

## Host Is George Grecu

## Visit To Japanese-Inspired Garden

When George Grecu gives a party, it's always something special. But when it's a garden party, it's a real event. His unusual Japanese-inspired garden provides the perfect setting for a festive party.

Seminole, near Inkster and Nine Mile, and near the one-story house with the white rail fence on a standard lot, they get no hint of what awaits them.

But in the driveway, the first festive touches appear.

RISE FROM the flower bed along the driveway are several tall, slender bamboo poles topped by brightly colored streamers.

As George, who immediately puts everyone on a first name basis, greets his guests, he ex-

plains that this is a traditional part of Japanese decor.

Pass through the gate, and you leave Michigan behind and step into another world, secluded and exotic, a world of dreams and enchantment.

The total effect is serene, but it is not a simple garden. It is composed of a great many intricate, interlocking parts skillfully combined to create a unified whole. Attention has been paid to the scale of everything in the garden; it has no large trees.

Each plant is a living sculpture. Each accessory—whether an imported antique or created by Mr. Grecu—is fascinating.

THE GARDEN, which Mr. Grecu has been working on for 12 years, is always being changed or added to.

The fish pond, stocked with five varieties of Japanese goldfish, is the latest addition. Constant care is needed to keep edges trimmed and shrubs pruned and shaped.

All this creative and meticulous work is done as a hobby. By profession, Mr. Grecu is an accountant, but he has marked artistic ability and a flair for

the unusual.

Mr. Grecu asserts that his garden is not a copy of a Japanese garden. Rather, it is a garden in the Japanese spirit that was created with the reverence for living plants, the admiration for the tones and textures of wood and stone, and a veneration for ancient objects and traditions.

THE YARD is enclosed by screens of matchstick bamboo and translucent shoji panels. Gravel paths lead to a fish pond and to a tall Japanese good-luck Torii gate—the focal point of the garden.

A small weeping crab tree bends gracefully toward the pool, and set in raised beds exotic Japanese umbrellas, pinches, clipped myrtle pines and numerous other carefully pruned and trained evergreen shrubs create a garden of infinitely varied textures and forms and subtle green shadings.

The path leads through the gate, past an antique metal lantern on a tall pedestal, to the far corner of the garden where a graceful carved stone goddess

stands beside a soft-neoled metasequoia tree, with a bed of dwarf rhododendrons at her feet.

The goddess is placed so that her benign gaze is directed back over the garden and as one turns and follows her glance a fresh and different view greets one.

THE POOL is screened by shrubbery and tall dark Mexican lava rocks. Dominating this view is a fanciful golden pavilion with a pagoda-like roof.

Centered on a dark wooden platform that seems to float above the ground is a huge gilded birdcage in which white doves preen and flutter.

Flanking the cage is a pair of ferocious-looking ceramic dogs imported from Thailand.

Near the pavilion is a circular patio of charcoal-grey bricks set with a round metal mesh table and chairs. Cushions line the edge of a raised bed that extends along one side of the garden.

Another small patio at the side of the garage provides a vantage point for examining George Grecu's extensive collection of bonsai plants.



CATHERINE HURST of Ann Arbor admires the carved stone goddess. Pedestal is a chunk of anthracite coal.

*E. J. Korvette*

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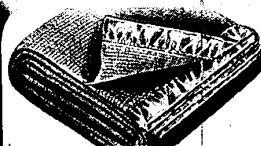
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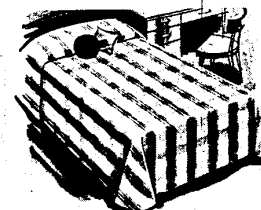


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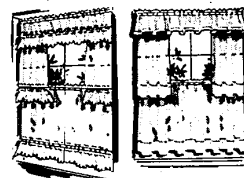
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## STORY:

Betty Frankel  
PICTURES:  
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## Daylilies Are Easy To Grow

By BETTY FRANKEL  
Special Writer

Everyone knows the tawny orange daylily (*Hemerocallis fulva*) that grows wild by the roadside. It's an old-time garden favorite that long ago escaped from cultivation and became naturalized.

Many gardeners are familiar with the sweet-scented lemon-lily that blooms in May, and with the larger yellow "Hyperion" that also has a faint lemon fragrance.

However, it may take quite a stretch of the imagination to picture a garden with hundreds of different varieties of daylilies blooming in colors that range from pale ivory and delicate pinks through apricot and golden hues to deep vibrant reds.

MANY OF the new varieties were displayed at Livonia Mall on July 27 by members of the Southern Michigan Iris and Hemerocallis Society at their annual daylily show.

Despite their exotic flowers, daylilies are very easy to grow. They are hardy and healthy and need no pampering. They grow in either full sun or light shade, in almost any kind of soil, and they are not particularly troubled by insects or diseases.

Varieties can be selected so that the gardener can have daylilies in bloom from May until September, although the greatest number of varieties bloom in July and August.

Most daylilies bloom on stems that are about three feet tall, but some may reach considerably higher, and there are delightful miniatures on stems less than a foot tall.

THE LONG ribbon-like leaves of the daylilies form a symmetrical mound that makes the plant attractive even when it is not in bloom.

Clumps of daylilies can be used for foundation planting around the house, to provide an interesting contrast with the evergreens used. They also provide good textural variety when used in a mixed flower bed.



GEORGE GRECU exhibits a bonsai from the collection on display in his Japanese garden.



WHITE DOVES in a gilded cage fascinate Mr. Grecu's neighbor, Susan Clark.