

All Natural

David Nelson's M Streets garden is an organic free-for-all and a tranquil respite from his normal frenetic pace.



David Nelson's love for the beauty of natural things is palpable. It resonates through his home, his studio, and especially his garden. His interior spaces reflect his work as a designer and photo stylist for such clients as Horchow, Neiman Marcus, and Liberty Noodle, but his garden reflects a sort of aesthetic abandon, where nature clearly is in charge.

In contrast to the house, the garden isn't "designed." Plants are placed where there is space and they have the best chance to flourish. "My garden is totally organic," David says. "And that means being at peace with the occasional loss of a plant because it was somebody's supper." More than at peace, David is fascinated by the symbiotic relationships between plants,



insects, and other garden dwellers and encourages them with careful planting selections and welcoming habitats. For instance, fennel and passion vine bring butterflies, butterflies produce caterpillars, and caterpillars

BACK TO NATURE: (Above) David Nelson and his British bull terrier Isabel often lounge in the garden, watching the wildlife. His outdoor space is a symbiotic relationship of flora and fauna. (Top left) Ginger lily is only one of the more than 4,000 plants in this organic garden. (Top right) A brick path slowly meanders through David's backyard, where nature is firmly in control.

bring predatory wasps. Each spring David releases ladybugs and praying mantises. He has supplemented his anole population, added geckoes, and introduced turtles, gambusia, and bullfrog tadpoles to his pond. He even added a bat house recently.

Asked to characterize his gardening style, David says, "I'm extremely patient. Some people find nature's pace frustrating, but I find it relaxing after working all day in the wild, demanding, gotta-have-it-now design world. I enjoy the process of gardening."

