

## *garden notebook*

By Joan Waters

# OPENING DOORS TO THE IMAGINATION

You just can't help yourself. The minute you walk into Bob and Sandy Lang's backyard, your eyes land on a pair of vintage wooden doors you have to know more about. Seconds later, you're traipsing over to get a better look.

"They had a really sweet garden before, but what I thought was lacking were focal points," says Gary Kernick, a landscape designer/contractor and owner of Sacramento's Change of Seasons. Kernick discovered the doors at Antique Trove in Roseville and installed them in the Langs' Land Park garden. "As in most Land Park or East Sac homes, it's a fairly small backyard, so giving it a sense of expansiveness was part of the idea," he says. "The tone of the garden was already set, so what I wanted was something unique that would add character." The rustic portals—complete with original mail slot and paint—do that and more by imparting a dash of history, a hint of mystery and just plain fun. "When Gary found them, he told us they were pretty cool, so we went out and took a look," Sandy says. "We thought they were pretty cool, too. So we said, 'Let's do it.'" The doors hang on a frame of 4-by-4-inch posts angled across a corner of the yard. And the doors offer another plus: Behind them is a 12-by-12-foot area for garden tools, pots, even a wheelbarrow. "The doors actually hide a storage and potting area that they wanted but didn't necessarily want to see," Kernick explains. "We keep them closed for appearance, but they do open and shut."

Sandy says she loves the doors and the hideaway storage. And the feature has been a big hit with visitors. "People are surprised by it," she says. No surprise there. As Kernick says, "It's a fun feature you don't see everywhere."

**BY INSTALLING A FOUNTAIN AND A PAIR OF VINTAGE DOORS, LANDSCAPE DESIGNER GARY KERNICK ADDED FOCUS AND FUN TO THIS LAND PARK GARDEN.**

