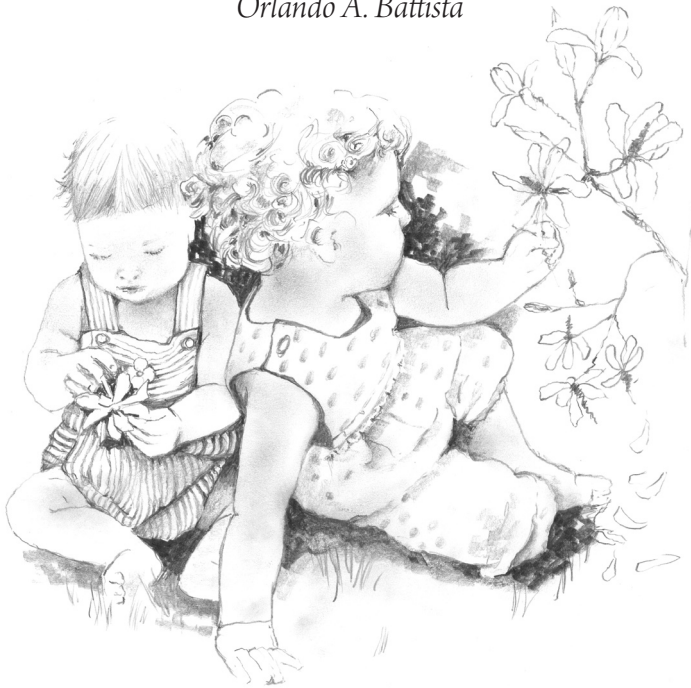


Photosynthesis

Environment and Gardening

“The greatest weakness of most humans is their hesitancy to tell others how much they love them while they are still alive.”

Orlando A. Battista



Gardening

Paul and I have a real passion for the garden which is quite ironic because when we bought the house we now live in it had a lovely front garden but no developed back garden. In fact it only had one tree in the great expanse of land we had. Smack bang in the middle of the backyard there is a huge shed made out of stringy bark poles and flattened forty-four gallon drums which have now added some character with their rustic look.

We bought the house where we now live in 1993 and the house was made of ripple iron. It had a lot of character inside and a lot of space outside so it was easy to make the decision to purchase and move in. The house was cold and we decided to renovate as owner builders as that was an option that fitted in with our budget. We were also very realistic and gave ourselves a five-year time frame to complete the house and then after that, work on the gardens.

We maintained the gardens throughout the renovations but on the odd occasion, we found ourselves in the backyard with the children, designing how we would like our yard to be. We planted the occasional plant that was near to the size of tube stock and now they tower above us. Remember we only had one tree in our backyard back then so playing outdoors for the children was limited because of sun exposure and heat. The huge shed proved to be a saving grace.

Although we decided to hold off on the garden, designing it did manage to sneak in. I think also it proved to be an escape for us and we loved the feeling we had designing and watching our garden grow. It is now about 16 years down the track and hard to believe the change. We have trees and plants everywhere; we are in the centre of town but when you are in the backyard you feel like you are lost in nature on some property out of town.

Designing a garden with rooms

So let's share with you another one of our passions in life, our garden and nature. I think working on our own garden was the seed that made us come up with the idea to use nature as an analogy for human life.

Our backyard consisted of a large open space with an eight car garage plonked in the middle but near to the house. The garage actually became an extension of our pergola and was handy for entertaining. The garage also became the storage area for gardening tools, table tennis, bikes and pool tools. We had a part of the garage which the teenagers turned into their area, which was good for us when they got together because they could play their own music without bothering anyone.

The design for our garden, though, was not planned. Yes we did do some drawings and yes, we did change it around a few times, but what we have now is what I want to focus on. Over a period of time we have established