

2011 Xeriscape Awards

Award-Winning Desert Design



Photo by Kim Duffek

PHOTOS COURTESY OF 2011 XERISCAPE COMMITTEE

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, Tohono Chul Park and Tucson Botanical Gardens teamed up recently to present Tucson's 11th Annual Xeriscape Awards.

The goal of the contest was to recognize and promote the innovative and exemplary use of native and low-water-use plants, water harvesting, gray-water use and efficient irrigation systems. It also served as an educational tool to increase awareness of the xeriscape approach to landscape design.

Professional Residential Category

First Place ▲

Wendy King, River Road Designs
JACKSON RESIDENCE

The overall plan incorporated many mini-xeriscape designs. The goal was to tie together the hardscape elements for optimum outdoor living. The majority of plants selected are native to the Sonoran Desert, and faux grass was used. Berms and swales were used for passive water harvesting. In addition, three large water tanks with the capacity to harvest up to four thousand gallons of roof rainwater were added, and tied into the drip irrigation system.

Professional Residential Category

Second Place ▼

Shelly Ann Abbott, MLA Landscape Design West, LLC
COLE RESIDENCE

A colorful collection of native plantings, emphasizing texture, color and scent, was chosen to attract native wildlife and create a haven for homeowners to enjoy nature. Only a one-zone irrigation system was required due to the water-thrifty plant choices. Supplemental water is collected from the roof and utilized in specific areas.

Photo by Shelly Ann Abbott



Homeowner Category

Second Place ▼

LOGRECO RESIDENCE

The homeowners created outdoor living and dining rooms for entertaining as well as a barbecue, fire pit, hot tub and ramada. They were able to do a retrofit of the formerly high-water-use landscape. A swale through the garden collects runoff to add supplemental irrigation to their mixture of low-water-use plants.

Photo by Robert and Kimberly LoGreco



Homeowner Category

First Place

◀ REINERS RESIDENCE

This xeriscape design used a large diversity of species of mostly drought-adapted plants. Three separate zones were differentiated by the plant's water and light requirements. The irrigation system is supplemented by passive rainwater harvesting throughout the yard. The resulting combination attracts pollinators, birds and other wildlife year-round.

Photo by Cynthia Reiners

Judges Award ▶

Residential Water Harvesting

SCHAEFER RESIDENCE

These conscientious desert-dwellers have conserved and harvested rainwater to the extent that they use only 300 gallons of metro water each month. They have installed a sophisticated filtration system for reusing gray water for their needs. In addition to creating a 10,000 gallon reservoir, they also have installed three 1,000 gallon cisterns to harvest roof rainwater.

Photo by Jo Falls

