container
gardening

120 Design Ideas
and surefire recipes for planting success

Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

Owners of Designs for Greener Gardens, who create gardens, containers, and window boxes in the Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland, areas.
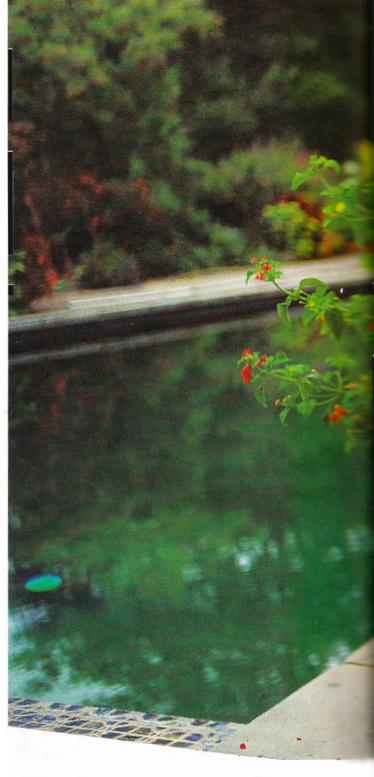
THEIR PHILOSOPHY: "Every home, apartment, balcony, restaurant, and boutique should have at least one container, if not 10. Container gardens are welcoming and add individual personality to any setting."

THEIR STYLE: "Our containers are bodacious, with lots of bold foliage featuring interesting patterns, bold texture, and exotic colors. We put a lot of thought into each composition. By contrasting colors, textures, forms, and shapes, we create containers that are dynamic from the day they are planted to the killing frosts of fall."

THEIR INSPIRATION: "Much of our inspiration comes from our travels to Europe and the tropics. So many times, we have been enlightened to try some boring, old-fashioned, common plant again because of something we experienced while traveling."

TIP FOR SUCCESS: "To grow outstanding containers easily, incorporate slow-release fertilizer into the soil before planting. But it is still critical to continue to apply liquid fertilizer every week to 10 days. Nutrients are quickly leached out of the soil with the regular watering that is necessary to grow a great container."

Photos, courtesy of Nancy and Pierre Moitrier

"Each season provides new opportunities to combine tried-and-true plants with a plethora of new and unique selections."

A heat-happy, easy-care combo

Australian sword fern is perfectly at home in the heat and humidity of mid-Atlantic summers, and it makes an intriguingly textured, low-maintenance anchor for this poolside planting. A variety of warm-hued blooms strongly contrasts with the deep green fronds.

① **Australian sword fern** (*Nephrolepis obliterata*, USDA Hardiness Zones 9–11)

② **'Rustic Orange' coleus** (*Solenostemon scutellarioides* 'Rustic Orange', Z 11)

③ **Patriot™ Classic Desert Sunset™ lantana** (*Lantana* 'Robpatdes', Z 9–11)

④ **'Margarita' sweet potato vine** (*Ipomoea batatas* 'Margarita', Z 11)