

## The Underground Gardens

The Underground Gardens in Fresno, California are, I feel, a incredible monument to a alternate living lifestyle. The monumental effort put forth in creating this environment is one that will not be duplicated soon. The present owners of the site are fully aware of it's importance. In talking to them about the future of the gardens, there immediate concern was the actions being taken by their brother to rezone the site. He was doing this in order that it it could br sold at a profit. There major concern right now is this problem.

In regard to the physical state of the gardens. I would recommend that all on grade skylight openings be covered with a plexiglass dome. This dome would not effect the esthetics within the environment. It would help stop the errosive effects of run-off rains on the subterranean walls, below the skylights. This runn-off has caused deterioration to the walls, causing the stacked hardpan brick to melt and shift from their layered order. The owners have foud a local man who in their opinion, and mine, can cut and stack the hardpan with the same feeling as Baldy had. "Doc", as he is called has been doing some reconstruction within the site, for some time. There is a need I feel to augment this dry stack method slightly. It is possible to bond the hardpan with a color matched mortar. Medusa has a color variable mortar selection that will match the clay/sand subsoil closely. I mentioned this to Mr. Forestiere, and he expresed an interest in this material.

In conclusion, I feel that the owners of the gardens have the best interests of their property in mind. I also feel that they have conservation/restoration as a ongoing goal for the site.