

San Francisco Chronicle

HOME**SIZABLE SCULPTURE****A 4½-Ton Dragon Can Add Just the Right Touch**

Want a fireplace guaranteed to wow your friends? A one-of-kind fountain for the yard?

If you have the wherewithal for custom work, check out some of the projects of San Francisco architectural sculptor Manuel Palos.

No doubt about it, Palos is not afraid to think big.

He has done ornamentation for numerous public buildings, including the resculpting of eight-foot mythological figures at the Palace of the Legion of Honor, the re-creation of eight 13-foot eagles for the Pacific Telephone Building in San Francisco, and the fabrication of 1,800 square feet of ornamental wall panels for Moscone Center.

Even his works for the

home can have a certain monumental quality.

An Art Deco fireplace at the Galleria Park Hotel, modeled in clay and cast in stone, is pictured.

Actor Nicholas Cage wanted a fireplace for his San Francisco residence in the shape of a dragon's head. The resulting limestone edifice, 10 feet wide and 13 feet tall, weighs 4½ tons.

Palos employs eight assistants at his Bayview district studio, to leave his signature on public and private buildings all over town.

To arrange a visit to Manuel Palos' showroom and studio, phone (415) 822-8034.

— MIKE PALMER



HOME
HOT STUFF

PRICKLY HEAT LOVERS

Showcase for the Ultimate Drought-Tolerant Plants

If your English cottage garden withered and died during the recent heat wave, don't give up — get tough and plant cactus. This weekend is a good time to do it, because you can visit the annual show and sale presented by the Cactus and Succulent Association in Golden Gate Park.

Hundreds of plants will be on display and for sale, as well as pottery and books.

"Cacti and succulents are dissimilar from other plant groups in that they are totally drought tolerant," says Marilyn Pekasky, publicity chairwoman for the association. "Many can be grown outside in this area. There will be a lot of

them available for sale at the show," she adds.

Pekasky says half the event space will be devoted to the sale of plants, the other half to display. "Everybody will bring in the best, the greatest, the rarest. You can stand there for hours and just ooh and aah," she says.

She particularly recommends *Lewisia*, "a succu-



BY LIZ HAFALIA/THE CHRONICLE

lent that's native to the Pacific Northwest and Northern California. They have the most beautiful, fabulous flowers."

The annual Cactus

and Succulent Show and Sale takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue

and Lincoln Way, San Francisco. Free admission. Information, (510) 236-6090.

— CHRISTINE FELDORN

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POTS FOR TOTS

Kids Book Combines Gardening, Creativity

Container gardening is a great way to get children interested in growing things. And a new book, "Container Gardening for Kids" by Ellen Talmage, focuses on 23 projects — many with a humorous twist — to spark the young gardener's imagination.

Talmage moves beyond simple pots as containers and encourages kids to use old toys as planters. "Anything can become a garden container," writes Talmage, "well, anything that

can hold soil (not hula hoops)."

Photos show children planting flowers in football helmets, toy boats, an old toy dump truck and worn-out sneakers.

Talmage gives instructions on planting an herb garden right into a bag of potting soil; making a dog collar full of plant cuttings that repel insects; and turning an old tire into a sundial full of flowers.

The book is inter-

spered with information boxes explaining a plant's need for water and drainage, how to attract butterflies and how to force bulbs. At the end is a section called "Plants to Know and Grow," which lists easy and colorful plants and their cultivation needs.

"Container Gardening for Kids," by Ellen Talmage, photographed by Bruce Curtis (Sterling Publishing, 1996, \$16.95)

— C.F.

