



田中記念庭園

**A**  
**TRIBUTE**  
**RATHER THAN A MEMORIAL**  
**TO KANAYE NAGASAWA**

by Heide Aungst, managing editor

# On Design

**K**anaye Nagasawa is a name which few will recognize. Fewer still would recognize his birth-given name: Hikosuke Isonaga. Nagasawa (the name he took when he left feudalistic Japan in 1865) earned a place in Japanese history as a pioneer in the Western world. He is remembered in U.S. history as the "Grape King" of California, a master wine maker.

More people will learn of Nagasawa's place in history when they visit the gardens at Fountaingrove Country Club in Santa Rosa, Calif. Mack and Mark Tabata of Tabata Landscaping Co., Santa Rosa, designed and installed the gardens, "as a tribute to the man, not a memorial."

The entry garden represents Japanese landscape design principles: an idealistic view of nature, not a miniaturized copy of nature. Japanese pine and Japanese cherry trees help achieve this purpose (#3). Developing the site wasn't easy (*before*, #1).

The entire property, including golf course, is 120 acres, but the Tabatas worked on about seven in Phase I of the project. Trenches could not be backfilled with the rocky native soil, so the company imported 4,400 cubic yards of topsoil, sand and pea gravel to backfill and establish the finish grade.

The concept of water as an essential element of life prevails throughout the site. Water can be seen or heard at any spot on the property. The firm used dry creeks purposely to stimulate visitors' imaginations. They meticulously placed more than 3500 tons of rock to create this effect (#4). Extensive use of drought tolerant species, the dry creeks and five miles of drip irrigation minimizes water demand. Other plant material on the site ranges from low-maintenance species to high maintenance color, such as yellow and gold marigolds in focal point areas (#2).

Phase I of the project, completed in August 1986, cost \$490,000. It won the California Landscape Contractors awards for outstanding achievement in design/build and first place for large commercial/industrial sites.

1.



2.



3.



4.

