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The Garden Kaleidoscopes of Bob Anderson

Door County kaleidoscope artist Bob Anderson's dynamic steel sculptures and garden kaleidoscope installations can be found throughout the United States, and as far away as Japan. The concept of an interactive garden kaleidoscope that could be displayed in a deck



or garden area is his, and combines his interest in nature with his skill with metal; a skill that was developed while working as a maintenance engineer in Sacramento, California.

Being both inventive and artistic, he studied mirror designs and scope making and decided that the teleidoscope was the ultimate combination of nature, interaction and instrument. The teleidoscope is a kaleidoscope that has a lens and an open view that enables it to form kaleidoscopic patterns from

objects outside the instrument, rather than from items installed as part of it.

"I loved the concept of an open object chamber. So I designed a heavy-duty brass teleidoscope that was positioned to view a rotating steel bowl. The bowl could be planted with flowers or filled with anything the owner desired. My favorite is fresh flowering plants," says Anderson. "The most exciting moment for me is when someone looks through the scope and a smile immediately lights their face. We share something at that point that transcends all socioeconomic and cultural barriers."

