



FROM LEFT: MICHAEL WOODALL, SAGON HOLY/PHOTOBOTANIC, JOSHUA MCCULLOUGH/PHYTOPHOTO, JERRY PAVIA

5 GET GRAPHIC WITH HERBS

To create living geometry in your garden, combine several kinds of edible groundcovers, then let them ramble together. Here, a triangle of woolly thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*) angles up to a pink-flowered thyme and a golden oregano.



7 CONTRAST FOLIAGE

It's a foolproof approach to border design: Pair plants—one tall, one short—in contrasting colors. Here, a purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum x advena* 'Rubrum') rises behind chartreuse Japanese forest grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola').

6 SET THE STAGE WITH COLOR

Paint a wall in a bright color, then select plants bold enough to stand up to it. In this Phoenix garden, tall *Cereus peruvianus* fans out against a tomato red wall. Blue agaves (*Agave ovatifolia*), feathery grasses, and a mound of *Dalea capitata* round out the planting. **DESIGN:** Chad Robert, landscape architect; exteriors-cr.com.



8 HANG AIR PLANTS

Don't let tillandsias just linger on your desk. Attached to the tails of Spanish moss (another kind of air plant) and draped over a branch, they become art. **DESIGN:** Dustin Gimbel; secondnaturegarden.com.