

Showering alfresco

This poolside shower fulfills many requirements: It offers privacy for rinsing off after swimming but is open to the landscape; it is fun for kids and adults; and it is stylish. Interior designers Angeliqe Swingle and Marcy Voyevod made it happen with Lightscreen panels.

Lightscreens are a modern take on traditional stained-glass windows. They employ translucent marbles suspended in an aluminum grid to block views—but not light. “The manufacturers let you pick marble colors and levels of translucency,” Swingle says. “We selected colors based on the colors of the surrounding landscape.”

Lightscreen panels are available through Architectural Systems (www.archsystems.com or 800/793-0224).

DESIGN: Marcy Voyevod Design, Oakland, CA (510/433-0724), and Angeliqe Swingle (aswingle@earthlink.net). —Mary Jo Bowling



Soothing hues: clockwise from top, City of Atlantis, Blue Sky, and Peaceful Pond.

Water colors

Portland-based Rodda Paint has introduced a new line of paints called Horizon. There are 1,320 shades in all, but it's not just the colors that make the paint attractive—we love the fact that it's also “green.” Among its environmental attributes: There are no volatile organic compounds; it's odorless (good-bye “new paint” smell); it's free of any chemicals shown to be cancer-causing (one of the reasons Green Seal, an environmental watchdog, gave it a stamp of approval); and it contains a mold and mildew inhibitor.

From \$22 for 1-gallon can. For retailers and mail-order sources, visit www.rodapaint.com or call (800) 452-2315. —M. J. B.



Candles adrift

There's something unexpected and dreamy about candles floating across a pond or pool, their light reflecting on the water's surface. These 6-inch-diameter, handblown-glass Floating Nocturne Garden Lights are from Parasol, a Denver-based company that makes products from recycled glass. A submerged glass stem acts as a ballast to prevent tipping; a glass cylinder protects the tea-light candle. Nocturne lights are available in blue, green, antique rose, and honey.

About \$50 each. For retailers and mail-order sources, call (877) 748-6637. —P. O. W.