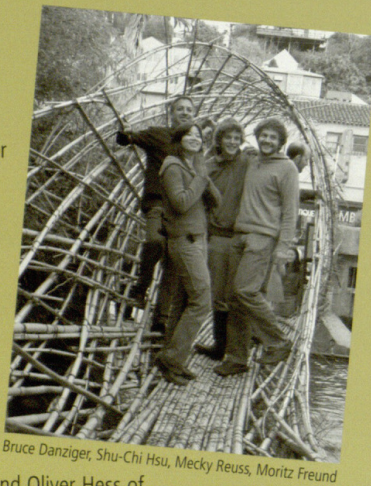


## GIGABYTE GARDENING

**workshop LEVITAS** is an international design collaboration between structural engineer Bruce Danziger of Arup (USA), and emerging architects Shu-Chi Hsu (Taiwan), and Moritz Freund (Germany). LEVITAS stands for lightness. In contrast to conventional architecture based on gravity, this design team wants to manifest precisely the essence of the physical world, which are light, chaos and ephemera. The collaboration explores innovative structures and spatial design, which makes the heaviest material float and exposes the most solid properties of the weakest.



Bruce Danziger, Shu-Chi Hsu, Mecky Reuss, Moritz Freund

Recently LEVITAS were invited by Jenna Didier and Oliver Hess of Infranatural to design a foot-bridge for the *Here there be Monsters* exhibition. The bridge began with a simple structural diagram drawn by Bruce Danziger, resembling a propped cantilever. With the help of Moritz Freund and Shuchi Hsu, LEVITAS further developed the diagram to create a curved and partially cut-away tube to function as the primary stage from which visitors can interact with the water and its creatures. After careful evaluation of the bridge during continual structural analysis, 150 individually cut pieces of bamboo were harvested from The Arboretum. Every piece of bamboo used was freshly-cut, green and untreated, allowing for natural wear and decay over the lifetime of the bridge. To further simplify the process, cable zip ties were selected as the primary connective material, as opposed to traditional rope ties. Unlike the conventional design/construction process, the shape of the bridge adapts to the nature of the bamboo culms and is liberated from the templates built by the Computer Assisted Drawing (CAD) model. The construction of the bridge took only 20 days to complete. During the span of its lifetime, the woven bridge will remain in a constant state of flux, in both form and color, due to the inherent natural drying process of bamboo and its exposure to environmental forces.

*Here there be Monsters* can be seen at M&A in Silverlake or on the web at [www.emanate.org](http://www.emanate.org) through June 30, 2006.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE *The Orchid Lady*

Mrs. Dorothyjean Spoelstra has been making a difference at The Arboretum for a long time. Like many others, she was first introduced to The Arboretum by a friend...and she quickly made an impression as a lover of flowers, dedicated volunteer, and financial supporter. Dorothyjean sold flowers at the Garden & Gift Shop, cared for flowers throughout The Arboretum, and taught flower arranging classes. An expert in orchids, Dorothyjean spent many hours at The Arboretum cultivating orchids in the orchid greenhouse and even donated her personal orchid collection worth over \$6,000 to The Arboretum in 1998.



Dorothyjean Spoelstra with Dr. Mark K. Wourms

Dorothyjean continues to give back to The Arboretum. Her step may have slowed a little, but she still exhibits youthful exuberance whenever she is around her beloved orchids. Her spirit remains strong and her smile lights up the room. Dorothyjean sees The Arboretum as a living place that lives up to its mission: to cultivate our natural, horticultural and historic resources for learning, enjoyment and inspiration. She sees this mission practiced daily for the benefit of many generations of Arboretum lovers.

After a recent tour of The Arboretum with CEO Dr. Mark K. Wourms and Development Manager Kathy M. Kwan, Dorothyjean once again demonstrated her love of The Arboretum and flowers by making a significant financial contribution. The ways to give are limitless, and Dorothyjean Spoelstra is a wonderful example of a truly generous person who has given much time, money, and love to The Arboretum.



2006. "Gigabyte gardening." *Arboretum members' magazine* (6), 12–12.

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