

TOUR VII

East Dallas Gardens and DCMGA Educational Garden at Robert E. Lee Elementary School

Cost: \$30.00

Minimum – 44 Maximum - 54

Depart the Las Colinas Omni by bus at noon, Saturday, April 10th and return by 6pm. Some areas of private gardens may not be totally accessible to the handicapped.

A secret garden nestled in the patchwork quilt of East Dallas homes awaits us at Robert E. Lee Elementary School. Designed by famed Dallas architect Mark Lemmon, this seventy-five year old school has grown from a barren, stark landscape to a lush bird and butterfly garden. Winner of a major master gardener state award, the school now encompasses a plethora of water wise native and adapted plants, compost bins, worm bins, vegetable planters, rainwater collection barrels and an outdoor learning center. Enjoy the beauty of this old Dallas school while you discover how the Master Gardener crew accomplished this feat!

This tour will visit several East Dallas private gardens. The first three are in the Swiss Avenue Historic District. You may stroll from one to the other along the avenue with a guide (less than ½ mile) or ride the bus between them.

Our first stop gives us a touch of England as we visit the lovely cottage garden and tranquil back gardens designed by Carl Neels. These gardens grace a 1924 English Tudor style home built for English clients by a British architect. The back gardens include a small parterre herb garden which opens onto a woodland setting of shade-loving perennials and annuals, a Koi pond and an “anniversary garden”.

The highlight of the second stop, aside from the lovely 1917 Mission style home, is a swimming pool that has been converted into a biologically filtered pond. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending upon your view, it has become a favorite fishing spot for a family of prairie falcon. Another of many attractions is a shady “meadow” of native sedges.

At the last house along Swiss Ave. you will be served lunch as you enjoy visiting the garden. A gorgeous old Live Oak graces the front of this 1924 Italian Renaissance style home. A path will lead you through rose and azalea gardens onto the back garden pathway to the first of many “garden rooms”.

Back onto the bus we find a treasure hidden away in the middle of the city, the garden of Master Gardener Alan Rister and partner Greg Armstrong feels like it is almost anywhere but Dallas. While this garden oasis is inspired by English perennial borders, Texas native and adapted plants play a large role in this small landscape. In less than one third of an acre you will find distinct garden rooms, a sunken lawn, an Italianate folly and four water features. Come for a small taste of olde England in Dallas!

After our visit to Robert E. Lee Elementary we head to the neighborhoods around White Rock Lake. Our first stop is at a home and garden that were remodeled in 2009. Many

Green design elements went into the remodeling of the home and water conservation and water-wise gardening were paramount in the choices for the garden. Great care was taken to preserve the best of the gardens that had been planted in 2006.

Next we will divide into two groups and rotate visiting two magical gardens that spill down to a little creek making for a beautiful and peaceful setting. One is eclectic, lush, organic, water wise, earth friendly and loaded with native plants. Many small gardens comprise the total space. The other is loosely Japanese with modern touches, a little tropical thrown in and magic all around. There is water music in the air from falls and fountains.

Please indicate a lunch choice of: #1 Beef Lasagna or #2 Spinach Lasagna
on your registration form.
