Landscape architect Lisa Gimmy:

— On design: "There's a growing sophistication about it and a sensitivity toward the connection between gardens and the regional landscape. People are veering away from what's trendy and relating more to where they live."

— On outdoor living: "The kitchen garden is increasingly a place for family activities, incorporating dining and play space in addition to areas for growing flowers, herbs and vegetables."

— On garden furnishings: "I hope the focus on them fades. Yes, the garden is an outdoor living room, but it's about more than cool tables and chairs."

— On lighting: "Inspired by theatrical lighting designers, some people are using colored filters to accentuate the color of different foliage, flowers and berries."

Plant purveyor Gary Hammer, co-owner of Desert to Jungle Nursery:

— On tropical plants: "People want them — especially rare and unusual ones — heliconia, ginger, costus, cleome. Also, evergreen subtropical bulbs like crinum and hymenocallis."

— On leaves vs. bloom: "A plant's texture and foliage are more important to gardeners now. We sell many more plants out of flower than we used to."

— On maintenance: "How much a plant needs is one of the most frequent questions people ask. They're concerned and hesitant, especially about having to prune and cut back."

— On drought tolerance: "It seems more of a gardener look than a conservation question. Succulents are more popular for their boldness than their lack of thirst."