



LOLLA FEVER

5 finds that are music to our eyes.

HELLO, GOOD BUYS

WHAT NOT TO DO

No, no, no, your home-entertainment equipment doesn't like that!

YOUR A/V GUY

GLOBAL DESIGNS

Importing that South of the Border style.

WHAT'S IN STORE

It's all about marrying landscape and architecture at the Cottage Living Idea Home



Tribune photos by Michael Tercha

At the Cottage Living Idea Home in Evanston, Guillermo Castellanos (shown above) created a garden that echoes what goes on architecturally in the house, says Debra Kees, one of the home's designers. The garden, with outdoor rooms that flow into each other, is a place "where you can forget where you are," says Castellanos. The view (below) toward the house from the garage shows Castellanos' interesting mix of textures, colors and hardscape.

By Mary Daniels | Tribune staff reporter

The house made him do it, says Guillermo Castellanos.

When the landscape designer heard he had the job of creating the gardens for the 2006 Cottage Living Idea Home, he was thrilled. It was an opportunity for a plum bit of public relations for his less than 1-year-old Evanston firm, Mito Inc.

But apart from that, it gave him the chance to show off his personal concept of garden design. "You relate [the garden] to the architecture of the house, and you try to extend the living space of the house," he says. When that is lacking, he adds, "a lot of people don't know what they're missing."

Well, for one thing, the lawn mower.

The gardens of the Idea House, open to the public for tours until Sept. 3, are for the most part, lawnless and low-maintenance.

But that was incidental to his main challenge of creating gardens that are integrated with the house, says Castellanos, who is originally from Honduras. (The name of his firm comes from the Spanish diminutive of his first name).

The Arts and Crafts-style cottage is new, though "craftily" made to look as though it has been there as long as its older neighbors on this tree-lined street. Castellanos coordinated his own efforts with those of architects Michaela Mahady and Debra Kees, SALA Architects of Minneapolis.

The front gardens, measuring roughly 40 by 45 feet, are introduced at the sidewalk by an arbor. Here "we were

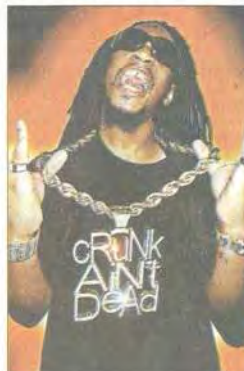
THE GARDEN



WITH A HOUSE IN ITS MIDDLE

PLEASE SEE COTTAGE, PAGE 6

SNOOP PATROL



Lil Jon

Say what? An Ozzie and Harriet life for the King of Crunk?

By Elaine Matsushita
Tribune staff reporter

Nyah, nyah. Ashton Kutcher couldn't punk Lil Jon—the rapper ID'd the MTV prankster's accomplices before they could even start to mess with him last year. But leave it to H&G to get the snoop.

(And, by the way, MTV, Lil Jon says there's no way he's going to be showing off his 70-inch TV or in-ground pool on "Cribs" either.)

We caught up with the King of Crunk by telephone while he was in Las Vegas working on his solo album, "Crunk Rock," due out Oct. 10. And despite what you might hear on his latest CD with the East Side Boyz, nary an expletive was uttered during our chat. Well, maybe one or two.

In fact, the man with the shiny grill was as gracious and low-key as Ozzie Nelson, giving us the virtual tour of the 4½-level, four-bedroom Atlanta home he shares with wife Nicole and 8-year-old son Nathan.

"When I walked into this house, it just felt like home," Lil Jon said about the traditional brick house. He loves the roomy kitchen, with its granite countertops, cherry cabinets, fireplace, "big, big stove and little grill on it," Sub-Zero refrigerator, TV and dining bar. But you likely won't catch him eating there.

"We eat in the family room," says Lil Jon, "where we watch TV — sitting there with a little tray."

1 One thing on your nightstand: I always have a bottle of water ... and the telephone.

2 One thing on a wall in your living room: My son's drawings. They give it a homey vibe and document his growing up.

3 One thing you have in your house from your childhood: My high school diploma [from Frederick Douglass High School in Atlanta]. It's on a bookshelf.

4 Three things we would find in your refrigerator: Barbecue sauce [Sweet Baby Ray's], CRUNK!!! energy drink, [Dasani] bottled water.

5 Three things we would find in your medicine cabinet: Echinacea, vitamin C and cod liver oil.

6 Do your dirty dishes go in the sink or dishwasher? In the sink. My wife washes them — she's a clean freak.

7 Most high-tech gadget or appliance in your home? The TVs. [Lil Jon has six: They're in the living room, the basement home theater, the kitchen, master bedroom, his son's bedroom and the game room.]

PLEASE SEE SNOOP, PAGE 5

"Clerks" director's got nothing to hide. Come snoop in Kevin Smith's Hollywood Hills home and read previous Snoop reports at chicagotribune.com/sno

COTTAGE: Designer weds home and garden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

trying to create a courtyard, one that was definitely an extension of the home," says Castellanos.

"We always envisioned the gardens as being additional rooms to the home," adds Kees. "As far as seeing the gardens, I felt the idea had become a reality. The geometries he used — brick — were very much in keeping with the materials in the house."

"I love design. Not only do I love the plants, I love the hardscape aspect as well," Castellanos says. His skill at using hardscape as deftly as flooring in an interior is evident.

Walk right in

The first section of the walk leading to the front of the house is brick, laid on edge, that seems as though it has been there for decades. The beauty of recycled brick? No, says the designer, they're new "antiqued" pavers from Boral — tumbling has rounded their edges, giving them that aged look.

"It's a running bond pattern but on edge, which you don't see very often," he says. The unusual twist makes it "look very thin, which gives you a perspective and pulls you into the courtyard."

The visitor steps onto this walk through a simple pergola that frames the house and garden from the street.

A large olive jar stands, like a centerpiece on a dining room table, in the middle of a 12-by-17-foot planting bed in the heart of the courtyard. The glazed terracotta pot is Italian, from Campania International.

As an experiment in textures and color, the rectangular garden is filled with colorful foliage plants, with chartreuse, gold and red playing against the green. "Helmond's Pillar" is a red-colored barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) that is unusual because it is columnar in shape. This plant serves as an architectural element echoing the brick piers or heavy columns in the front of the house, he says, referring to the two piers that hold up



A long view of the garden from the living room's sliding doors, showing the continuous flow from interior to exterior.

2006 Cottage Living Idea Home

What: The second annual Idea Home brings the magazine's signature kick-off-your-shoes-and-relax decorating style to life in Evanston.

The home is open to the public and will be featured in a special section in the October issue of the magazine.

Where: 2721 Woodbine Ave., Evanston

When: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays. Through Sept. 3.

Tickets: \$10, cash or check only
Info: 866-458-1572 or www.cottageiving.com/partners.

the pergola and the two brick piers flanking the steps leading to the front door.

To either side of the planting bed, the designer created seating spaces where one can enjoy the garden while being screened from the street. One measures 10 by 9 feet and has a basket-weave brick "floor"; the other measures roughly 23 by 5 feet and includes a gravel path leading to the back of the house.

Boxwood hedges line the perimeter of the gardens, front and back. Along with evergreen and holly, the boxwood helps hold the gardens together.

Other plants repeat the chartreuse, red and gold scheme but in different textures and tones:

heucheras in red and chartreuse; Japanese ferns (*Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum') with a red variegation; hakonechloa, a grassy chartreuse-colored plant; the oversized 'Blue Angel' in red and chartreuse; black-red Cimicifuga ranis 'Brunette,' among others. Daylilies and hypericum add gold accents in varied spots.

All of the plants were donated by Monrovia and the Chalet Nursery & Garden Shops of Wilmette, Castellanos says.

Because it is made up of plants chosen for their foliage and only a small patch of lawn,



From the street, the house is framed by the pergola and two stone piers. The olive jar is the centerpiece in the rectangular planting bed.

"this is a very low-maintenance garden," Castellanos says.

Extra touches

The raised planters against the front of the house help to bring the garden forward and upward. A raised bullnose brick border (chosen because "it is round and very beautiful," Castellanos says) defines the beds, keeps the soil in and adds an ar-

chitectural element, he says.

Along the south side of the house is a gravel walk that slows you down as you head toward the 75-by-35-foot back garden. Here Castellanos wanted both "that Arts and Crafts character as well as an Old World feeling."

The raised seat walls on both sides of the main back garden serve to both retain the planter beds again and provide a place



Planters on either side of the front stairs of the house sit above the bullnose bricks that add a custom touch to the hardscape.

to sit and enjoy the garden. "If you have a party, it is a great overflow place to sit," he says.

Castellanos "created areas for larger gathering places and more intimate gathering places," Kees says. These echo what goes on architecturally in the house, she says, "where the larger rooms flow into one another, but there are intimate side spaces where you can be comfortable sitting quietly and reading a book."

The green of the garden is brought up very close to the house at the back, with magnolias flanking the doors of the terrace. "From every door [of the terrace] you will see the garden," says Castellanos.

"The brick steps of the terrace spill down into the back garden and into the patio area," adds Mahady, speaking to how the architecture plays into the outside scheme. "That outdoor room is actually formed by the angle of the main body of the house and its long wing. It is not only a delightful outdoor room in the summer, but the views from the interior living areas should make its views just as delightful in the winter."

Theme and variations

The garage is the backdrop for another garden that also plays on variation. Some of the plants used here are again combinations of textures and colors, though they "go into the blues and a softer palette," says the designer. These include a variety of grasses, dwarf arctic willow, which has a blue-green hue, and dwarf blue spruces. "There's some salvia, liatris, some geraniums," he adds.

And there's another impor-

JULY 30, 2006 SUNDAY

HOME&GARDEN

NS SECTION 15 CHICAGO TRIBUNE

7

5 things to look for in the 2006 Cottage Living Idea Home

Though the 2006 Cottage Living Idea Home in Evanston is a new construction by builder Al Hatcher Inc. of Evanston, it looks as though it has been on the street just as long as the more senior neighboring residences. (It replaced a tear-down.) The 2,800-square-foot, four-bedroom house offers many ideas for those who want a warm vintage style with modern conveniences, a house that stays within the footprints of adjacent homes and the pattern of the surrounding neighborhood.

Check out:

1 The scale of the rooms. While they may be considered small compared to most of today's new construction, rooms on the first floor are open to one another. The kitchen, living room and dining room work together to form a small great room. The architect used beamed ceilings to define the separate areas, cabinetry and built-ins for intimacy.

2 The state-of-the-art antique white kitchen cabinetry. It features natural maple wood veneer, with dovetailed maple wood drawer boxes, concealed drawer glides, and recessed inset doors. Cabinets are manufactured by Wood Mode and installed by Karlson Kitchens, 1815 Central St., Evanston, 847-491-1300. One detail not to miss is the ex-

tra storage space under the staircase to the second floor. The maple laundry-room cabinetry, also installed by Karlson Kitchens, is by Brookhaven 1 and conceals the laundry chute from upstairs.

3 The bed linens in the three upstairs bedrooms (all by Land's End) are embroidered with the numbers 1 to 3 — blue for the master bedroom, coral for the girl's bedroom, and green for the boy's room — so it's easy to know which room they belong to. Bath linens also are embroidered in coordinating numbers. (There is another guest room downstairs.)

4 Shades of "green." Interior designer Anne Coyle of Anne Coyle Interiors in Evanston

used barn beam tables from Terra Viva catalog and sisal rugs throughout the house as some of her environmentally conscious touches.

5 The architecture details. There are many Craftsman-like details, familiar to the 1930s, when labor was lavished on houses. The details evoking that era include the use of wood and brick on the exterior and the large brackets that support the overhangs of the roof. Inside, architectural details include the transoms repeated atop the larger windows and the ceilings crossed with wood beams.

— Mary Daniels

Glorious Gardens Contest 2006

There are five categories, with one winner and two runners-up to be chosen in each category:

- 1. Water gardens.** (Those professionally installed are ineligible. Exception: placement of rocks.)
- 2. Container gardens** on patios, decks, porches, rooftops or in window boxes
- 3. Small gardens** (lot smaller than 3,125 square feet, the standard Chicago lot size)
- 4. Medium gardens** (3,126- to 8,500-square-foot lot)
- 5. Large gardens** (8,501-square-foot lot or bigger)

Also, one garden that the judges determine is most outstanding will be chosen

Best Overall Garden.

RULES

Only amateur gardeners may enter. Please submit photographs on CD-ROMs (high-resolution jpegs of 250 to 300 dpi). Photographs must have been taken in 2006. Those ineligible: Professionals (those receiving payment for garden expertise or any form of landscaping), previous Glorious Gardens Contest winners, and employees of the Chicago Tribune or their immediate families and employees of Chicago Tribune direct subsidiaries. Gardens that have been professionally designed, installed or maintained are ineligible. Exceptions: installation of trees and/or hardscapes (fencing, raised beds, paving).
Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by **Monday, Aug. 14**. We will notify winners by **Sept. 12** and publish the winners **Sept. 24**. Chicago Tribune is not responsible for lost, late or misdirected entries. CDs cannot be returned and Chicago Tribune Co. may use the images in its products.

PRIZES

All winners receive a Glorious Gardens Contest coffee mug. The Best Overall Garden winner also receives a \$250 gift certificate to the garden center of his or her choice and a Glorious Gardens Contest 2006 trophy. The winners of the five major categories also receive a \$100 gift certificate to the garden center of his or her choice and a Glorious Gardens Contest 2006 trophy.

Prize restrictions:

1. Prizes are non-transferable and are not redeemable for cash.
2. Winners must sign a confirmation statement that the garden design and maintenance was done by them, not by a professional, and that they have complied with the rules and terms outlined.
3. Chicago Tribune may publish the name, photograph and any information provided with entries, in print and on the Internet, including in advertising and promotion.
4. Contest is sponsored by Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. For a list of winners, see the Sept. 24 issue of the Home-

&Garden section of the Chicago Tribune newspaper or visit our Web site at chicagotribune.com after Sept. 24.

5. Taxes, if any, are the responsibility of the winner.
6. Chicago Tribune reserves the right to terminate, modify, cancel or suspend the contest for any reason.
7. Chicago Tribune reserves the right to substitute prizes of equal or greater value.

HOW TO ENTER

1. Submit 1 CD-ROM with a maximum of 15 images (we cannot return CDs). Images must be saved to disk as high-resolution (250 to 300 dpi) jpegs. (Do not embed images in other computer programs.) Each CD must be labeled with your name, address, daytime phone number and the category you are entering. Each entry must be accompanied by a single-page typed description of your garden and a single-page typed caption sheet that identifies plants and their location in the garden; explains how images relate to one another. A panel of gardening experts and garden journalists will judge entries based on design, plant choice and creativity. The decision of the judging panel is final.

2. State which ONE of the following categories you are entering:

- Water gardens
- Container gardens
- Small gardens
- Medium gardens
- Large gardens

3. Tell us about your garden (limit one page in length): How long have you been growing it? Who designed the garden? Who maintains it? Where is its location and what are its conditions (is it primarily in sun or shade)? How large is the entire space you are gardening? What are your goals for the garden?

4. Send entries (with category, your name, address, daytime phone and e-mail address, if available) to:

Chicago Tribune
Home&Garden
435 N. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611
Attn: Glorious Gardens Contest 2006



A stone dog adds whimsical interest in front of the house, while a nearby secluded seating area provides a place where one can sit and enjoy the garden.

tant element: big urns planted with ornamental grasses, such as *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light'. These large terra-cotta urns are "large elements that help anchor the house down" and bring the garden and house together through matching scale, he says.

In the depths of the rear garden, back by the garage, is another outdoor room, one that is a more natural garden, with Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum* 'Waterfall' and 'Sango-kaku'), hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight') and two stone benches with leaf motifs, he says.

The perimeter of the back garden is lined with boxwood, which holds the structure of it for the winter.

But those who have visited since the house and garden opened are already entranced. Such as Evanston resident Allison Witt-Janssen, who is very interested in hardscaping and traveled to London to study with Maggy Howarth, a noted designer of handmade pebble mosaic paving. Of Castellanos' garden she says, "the combination of the bricks he used, some of them custom... and the palette he used in his plantings [are] stunning."

Randy Otte, a neighbor on the same street, says he observed the house as it went up. "The overriding thing was, and not to take away anything from the house, but when the house was going up, people were not paying too much attention to it. But when the gardens went in, it became a congregation point for neighbors and for people to stop when driving by." Otte, the Chicago Tribune's Glorious Gardens Contest Best Overall Garden winner in 2000, also thought Castellanos' brickwork "was great and looks like it has been there for 50 years," and he liked that there was a garden in front,

not pushed into the back. "The house really sits in the garden," says Otte.

This is a second career for Castellanos, who started out in banking. "With all the mergers and buyouts I decided to change fields," he says, and went back to earn a bachelor of arts degree in landscape architecture school at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

This second career turns out to be a perfect choice for him. He enjoys being outside, dealing with nature, and dealing with the challenge of solving problems in the garden. He has always had an interest in gardens. "We had a large botanical garden in Teia, [Honduras], the town where I was born, with a lot of tropical plants from all over the world," he says. "That was influential."

Country Living magazine photographed his Evanston garden, which was on the Evanston Garden Walk and featured in Home&Garden ("The garden gates are open," May 14). They began talking in January about the project.

Castellanos looked at books on Arts and Crafts homes and bungalows. And while he was working on a project in Portland, Ore., in January, he checked out Arts and Crafts-style homes there and in nearby Salem, Ore., for inspiration. "I like to create gardens that people can really enjoy, gardens where people can forget where they are at and contemplate. I fuss and fuss and fuss until it is right."

mdaniels@tribune.com