

INDOOR + OUTDOOR LIVING | LOS ANGELES



STEPHEN BILLINGS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

310.310.8438 | sblastudio.com | @stephenbillings.la

Once considered a way of framing a home beautifully, landscape architecture has become so much more. Just ask Stephen Billings. “Our landscapes entice clients to be within the garden, immersed in nature. We often design meandering paths that weave through the property. We imagine it to be meditative and relaxing, but when busy, it can also serve as a walk on which to conduct business on the phone, for example.” That last part has been on the minds of Billings and the team at his namesake firm, Stephen Billings Landscape Architecture. “More than ever, the outdoors is playing an essential role in the well-being of our clients by shaping so much of their environment,” he shares. “More clients are working from home, and they’ve become obsessed with their landscape because they interact with nature more. They appreciate how much movement, color and seasonal beauty we’ve designed in their gardens.”



RETREATS + RECREATION

Asked to discuss some of the most unusual and popular requests SBLA receives, Billings says, “We recently designed **an ayahuasca pavilion** in a garden. It doubles as a bunkhouse for the children and their friends. We help our clients to see the full potential of their properties by adding fun elements like **meandering walks, secret gardens, yoga platforms and pool slides that descend through planted hillsides.**”

WILD WONDERS

Billings talks projects.

- **We love gardens that change over time.** We’ve created several meadows over the years, and we find that these rather wild-looking gardens are rewarding because they are always evolving.
- **Courtyards are a favorite for us,** because they bring the light, air and plants of nature into the deepest parts of the structure. We work with local nurseries to select specimen plantings and unique planters ... it all comes together like gorgeous sculpture.

Top An intimate seating area with tactile concrete walls, wooden benches and scented plantings is serene. **Far left** Making the most of a hillside high above Bel Air, this design features low-water plantings, and citrus and olive trees. **Left** An entrance walk is lined with bold, colorful plantings that complement the architecture.

Photography Top by Miranda Flores; Far left by Ben Wheeler; Left by Millicent Harvey



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Top Steps are integrated into planted terraces with bespoke fire and water features. **Right** This meandering gravel path is used for every dinner party, adding a sense of mystery as one wanders through it. **Center** An entrance walk is lined with bold, colorful plantings that complement the architecture. **Far right** SBLA enjoys creating vibrant meadows with seasonal color and movement.

Photography Top by Miranda Flores; Right by Marion Brenner; Center by Millicent Harvey; Far right by Caitlin Atkinson

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