



# THE SGD AWARDS 2017

## THE WINNING DESIGNS

Words: Esther Newman and Jane Perrone

ON FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY, the Landmark Hotel in London was the hotspot for 400 eager attendees of the annual SGD Awards ceremony. Garden designers, contractors, sponsors and media enjoyed a champagne reception before moving to the Grand Ballroom for a three-course dinner, after which host Ann-Marie Powell MSGD and the award sponsors revealed the winners of all 19 categories. These projects ranged from tiny backyards to public spaces and historic estates, and from roof terraces and urban courtyards to country gardens. The big winners on the night included Matt Keightley MSGD, who picked up three awards; Ian Kitson FSGD, who won two with his Estuary Garden; and Robert Myers MSGD,

who was also a double champion for his Magic Garden at Hampton Court Palace.

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to the Spanish landscape designer Fernando Caruncho, who explained his approach to garden design in a special film commissioned for the event. He was present with his son to receive his award on stage, and mingle with the other winners and attendees throughout the night. See our full-length interview with him in the next issue of GDJ.

Turn the page to discover details of all of the winning designs. You can see more and find out how to enter the 2018/2019 awards at [www.sgdawards.com](http://www.sgdawards.com)



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# INTERNATIONAL AWARD

**WINNER:** James Basson MSGD, Palmera

**SPONSOR:** Landform Consultants

**BUDGET:** €250,000 **CONTRACTOR:** Gaudissart

**VILLA PALMERA** IS located on the Cap D'Antibes, and part of the wider brief was to open the views out to the Mediterranean Sea beyond, which James Basson MSGD successfully achieved, while keeping a sense of landscape within. "It was a small project that we felt had a lot of charm," says Basson. "We were pleased with the changes we were able to make to the garden. Previously, it felt rather overlooked and a bit soulless. By changing it into a sort of oasis, it felt much cosier and self-contained, while opening up the views to the sea beyond."

Within the garden, Basson was tasked with a number of challenges, including using predominantly Australian and South African plants with watering only on the lawn. Not least was the brief to create a 'mirror' pool – one with an infinity edge on all sides, while hiding the necessary pool cover, which had previously been visible from the house. "The pool was a real success," says Basson. "And we integrated the pool cover into the steps – each made of stone that was cut to order – so it is invisible."

Basson was delighted to be considered for the prize. "It is the highest accolade to be judged by your peers and recognised by the industry body as worthy of one of their awards."

## What the judges said:

"A small garden that feels spacious and interesting. The creative planting softens the leap from garden to landscape and creates a wonderful atmosphere. A lovely, gentle intervention on the site."

## About the award

For any garden or landscape project outside the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice and Partially Registered Members.

The new garden at Villa Palmera includes an extended pool and creative planting to give a cosy atmosphere



# GRAND AWARD & PUBLIC/COMMERCIAL AWARD

**WINNER:** Robert Myers MSGD, The Magic Garden

**SPONSORS:** CED Natural Stone & Vande Moortel

**SIZE:** 5,060m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £3.36 million

**CONTRACTOR:** Frosts Landscapes

**ROBERT MYERS** MSGD won the brief to create a new garden at Hampton Court Palace back in 2011, and was given considerable freedom to design a 'playable landscape' that included a mythical beasts' lair and magic fountains. The space is at once contemporary, while also embracing the rich historical, cultural and mythical legacy of the Palace.

"The Magic Garden was a once-in-a-career project," Myers says. "It was an honour to have the opportunity to create a new family play garden on the site of King Henry VIII's tiltyard."

The design is underpinned by a strong garden structure, which includes a number of disparate areas. "My favourite element is the extraordinary Dragon's Nest, made in living willow by Tom Hare, and the perspective pergola is great fun. But our intention was always to design a garden, not just a playground, and I take great pleasure in the gardenesque atmosphere of the space."

The response to the Magic Garden has been tremendous, Myers says. "In its first year, it attracted over 250,000 people, helping to boost visitor figures to record levels."

## What the judges said:

"A really exciting, generous and inspirational project that stood out in the category. The design is ambitious, innovative and cohesive, handling an intimidating setting extremely well with good references to its history. The garden is full of surprises and fun. It really is magical."

## About the awards

The Grand Award is open to winners in award categories 1 to 7; the Public/Commercial Award is for any communally used public, semi-public or commercial outdoor space, of any size within the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice and Partially Registered Members.



DOUBLE WINNER



The 'playable landscape' by Myers at Hampton Court Palace is touched with whimsy and adventure



All photos: Alex Ramsay





# LARGE RESIDENTIAL AWARD

**WINNER: Debbie Roberts MSGD, Ridgmount Garden**

**SPONSOR:** Gabriel Ash

**SIZE:** 20,234m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £550,000

**DEBBIE ROBERTS MSGD** of SGD Registered Practice Acres Wild describes this five-acre garden in the Surrey Hills as “a real feel-good garden where you can stretch out, kick back and feel on top of the world”. The owners of the late-Victorian villa wanted to simplify the space, open views to the landscape beyond and create areas suitable for their family to relax, dine, sunbathe and swim, as well as hosting large-scale fundraisers for their wildlife conservation trust. Roberts notes: “The clients grew up in South Africa and were used to big spaces and views – the clutter had to go.”

This meant removing overgrown conifers to realign the driveway and highlight a beautiful cedar tree, replacing a heavy brick pergola with an elegant metal tunnel in the vegetable garden, substituting solid timber boundaries for post and rail fences and removing the walled garden to unite the house and garden with the landscape.

Acres Wild created a series of interconnected spaces for sitting, dining, sunbathing and entertaining between the house, coach house and pool, allowing a seamless transition from the living space, into the garden, and reaching out to the six-acre meadow and the countryside beyond. A broad flight of curved steps linking the pool to the main house pulls the whole scheme together, and echoes the expansiveness of the wider setting.

## What the judges said:

“A beautifully planned garden in a lovely setting, creating romance and a sense of place. The use of the meadows is key to linking it to the landscape and is exactly what a garden of this nature requires.”

## About the award

For any domestic project over 3,000m<sup>2</sup>, within the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered Members.



Photo: Marianne Majerus



The five-acre garden is laid out in a series of interconnecting spaces, including vegetable garden, dining area and pool







## MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL & PLANTING DESIGN & JUDGES' AWARD

**WINNER:** Matthew Keightley MSGD, Tyre Hill House garden

**SPONSORS:** Capital Garden Products, Barcham Trees, Harrod Horticultural

**SIZE:** 432m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £168,000

**CONTRACTOR:** Rosebank Landscaping

MATT KEIGHTLEY MSGD scooped an incredible three awards for this extraordinary garden. He is joint winner of the Medium Residential Category as well as winner of the Planting Design Award and also singled out for the coveted Judges' Award.

The brief was to create an Eastern-inspired space where water played a key role, with planting that offered year-round interest with minimal maintenance. The surrounding landscape of the Malvern Hills is echoed by a bespoke granite water wall, which feeds into a rill for koi. The hard landscape areas in three tones of grey are kept on a single level for effortless movement through the space. Five magnolias, drifts of purple irises and pin oaks feature with cloud-pruned Taxus and Pinus hedging.

"I think it's the unique nature of the space that sets it apart," he says. "I made the bold decision to keep the palette for the scheme as restrained as possible to build anticipation and excitement through the year."

### What the judges said:

"A fantastic exercise in restraint demonstrating a clarity, simplicity and purity that is simply beautiful. A self-confident design showing exceptional skill and offering exactly the right planting solution for the space."

### About the award

The Medium Residential Award is awarded to a domestic project more than 400m<sup>2</sup> and less than 3,000m<sup>2</sup>, within the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered; the Planting Design Award is a planting scheme for public or private use. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered & Pre-Registered; the Judges' Award is awarded by the judges looking for something 'extra'. Open to those shortlisted in categories 1 to 15.



TRIPLE  
WINNER



Photo: Marianne Majerus



This design was inspired by Eastern gardens and features clean lines, strong planting structure and several water elements. The judges said the garden was "accomplished, balanced and well finished. It is a stunning composition, almost spiritual in its concept"



## MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL & HARDSCAPE AWARD

**WINNER:** Ian Kitson FSGD, Estuary Garden

**SPONSORS:** Capital Garden Products, Hardscape

**SIZE:** 700m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £150,000

THIS CONTEMPORARY GARDEN within the grounds of a Grade II-listed historic house in North Wales won designer Ian Kitson FSGD two awards – joint champion of the Medium Residential category and winner of the Hardscape Award. It replaced a rock and gravel garden that had fallen into disrepair. The garden is on a level terrace area cut out of the steep slopes that rise up from the River Conwy to the main house, which was built in the late 18th century.

Kitson's design was inspired by the ebb and flow of the tidal river, with several elements echoing the mesmerising patterns of sand rivulets and pools revealed at low tide. The curving pool is dotted with Corten steel planters, while a curving stone path floating over the water allows movement through the space, and timber decks offer a place to rest and enjoy the view. The design features new retaining walls to contain the site's slopes, engineered in reinforced block and clad in stone.

### What the judges said:

"An inspiring project. Different, unusual, challenging and innovative, demonstrating a huge amount of thought and attention to detail. Bold, ambitious and beautifully constructed."

### About the awards

The Medium Residential Award is for a domestic project more than 400m<sup>2</sup> and less than 3,000m<sup>2</sup>, within the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered; the Hardscape Award is for hard landscaped elements of a domestic, commercial or public space. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered.



DOUBLE  
WINNER



Inspired by the adjacent river, and skirted by a steep slope, Kitson's design is an exciting replacement for the former rock garden. The judges said the "beautiful curved retaining walls and hard detailing demonstrate the greatest degree of difficulty"







# SMALL RESIDENTIAL AWARD

**WINNER:** Helen Elks-Smith MSGD,  
**Harbour Garden**

**SPONSOR:** Stonemarket

**SIZE:** 326m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £50,000 **CONTRACTOR:** Wycliffe Landscapes

**IT WAS IMPERATIVE** for this garden to look good mainly in the summer, being attached to a Dorset holiday home, but it also needed year-round interest. The garden is situated on the banks of Christchurch Harbour, so part of the brief was also to raise the seawall to prevent flooding.

"The site is very special," says Helen Elks-Smith MSGD. "It is so peaceful: the combination of light, water and view is quite lovely. The design was very simple: a question of taking out anything that wasn't essential to let the view and location work its magic. That pared-down simplicity is rather appealing to me."

Elks-Smith's favourite element was the stonework. "It reinforces the lines of site switching from east to west. I used the smaller Purbeck pitchers to create the feeling of water flowing between like water – well, that was what was in my head!"

The design included an area of relaxed seating for six along with a separate area for sun loungers. Elks-Smith was determined to remove the previous formality of the garden, which seemed to jar with both the house and the surroundings. "I think the scheme works well for the site," says Elks-Smith. "Someone commented recently that it 'did the view justice', which I was very pleased with."

## What the judges said:

"A strong, emotive response to the setting creating a fantastic sense of place. The use of timber is a clever way to bring the boundary down and create a degree of separation from neighbouring gardens. A sympathetic design paired with beautiful planting."

## About the award

For any domestic garden more than 100m<sup>2</sup> and less than 400m<sup>2</sup>, within the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice and Partially Registered.



This waterside garden offers fantastic views from a variety of seating areas





# GARDEN JEWEL AWARD

**JOINT WINNERS:** Jane Brockbank MSGD & Sue Townsend MSGD

**SPONSOR:** Brett Landscaping

## Jane Brockbank MSGD, Coach House

**SIZE:** 71m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £35,000

**THE GARDEN FOR** this contemporary home in South London was to be predominantly green: the owner wanted it to add to the beauty of the house, which he had recently designed and built for his young family. Jane Brockbank MSGD was tasked with creating an organic layout with lots of planting and emphasis on texture and form.

"While this project is pretty tiny, I think it packs a big punch," says Brockbank. "There are beautiful bold pattern elements like the timber and steel screen, but also more subtle elements from the mixed textures and colours of the plant choices."

Brockbank included a concrete bench to complement the existing screen, while softening the hardscaping with potted succulents. She included taller mixed shrubs and herbaceous planting to form the basis of an exterior dining space and to blend the interior with the exterior.

"I am very happy with the interplay between the patterned elements and the overall colour palette within the garden," says Brockbank, explaining that she was happily given a freer rein with the design than she would normally expect, the client enabling her to take her inspiration from the existing screening, creating an organic foil for its bold pattern. "The collaboration between myself and the architect was really fun," she explains. "He was unusually open to experimentation."

### What the judges said:

"An intriguing space, the garden offers an interesting antidote to hard geometry with generous planting, a beautiful finish and a strong environmental message."



Photo: Marianne Mejerus



Photo: Marianne Mejerus

## Sue Townsend MSGD, Sinuous Path

**SIZE:** 100m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £70,000

**THE CHALLENGE FOR** Sue Townsend MSGD with this brief was to give a sense of space to a narrow corner plot, while adding privacy, as well as retain two existing mature lime trees in this tiny London garden.

"I entered this garden because it is often awkward spaces that demand strong design and horticultural skills," says Townsend. "To the delight of my clients, I managed to create a place where they can relax and entertain away from the gaze of neighbours and passersby."

Townsend's favourite element of the design is the simplicity of it – something that was entirely necessary to ensure the space was maximised. "You can't get simpler than a meandering, sinuous gravel path leading from one seating area to another," she says. "The Corten steel edging to the path not only adds a contemporary twist but also doubles up as a raised bed to protect the tree roots."

Townsend's *pièce de résistance* was the achievement of complete privacy for the owners via the pleached hornbeam trees. Seeing the trees being expertly lifted over the walls by the contractor, instantly transforming the garden into a secluded space, gave the designer a huge sense of achievement. Her simple yet strong design makes the most of the space, in an understated and subtle way, while addressing the huge challenges of this garden.

### What the judges said:

"The clever use of a difficult space creates a relaxing corner in a busy urban setting. The sinuous path creates a lovely sense of journey and achieves an amazing amount of movement and flow in a space of this size and shape."

### About the award

For any domestic project less than 100m<sup>2</sup> including courtyards and front gardens, within the UK. Could also include a garden less than 100m<sup>2</sup> within another garden. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered.







# ROOF GARDEN AWARD

**WINNER: Emily Erlam, Plimsoll Garden**

**SPONSOR:** Gavin Jones

**SIZE:** 170m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £180,000

**CONTRACTOR:** Landform Consultants

A 13TH-FLOOR PENTHOUSE apartment overlooking busy Kings Cross provided multiple design challenges for Pre-Registered Member Emily Erlam, not least providing an enclosed, private feel to one of the largest roof terraces in the area, while still offering exceptional views of the city beyond, as well as sheltering the space from winds of up to 80mph.

The client wanted space to entertain and dine outside, as well as secluded areas for quiet contemplation. "We wanted to build a roof terrace that was more characterised by plants than by hard landscape, which meant a dominance of planting," Erlam explains. "This required a very careful analysis of the weight load and also an environmental approach to planting."

She was keen to ensure that her design, conceived while the penthouse was still under construction, broke away from the standard 'planters on the terrace' approach to roof gardens. She divided the large corner plot into smaller habitable spaces using a continuous run of multilayered steel planters filled with Mediterranean planting. These wrap around the perimeter of the terrace and throw the focus inwards, keeping the hectic surroundings at bay. "The array of planters fit together in a whole with such drama, which can be seen from the moment you enter the living space," Erlam says.

Porcelain flooring, a timber day bed and a 1970s-inspired cascading water feature in aged bronze give the garden a sumptuous, calm feel.

## What the judges said:

"A fascinating garden with a lovely feel about it. The beautiful planting and clever incorporation of water create a wonderful feeling of calm."

## About the award

For any project at least one storey above street level, within the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered.



Photo: Richard Bloom

Erlam's design features steel planters of different heights, seating areas and a water feature





# BIG IDEAS, SMALL BUDGET AWARD

**WINNER: Anne Windsor, Courtyard Garden**

**SPONSOR:** Country Supplies

**SIZE:** 195m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £15,300

**CONTRACTORS:** Barnes Walker Landscapes & Fryatt Landscapes

**WITH HER DESIGN**, Pre-Registered Member Anne Windsor brought life and greenery into the previously barren urban space of a courtyard at the centre of a four-storey apartment building in Manchester, which houses students and families. With no access to soil or groundwater, she was restricted to container planting; the courtyard has experienced problems with drainage in the past and has recently been resurfaced with stone aggregates set above a freely draining void.

"The character and appearance of the space was overwhelmingly hard, harsh and distinctly 'prison-like', exacerbated by an almost complete absence of sunlight at ground level," Windsor explains.

The client brief requested a pleasant spot for residents to sit and relax. The solution? Four semi-mature birches ascend through the space, rising up from a pair of central linear planters with shade-resistant plants. The trees can be appreciated not only at ground level but from the covered walkways above. "The leaves bring life and movement, and capture fragments of sunshine, elusive here at the best of times," says Windsor.

Steel-clad planters at the corners of the space echo the structural pillars and beams of the surrounding building, and the galvanised rebar trellis populated with climbers such as honeysuckles and clematis will grow out to clothe the existing metalwork, creating a 'green canyon' that camouflages the structure.

## What the judges said:

"A lovely design that has transformed what was previously a dead space into a flourishing garden."

## About the award

Presented to a domestic project within the UK where the total budget (excluding designer fees) is no more than £30,000. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered and Pre-Registered Members.



This innovative courtyard for an apartment building features containerised trees, shade-tolerant plants and climbers that will grow up the metal trellises made of rebar







# HEALING OR LEARNING GARDEN AWARD

**WINNER:** Ann-Marie Powell MSGD, Chestnut Tree House

**SPONSOR:** Easigrass

**SIZE:** 4,618m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** £41,200

**CONTRACTOR:** Garden House Design

**THE BRIEF FOR THIS** garden was to create a space for the residents, staff and visitors of a children's hospice. Ann-Marie Powell MSGD created a woodland walk with sensory elements and different zones to encourage therapeutic play and education, as well as secluded areas for remembering. "This garden made me reconsider what we do as designers," explains Powell. "We literally have the power to change people's lives, enhancing family and also working relationships."

Powell's favourite part of the design was the resin boardwalk itself. The raised decking structure glides over the levels and obstacles of a woodland floor, enabling wheelchair users physical access to a magical woodland.

"When the garden opened, I became very emotional when I heard stories about how it had transformed therapeutic learning and the day-to-day experiences of families and residents. It was a wonderful day for all of us involved in the project and very humbling," says Powell. She hopes the garden will offer encouragement for other similar spaces. "The award highlights the importance of valuable garden additions to hospice life."

## What the judges said:

"An absolutely fantastic garden that demonstrates amazing value for money. Gentle, soft and magical, it has been sensitively and creatively designed so that it sits naturally within its woodland setting. This is a role-model garden that children in particular will love."

## About the award

For any built garden designed for the purpose of healing or learning including school gardens, outside space for care homes or gardens for hospices, within the UK. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered, Pre-Registered & Student Members.

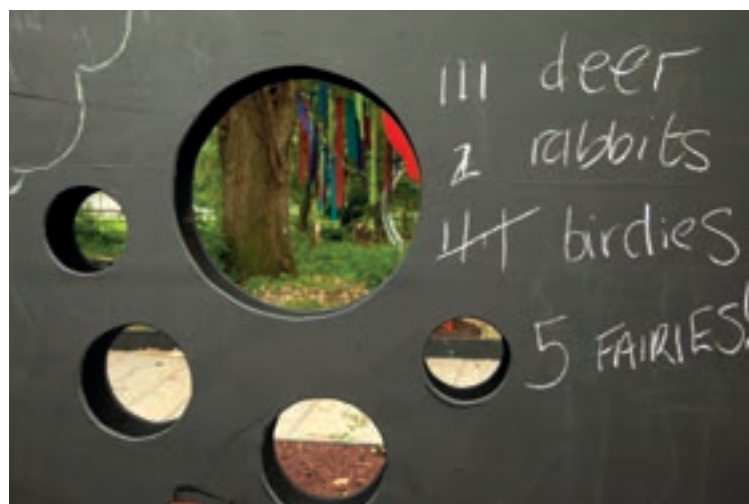


Photo: John Campbell



The woodland is designed to be experienced and enjoyed by the children who use the hospice, and their families

Photo: John Campbell







# HISTORIC RESTORATION AWARD

**WINNER:** Christian Sweet MSGD, Como Gardens

**SPONSOR:** Deepdale Trees

**SIZE:** 14,000m<sup>2</sup>

**THIS 16TH-CENTURY** Italian mansion had existing formal gardens, which Christian Sweet MSGD was able to use as the framework of his design, while breathing new life into the space. "Our brief from the client allowed me to bring a degree of English garden character to the site," says Sweet. "As a result, this scheme showcases our ability to restore a historic landscape, while bringing something new to the design."

He designed a series of rooms within the garden, including an ornamental vegetable garden, a vine walk, and a terrace. His scheme added more than 6,500 new plants to the gardens, including trees, topiary and bulbs, and offers an interesting contrast between border planting spilling out over the paths, softening the lines of the more formal fountains and hedges, all surrounded by perfect green lawns: a classic English feature that is quite unusual in other notable villas in the region.

"It was a significant challenge to be working on a garden in Italy," says Sweet. But his challenge was made easier by having a "very good client" and an excellent team. Sweet's role is an ongoing one, advising on the maintenance of the garden every few months, and he finds it particularly rewarding to revisit it and watch it mature.

## What the judges said:

"A sensitive interpretation of the historic context and careful attention to detail in the restoration of key features has created a stunning garden for those visiting, giving a real sense of what was there before."

## About the award

For the restoration or renovation of a historic garden or a garden in an historic context for private or public use. The original garden must pre-date 1980. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered & Pre-Registered.



The villa garden by Lake Como features a lily pond, thousands of new plants and a vine walk, along with an English garden style sensibility







# PAPER LANDSCAPES AWARD

**WINNER:** Carolyn Willitts, Hale Garden

**SPONSOR:** Green-tech

**SIZE:** 2,400m<sup>2</sup>

**THE BRIEF FOR** this project was to create a contemporary family garden that suited the client's modern, architect-designed house. Pre-Registered SGD Member Carolyn Willitts designed a formal garden, which reflected the clean, modern lines of the house's architecture, with a platform that projects over a reflective pool. Beyond this formal garden, there are areas of meadowland and woodland, offering meandering paths and routes for natural play. Sadly, the project never came to fruition as it was cancelled by the client following the Brexit announcement in 2016.

"I was really proud of this project, but so disappointed about it not being built," says Willitts. "I think the design works well with the modern architecture, but there's a softness to it as well."

Willitts made sure to concentrate on viewing angles from all positions in the garden, including stone benches artfully decorated with etchings of plant sketches that she made at the initial site visit, tucked discreetly into the planting. Hedging and trees were arranged to lead the eye to further artworks set within a more naturalistic landscape.

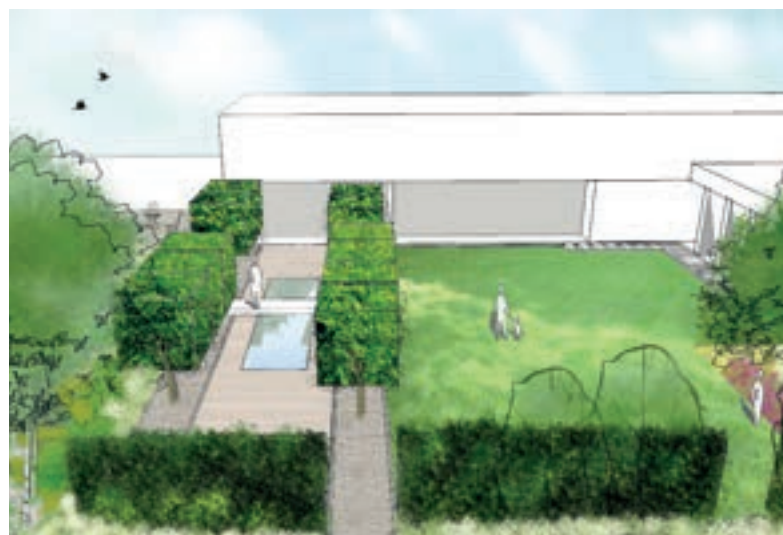
"My favourite part of the design is the contrast between the formal and informal parts of the garden, and the blending between the two," explains Willitts. "I'm particularly pleased with how the presentation of the design looks as I have been experimenting with more graphical techniques recently."

## What the judges said:

"An accomplished presentation demonstrating a lovely understanding of the seasons."

## About the award

For the expression of a designer's ideas which have yet to find a client or opportunity for expression. Open to FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered & Pre-Registered.



Willitts' presentation included a variety of perspective drawings and illustrations of the planting scheme throughout the year







# STUDENT AWARD COMMERCIAL

**WINNER:** Nicky Burridge – London College of Garden Design, Cambridge Cottage Garden

**SPONSOR:** British Sugar TOPSOIL

**KEW'S CAMBRIDGE COTTAGE** is used as a private venue for corporate and educational events, parties and weddings. The brief stipulated that as well as allowing daily access to the staff offices and for visitors to the botanical print collection, its garden should work as a day and evening venue with areas for wedding photos, places to retreat and large reception spaces for up to 150 people: enhanced planting with seasonal interest should frame the views to the wider garden.

The resulting design proposal featured a matrix of trees that define the space, including a grid of single stem *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* in the enclosed courtyard garden of the reception terrace and multi-stemmed specimens on the south-facing courtyard. These trees would be up-lit to define the verticals and create interest day and night.

The scheme also redefines the entrance to the garden, allowing Kew visitors a direct path to the print collection, which is housed on the ground floor of Cambridge Cottage, while allowing glimpses of the garden surroundings.

"It has taken 10 years to get to the point where I could do the London College of Garden Design course, base camp," explains Burridge. "Winning this award is the summit of my personal Mount Everest. Cambridge Cottage garden needs a new lease of life and my hope is that this award will encourage the trustees of Kew to invest in the garden's future, adding to its unique history and helping to create something special for future generations."

## What the judges said:

"Formality and asymmetry have been combined to create a design that perfectly complements the façade of the building."

## About the award

For any commercial design completed by a student member. Open to Student Members & Qualifying Pre-Registered Members.



The judges' were impressed with Burridge's ideas and especially the night-time illustrations





London Stone

# STUDENT AWARD DOMESTIC

**WINNER:** Sheila Jack – London College of Garden Design,  
Kent garden & Surrey garden

**SPONSOR:** London Stone

**SHEILA JACK WON** the award as a joint prize for both of her entries in this category, a design for a large, contemporary family garden in Kent, and a smaller Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired garden in Surrey.

The Kent garden was designed as a “timeless contemporary” space that matches the natural beauty of the site, incorporating a natural swimming pond, a terraced area for entertaining and a sunken tennis court. Jack invites the visitor into a “green breathing space” at the centre of the garden via axial pathways, “before you spill out into the frothing energy of the semi-enclosed garden”.

Jack incorporated “nods to the past” into her design, such as the *patte d’oie* or ‘goosefoot’ pathways that radiate out from orderly spaces into the wilderness, and the enclosed ‘hortus conclusus’ entrance courtyard.

Her design for the garden in Surrey treated the space as a “sculptural piece”, providing a relaxing and useful outside space with a design that is nonetheless bold, architectural and contemporary. Concrete cantilevered steps inspired by Lloyd-Wright’s Fallingwater are at the heart of the design, with a grid layout softened by the romance of an exuberant ornamental meadow. “The use of bespoke concrete and light-grey render, toning gravel pathways and anthracite paintwork unites the garden with the interior of the house.”

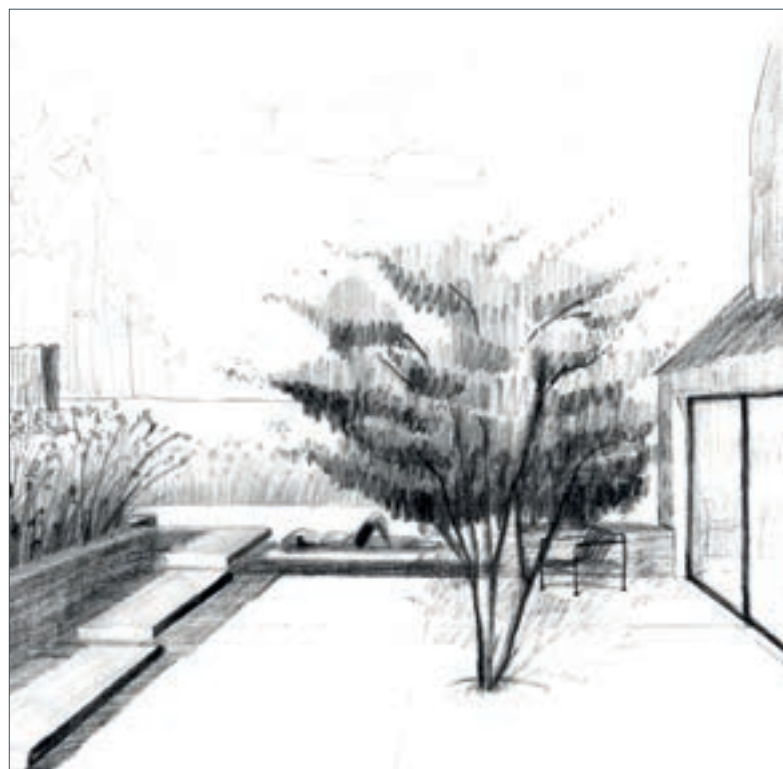
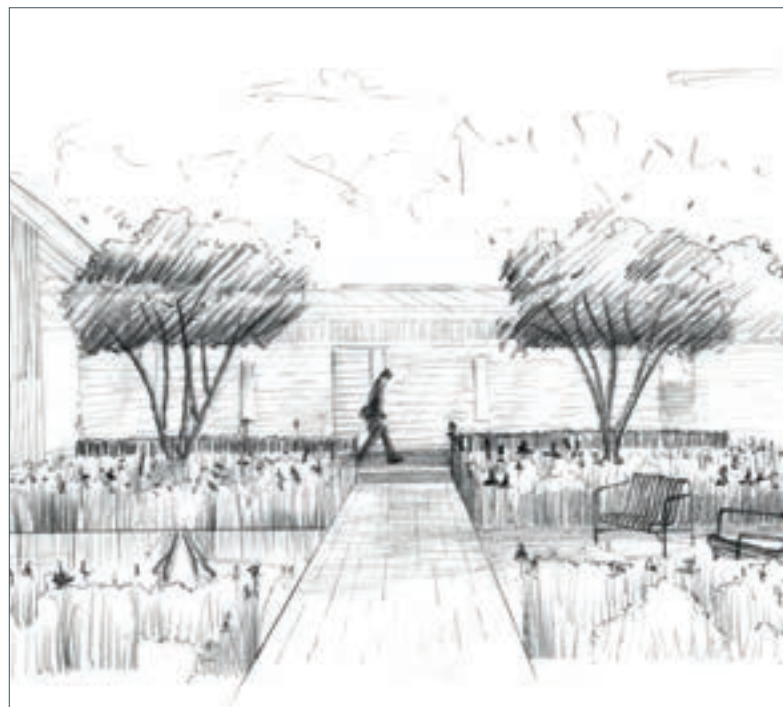
## What the judges said:

Kent garden: “A bold design that fits into its surroundings without being too imposed.”

Surrey garden: “Beautiful sketches illustrating a wonderfully restrained design that demonstrates a lightness of touch and a strong visual stillness.”

## About the award

For any domestic design completed by a Student Member. Open to Student Members & Qualifying Pre-Registered Members.



**TOP** Jack's large contemporary garden design for a family in Kent features an enclosed entrance courtyard **ABOVE** Her Surrey garden design is a small outdoor room with cantilevered steps







# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**WINNER:** Fernando Caruncho

**SPONSOR:** Alitex

**SPANISH LANDSCAPE DESIGNER** Fernando Caruncho is known internationally as the creator of exceptional minimalist gardens. His work is influenced by philosophy and concerned with the fall of light on to the natural and formed geometry of the landscape. He is a master of composition with a unique approach and ethos, and a large portfolio of diverse but distinctive projects all over the world, from Italy to the US and Japan.

Caruncho went to university to read philosophy before studying landscape architecture, but considers himself to be, above all, "a gardener". He experienced early success with a feature on his first garden project, for his uncle, appearing in *French Vogue*, and went on to develop a style that combines sculptural planting with clean-lined water features, resulting in spaces that are harmonious and thought-provoking.

A spokesperson for the SGD Council said: "Since the creation of his first garden in the early 1980s, Fernando Caruncho has designed timeless gardens, both in Spain and internationally, with a simplicity and lightness of touch using geometry, light, water and connection to the wider environment at the heart of his projects. Caruncho is an inspirational philosopher, landscape architect and gardener, who continues to inspire with his philosophical approach to garden creation, and the SGD is delighted to present him with this year's Lifetime Achievement Award."

Discover more about Fernando Caruncho in an in-depth interview in the forthcoming April 2018 issue of *GDJ*.

## About the award

Awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession. Gifted by the SGD Council.



**TOP** Fernando Caruncho at his studio outside Madrid

**ABOVE** His designs often feature clipped shrubs and Mediterranean plants such as cypress and olives, as well as water and views of the surrounding countryside, as in this private garden in Majorca





# HOMES & GARDENS

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

**WINNER:** Fiona Stephenson MSGD, Cambou garden

**SPONSOR:** Homes & Gardens

**SIZE:** 5,000m<sup>2</sup> **BUDGET:** €250,000

**CONTRACTOR:** Jardins des Bastides

**THE GARDEN OF THE** 17th-century house at Domaine de Cambou in France was so unkempt when it was purchased in 2006 that several vehicles were found beneath 5m-tall brambles. Fiona Stephenson MSGD has spent years since then bringing the garden back to life. "The soil is solid clay – you could make pots out of it. It is the biggest challenge I have ever faced," she says.

The client's brief included a swimming pool and the desire to maximise the original limited garden areas; the acquisition of two hectares of meadow increased the scale of the project and required careful choice of plant species. "The plants chosen need to be very tough – often thuggish choices in a normal garden setting. They needed to stand out from the green grass, have long seasons of interest and long flowering periods," Stephenson explains.

Three motifs linked the disparate areas of the plot: a contemporary linear planting style that juxtaposed the traditional style of the buildings' architecture; splashes and streaks of red; and rusty fence panels featuring fern patterns that provided dividers and points of interest. Stephenson marked the garden's 100m boundary with a laneway with a bold streak of red created with extremely long-flowering *Rosa 'Sevillana'*.

Close to the house, a south-facing breakfast terrace is divided from the abundantly planted Pigeonnier garden by an intricate hand-forged gate by Dominic Hesp. To the west of the plot, placement of a 16m-long pool required "ingenious geometry", and Stephenson raised the ground level here by 0.5m to preserve the views of the surrounding landscape.

The meadow planting is Stephenson's favourite aspect, requiring "an entirely new planting and maintenance technique. The brave and bold stripes of red roses, a complementary colour to the sea of green surrounding them, has triggered much local interest," she says.

### About the award

Decided by public vote. Open to shortlisted finalists in award categories 1 to 7.



The designer has spent years crafting this garden, which is bold in its use of red and contemporary planting, but still sits well with the traditional 17th-century buildings

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AWARDS