



Design Criteria

1. Designs should tie into the theme of “Backcountry Casitas – Playhouses Designed with Nature in Mind.” Creative approaches are encouraged.
2. It is Santa Barbara Botanic Garden’s desire to locate Casitas where guests can walk inside and interact with the space. The targeted audience is for 5 to 13 year olds but should be appropriate for engagement with families and guests of all ages.
3. We strongly encourage the use of natural materials and discourage the use of plastic, metals, and other synthetic materials.
4. Designs will be judged on the following criteria (not listed in priority order):
 - Creativity, imagination, environmentally friendly
 - Engaging for the entire family
 - Good collaboration between individuals and/ or businesses
 - Creative use of materials
 - Flexibility in installation and movement of the casita
 - Durability of structure for weather and heavy use by children
 - Relation to the Garden’s mission (fostering the conservation of California’s native plants)
5. Descriptive words which should inspire your design: California native plants, wildflowers, fun, family event, colorful, naturalistic, rustic, excites the imagination, creative, inspirational, environmentally friendly, fantasy, habitat.
6. Designers are encouraged to design and build their Garden Casitas in a manner which will allow ease of installation and removal.

Installation Criteria

1. It is the responsibility of the designer to construct the Garden Casita offsite if possible and arrange installation at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden during the allowed installation time.



2. The permanent health and structural integrity of our Garden is vitally important to the mission of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. All Garden Casitas should be freestanding. No permanent or invasive devices may be attached to trees or plants in the Garden. Please help us maintain our permanent plant collection by protecting our trees and plant displays.
3. Garden Casitas must be single story with a height not to exceed 12' and may be no more than 120 square feet
4. Casitas must be weather and wind resistant for at least the duration of the exhibition.
4. Designer is responsible for any repairs to the Garden Casitas during the first six months of exhibition (Santa Barbara Botanic Garden is not responsible for any damage due to vandalism, weather, or circumstances beyond our control.)