

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT A...
SUBTROPICAL GARDEN

ACCORDING TO RAYMOND JUNGLES
 Miami, Florida

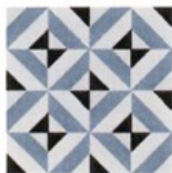
In our region, we have a pronounced dry season, as long as six months, and then we get precipitation when there's a clash of systems. It can be as much as 60 inches per year—a lot of it from hurricanes and tropical storms. Plants have to be able to make it through both.

I look primarily to native species and then incorporate complementary plants from other subtropical climates. I believe in botanical interest and also creating a habitat with birds, butterflies, squirrels, and foxes, where humans can live more closely with nature. That's what gives me joy. For butterflies, you need flowers. For birds, you need insects, seeds, and fruit.

After that, my main goal is to create comfortable spaces for humans. That means bringing in trees and shade, beautiful textures and fragrances. I'm trying to build a grocery store for local flora and fauna that then will give me pleasure.

You need plants that were made for the environment. You don't want a garden that looks like hell, where everything's struggling. I do a lot of beach properties, and beach plants have been developed by nature to live in sand, to be able to take airborne salt. That's a whole particular palette. You'll start to see a lot of sea oats, bay cedar, thatch palms. Beach gardens should look natural and strong, haphazard and preexistent. They need to be tough.

I don't do things purely for the aesthetics. When you make a habitat, there is less maintenance. It's more laissez-faire. I don't understand topiary or highly manicured gardens. If you're always striving for perfection, you won't generate the beauty that comes from imperfection. ■



8
CEMENTINE_OPENAIR
FIORANESE

The Cementine series of decorative tiles, designed for outdoor patios and swimming pools, combines crisp modern geometry with a sun-washed Mediterranean feel.



BEACH HOUSE

1
WOOD & WIRE CHAIR
BEND GOODS

The L.A.-based maker of (what else?) bent-wire furnishings and lighting has married its signature Op-Art patterns with oak-veneered plywood for a new chair. Colors include eye-catching aqua as well as basic black or white.

2
SWING
PAOLA LENTI

"Statement piece" might be an understatement when it comes to Paola Lenti's impeccably woven bench swing, which is now available with an aluminum frame and a glossy finish. If electric-yellow chartreuse isn't your thing, it also comes in other equally arresting colors.

3
TRAVELFIRE
MODFIRE

Modfire's latest fire ring comes in tangerine and turquoise finishes. But the best thing about Travelfire is that its foldable legs and 25-pound weight make it unusually portable.

4
GIRAVOLTA 1799 LAMP
PEDRALI

The Giravolta's disc-shaped element rotates 360 degrees, so you can easily adjust the lighting direction. It comes in five colors—the newest is pink—and has an optional magnetic base for firmly securing to a metal table or wall.

5
OTTERÖN POUFFE
IKEA

Designed by Maria Vinka, this pouf is perfect for an informal outdoor space. The woven fabric cover dries quickly, resists fading, and is machine washable.

6
CITRON BANDS POT
TERRAIN

While technically this is an indoor pot—you'll have to keep it in a covered area outside—the lemony glaze can add the perfect pop of brightness to your patio.

7
MALIBU ORGANIC BEACH TOWELS
COYUCHI

Coyuchi's towels are not only soft and beautifully dyed—think Turkish hammam meets Southern California—they also meet high standards for sustainable materials, nontoxic pigments, and socially responsible labor practices.