



Blake Garden, the teaching and research garden of UC Berkeley's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, offers a learning laboratory for UC students, and students from local community colleges and area schools. In addition to coursework, students have the opportunity for hands-on learning and observing the effects of the environment in designing outdoor space. A favorite project, Revealing the Landscape, occurs during the fall semester, when first year design students construct temporary installations throughout the garden.

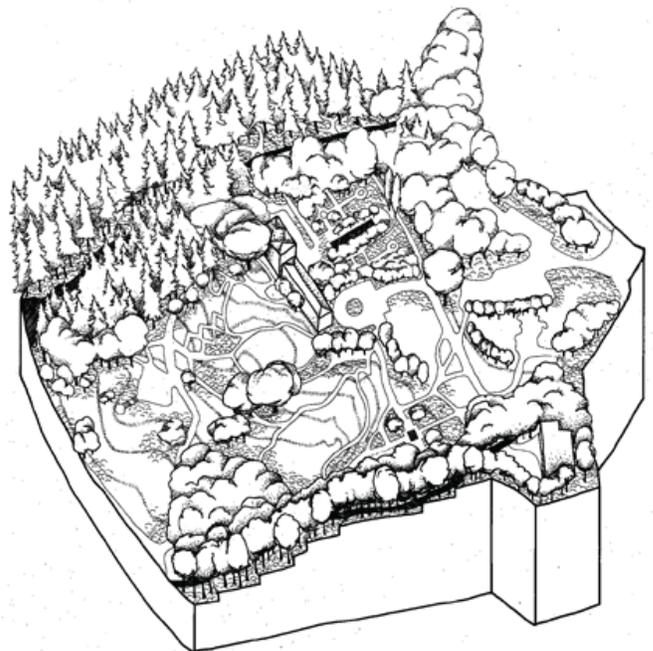
The garden was deeded to the Landscape Architecture Department in 1957 by Anson and Anita Blake. Their original family home was on Piedmont Avenue where the UC stadium now stands. The building of the stadium prompted the building of two homes in the Kensington hills, Anson Blake's house, now Blake Garden, and the Edwin Blake house, now the Carmelite Monastery.

The siting of Blake house is integral to the garden's design: it shelters the Formal Garden from the strong prevailing winds off the Golden Gate. The grounds for both estates were designed by Mrs. Blake's sister, Mabel Symmes, who graduated from Cal's Landscape Architecture Department in 1914. Ms. Symmes' original plan showed great sensitivity to the site. Much of her original plan can still be seen in the design of the Pink and Yellow Gardens with its grotto, inspired by the Villa Tusculana at Frascati, Italy and the reflecting pool which was part of a system to take advantage of underground water. The Redwood Canyon, with redwoods cuttings brought from the Blake's property in Berkeley and St. Helena, is planted along a natural waterway. The original plan also shows a lake in the Australian Hollow, taking advantage of the high water table in that part of the garden. In 2010 this area was restored to a native wetland by UC students, volunteers and Blake Garden staff. The wetland now provides habitat to a community of Pacific Chorus frogs and area birds.

Other parts of the garden include: the Mediterranean Garden on the western side of house, a showcase of drought-tolerant plants from the world's Mediterranean climates; the Cottage Garden, full of roses, flow-

ers for cutting, vegetables and herbs; the Square, with its water lily-filled pond, and beds brimming with low-water perennials; and the Event Lawn and surrounding beds, another fine example of water-smart gardening.

The garden is home to nearly 1500 plant species, over fifty bird species, as well as raccoons, frogs, salamanders, and the occasional fox. The garden is all organic, with many sustainable practices including four kinds of composting, rainwater harvesting, and hives of honeybees. Additionally, the Create with Nature Zone offers a space for visitors of all ages to experiment and build with materials collected from the garden.



For further information including volunteering and tours, please contact Garden Manager Lauri Twitchell at 510-524-2449.

Please visit the Garden's blog at: www.laep.ced.berkeley.edu/blakegarden.

BLAKE GARDEN, a 10 1/2 acre landscape laboratory, is used and managed by the UC Berkeley Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department. Temporary and permanent student projects can be seen throughout the garden. Students also study our diverse collection of plants.

Blake Garden is open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Tours are available to groups of 10 or more with advance notice.

Dogs are permitted on leash.

We do not allow climbing of trees and rocks.

No picking of flowers, fruits or vegetables.

Please stay on the paths.

We do have poison oak.

We ask that you take all your trash with you.

