

california

HOME+DESIGN

A CLEAR VISION

AMAZING RENOVATIONS
FROM START TO FINISH

Designer Kristin
Nugent overhauled
the Lakes' home in
Laguna Beach, p. 102

WWW.CALIFORNIAHOMEDESIGNMAG.COM AUGUST 2007 \$4.99



SAN FRANCISCO
FABLED CHURCH
TO FAMILY HOME

OAKLAND
RESCUING A
RETRO GEM

CORTE MADERA
A DESIGNER'S
MODERN RANCH

SOME LIKE IT HOT

IN THE DRY DAYS OF AUGUST, ONE CALIFORNIA NATIVE BLOOMS WILDLY.

BY LYDIA LEE

"They have the beautiful smell of ripe pineapple."

Late summer is the dormant season for many native plants in California, which turn brown in the intense heat. But in the Central Valley grasslands, *Madia elegans* puts on an enticing flower show. Also known as common tarweed, the three-foot-tall annual is one of San Jose landscape designer Alrie Middlebrook's favorites. "It brings so much color into the late-summer native garden," says Middlebrook, who recently published the new book *Designing California Native Gardens* (University of California Press). "The blooms are like miniature sunflowers, and they have the beautiful smell of ripe pineapple."

Middlebrook likes to use *Madia elegans* as a filler plant in a new garden. "I use it the way nature uses it—when an area has been cleared, pioneer species like tarweed are the first to establish themselves and help create healthy soil," she says. To add more color to fall gardens, she also recommends the scarlet-flowering *Zauschneria californica* (California fuchsia) and *Aster chilensis* (coast aster), which has pale blue blooms. They are available at the nursery Middlebrook recently opened to complement her demonstration garden. *Middlebrook Gardens, 76 Race St., San Jose, 408-292-9993, middlebrook-gardens.com.* ■

SHADY DAYS

A more traditional lounger than the Orbit he previously designed, Richard Frinier's new Andalusia Royal Canopy chair has a powder-coated aluminum frame and is draped in Sunbrella fabric. \$4,100; centuryfurniture.com.



FACING THE SUN

The Corona Solar Light is modeled after a sunflower. Designed by Shane Kohatsu and Emi Fujita, the solar-powered LED light can either be staked in the ground or mounted to a wall. *Currently in prototype; coronasolarlight.com.*

PATTERN RECOGNITION

Commissioning a line of contemporary outdoor fabrics from Galbreath & Paul, Perennials has added the duo's signature hand-block-printed styles to its high-performance fabric collection. *To the trade: perennialsfabrics.com.*

