked landscape designer Robert Cornell (626/398-5581) to help him fit them all in. Alan's desires matched Cornell's cottage-garden approach: "Plant-intensive, naturalistic gardens are my style," Cornell says.

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