

the following two articles are from the **MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY**  
their website and further information can be found at  
<http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org>

“Pilion is a magical place - It is elemental. The earth is full of life, the forests largely intact. Doris, has created a garden there which symbolizes all the elemental forces one senses in Pilion. It is spell-binding with the music of running water, birdsong, abundant fruit, exuberantly flowering roses with many old species, a great canopy of summer shade from flowering subtropical trees - *Catalpa*, *Davidia*, *Eucryphia*, *Ginkgo*, *Liriodendrum*, *Metasequoia*, *Pawlonia* - to list just a few.

Many pools and water features, steps and pathways leading up and down the slopes of the garden, a pond at the bottom with all manner of fowl, the theme of the serpent comes out here and there, the steps and paths connect with each other, platforms of small spaces afford views out to the sea below - all sensory perceptions are overwhelmed. Most of her plants have been grown from seed by her own hand, annuals, perennials, shrubs and roses, soft fruits and fruit trees intermingled in the fertile soil.

Above the house, in the square of Ag. Taxiarchis is one of the finest *Platanus orientalis* you can see.”



On our final day we left the land of the olive and drove north along the ridge of Pelion through dense forests of chestnuts, planes and other enormous deciduous trees that turned to dark beech as we got higher. Somewhere close to Tsangarada, we stopped at Doris Schlepper's Serpentin garden (<http://www.serpentin-garden.com/welcome.html>), a fairy tale place of snake motifs, old metal gates, small pools, 'English-type' plants, sculptures and beach finds, barnyard fowls and an atmosphere of pure enchantment. Following the overgrown paths to the many levels, we felt like children discovering a new world. There was something unexpected at every turn - fat pink foxgloves, a mannequin's lower half filled with drooping ivy, exquisite irises, extravagant clematis, a tiled fountain, a duck pond, a raspberry patch, more than 50 types of rose, even a 'bee and beetle hotel' made of cleverly stacked perforated logs. We could not get enough of it or our hostess, who is contemplating retiring to Frankfurt. All we can say is Bravo to Ms Schlepper for having created such a horticultural/artistic masterpiece, and we urge any of you who can to contact her via the website and make an appointment to visit before she departs.



Foxgloves, irises, columbine - are we in England or in Greece?  
Photo by Linda Reynolds



Doris's wonderful clematis  
Photo by Diana Farr Louis