

THE SGD AWARDS SHORTLIST 2017

Discover the 26 gardens that have made this year's shortlist, and cast your vote for your favourite in The People's Choice Award

Emily Erlam's
shortlisted roof
garden project
(see page 21)

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JOIN US: THE SGD AWARDS CEREMONY 2017

Date: Friday 2 February 2018
Venue: Landmark Hotel, London
Tickets on sale from 20 October
2017. www.sgdawards.com

The Society of Garden Designers' Awards celebrate the best in garden design, and the shortlist of finalists has now been announced for 2017. The following 26 projects stood out amongst all the entries and succeeded in impressing the judges. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on 2 February 2018 at the Landmark Hotel in London. Tickets go on sale on 20 October and you can book yours by going to www.sgdawards.com, where you can also vote for your choice of garden to win The People's Choice Award (see page 46).

"THESE PROJECTS STOOD OUT AND SUCCEEDED IN IMPRESSING THE JUDGES"

01 JAMES BASSON MSGD VILLA PALMERA, CAP D'ANTIBES

The brief for this small but beautifully located garden was to open the views out to the Mediterranean while maintaining a feeling of landscape within. It was also requested that the designer replace the existing swimming pool with a 'mirror pool' – one with an infinity edge on all sides. Hard landscaping was smartly coordinated with the home's interior, and pergolas were added to ensure the outside areas became an extension of the living space. The planting included predominantly Australian and South African plant species, such as olive and eucalyptus trees, thoughtfully arranged to create a feeling of intimacy from the surrounding buildings. The designer also paid careful consideration to the home's entrance, creating a soft, landscaped approach.

02 FIONA STEPHENSON MSGD DOMAINE DE CAMBOU

The designer has transformed the bedraggled garden of a 16th-century property in south west France. The original brief was to maximise the limited garden areas and to include a swimming pool. The designer created a strong, linear planting pattern using red roses, in particular *Rosa sevilleana* and *Rosa vesuvia*, interspersed with lavender, drifts of *Chasmanthium latifolium* and *Euphorbia wulfenii*, to provide a cohesive identity in a sea of green. The project also included two hectares of meadow to the south, which were planted with large drifts of robust species, such as *Stachys lanata*, *Iris germanica*, nigella, stocks and salvia varieties to deliver eye-catching contrasts of colour, texture and form.



Photo: Alex Ramsay

03 ANN-MARIE POWELL GARDENS SOPWELL HOUSE

Ann-Marie Powell MSGD and her team were commissioned to redesign the overly mature gardens of Sopwell House in St Albans to accompany the hotel's renovations. The brief was to create private, gated gardens to provide an air of exclusivity for the new mews area of the hotel, as well as a central, sociable hub. The team achieved privacy with a six-foot yew hedge and pleached hornbeams. A dramatic spherical sculpture draws the eye above a central water feature. A spa wall is also integrated into the design – both it and the central sphere are lit theatrically in the evening. Colour is provided with distinctive planting, with *Potentilla* 'Gibson's Scarlet' bumping up against *Bergenia purpurescens* 'Winterglut', *Astrantia major* 'Superstar' and euphorbia interspersed with texture in the form of *Taxus baccata* onions.

04 ROBERT MYERS MSGD THE MAGIC GARDEN

The designer won a brief to create a new garden at Hampton Court Palace in 2011, which was to be a substantial attraction for families. He has created a contemporary space, which embraces the rich historical, cultural and mythical legacy of the palace to deliver a 'playable landscape'. It is underpinned by a strong garden structure, which references the rich historical sourcebook, including a topiary garden, a tournament ground, a mythical beasts' lair and an encampment, as well as magic fountains and a grotto. Different levels, slopes, undulating paths, enclosure, scale and perspective all help to maximise the garden's playful potential and create atmosphere and surprise. The designer used a palette of both hard and soft materials, and planting to reflect the different character areas.

05 ACRES WILD RIDGMOUNT

Ridgmount is a Victorian villa in the Surrey Hills. The mature garden had evolved too much over time, and the client wanted to open up the spaces. Debbie Roberts MSGD and Ian Smith MSGD created a broad flight of stairs to connect the pool with the main house, and to embrace the view. A series of spaces for sitting, dining and entertaining were designed between the house and the pool. A path now links the pool to the tennis court and provides access to the cottage garden. The original walled garden was removed, ensuring that the focal point was the original oak tree and the view beyond of the Surrey Hills. Architectural planting in the shape of box balls and creative yew hedging is broken up with drifts of lavender. An intimate lunch terrace was created, and a treehouse has been built around an old chestnut tree.

Photo: Marianne Majerus

Photo: Stephen Studd



Photo: Marianne Majerus



Photo: Steve Hughs

STUDENT
FINALISTS
revealed in Jan 18
issue of GDJ

06 MATT KEIGHTLEY MSGD GREAT MARTINS

The brief was to transform over 17 acres of land, including paddocks, into a formal landscape. The client asked the designer to retain as many mature trees as possible, to create multiple areas for entertaining, and to design a distinctive approach to the house. The design included a three-acre semi-mature woodland, over five acres of wildflower meadow, while half an acre is dedicated to a children's play area. Elsewhere, there is a substantial kitchen garden, a parterre, a topiary garden, a sculpture walk, a rhododendron walk, a raised verandah, formal lawns, and a lake created from an existing pond. Automated lighting and irrigation has been fitted throughout.

07 MATT KEIGHTLEY MSGD TYRE HILL HOUSE

A key consideration for the designer at this Worcestershire property was to retain its views of the nearby Malvern Hills. The clients wanted

a versatile, Eastern-inspired space, with seating areas and a planting scheme to provide year-round interest, as well as minimal maintenance. Water was to play a key role, in the main to house a significant Koi carp collection. The designer created a garden which provides three bursts of beauty throughout the year: first, the magnolias, then drifts of iris and finally leaf interest from pin oaks. Water flows through the entire space, and a bespoke granite water wall forms a subtle link with the Malvern hills and the wider landscape. The scheme has been pulled together through the form of the cloud pruned taxus and pinus hedging, in addition to the specimen bonsai-form pines, which add to the Eastern element. Three main materials in grey were included for the hard landscaping to provide a muted backdrop to the planting scheme.

08 IAN KITSON FSGD ESTUARY GARDEN

The clients wanted to replace the mid-century rockery which made up part of the grounds of their

Georgian country house, which had a glorious view out over the River Conwy. The designer used the tidal movements and sand patterns of the estuary as a starting point for the design, which included Corten steel planters, shaped in wave formations. The new north west retaining walls were engineered in reinforced blocks and clad with stone copings. Paths were created from stone sawn on all sides, and timber floating decks were made from sustainable hardwood. Drifts of planting punctuate the walkways to create a natural, modern echo of the estuary beyond.

09 THE GARDEN COMPANY LTD WESTMEON

This family home with a new extension needed a garden overhaul. The client wanted to create flow between the disparate areas, to create a play area for the children, as well as a vegetable garden and a pool house. James Scott MSGD and his team employed paving to match the existing terrace, hardwood decking around the pool, and shallow

steps from the pool area down to the lower garden in white concrete. Gravel paths were laid, with sculptural elements to add interest along the walks. Space for a play area and kitchen garden were created at the far end of the garden, leaving room for meadow planting and more formal lawn areas for entertaining. The planting is easy to maintain, offering shots of colour in white, purple and yellow between more structural grasses.

10 HELEN ELKS-SMITH MSGD HARBOUR GARDEN

The brief for this Dorset holiday home was to create a garden that connects to the wider landscape, offering seating for entertaining, and year-round interest. The seawall was raised to prevent flooding, which had previously been an issue at high tide, as the garden is situated on the banks of Christchurch Harbour. Local Purbeck stone was used throughout, which was hand picked from the quarry and dry laid with the contractor on site before final construction. The

garden gently flows from the house to the harbour in an undulating wave, bordered by a scheme including *Clematis* 'Étoile Violette', *Bupleurum fruticosum* and *Phormium tenax*. Boulders of Purbeck stone along with pockets of *Armeria maritima* and *Erigeron* 'Sea Breeze' adorn decking at the far end of the garden, bringing a sense of local landscape into the view from the house.

11 DAVID LOY PELORUS

The owners of this striking, timber-clad home were keen to introduce focal points while better sheltering the garden from properties that overlooked it. Entertaining spaces have been created in multiple locations throughout the garden, including a sleek garden pavilion. A small lawn area was created to balance the space, and hardscaping introduced to provide a circular walk, linking the house to the garden and pavilion. An oak pergola creates a focal point, while lighting was introduced to illuminate access routes.

Planting is contemporary, mixing up-lit white-stemmed birches with densely planted shade-tolerant grasses and ferns. Other, more colourful planting gives a long season of interest.

12 CHARLOTTE ROWE MSGD ISLINGTON COURTYARD GARDEN

The clients for this urban garden wanted an elegant space for entertaining that was visible from all floors of the property. The design includes two new levels, stairs and built-in seating. The interior grey polished concrete floor continues to the exterior, with a darker grey gravel area complemented by grey render walls and darker grey trellis. The planting included three trees: a holm oak for screening, a multi-stem *Carpinus betulus* in the gravel, and a repositioned olive. Two layers of hedging cut across the garden to provide interest and depth, using *Buxus sempervirens* and dwarf Japanese bamboo, *Pleioblastus pygmaeus* 'Distichus'. The end wall and the fireplace have been softened with *Prunus lusitanica* pillars and climbers.



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VOTE FOR
THE PEOPLE'S
CHOICE AWARD
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**13 THE GARDEN COMPANY LTD
WILLIFIELD**

James Scott MSGD and his team were tasked with creating two gardens for a retired woman in the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust area: a traditional front garden and a more contemporary rear garden. A high proportion of planting to hardscaping was used in the rear garden while still allowing room for several different dining, seating and entertaining areas softened with greenery. Attractive, mature trees were retained to ensure privacy, while grey paving slabs and gravel edging offer areas for entertaining and for showcasing sculpture. Border planting includes hypericum, camellia and viburnum. At the front of the house, box hedging, sleek paving and a muted palette of purples and greens lends the garden a contemporary twist on traditional style.

**14 JANE BROCKBANK MSGD
COACH HOUSE**

The brief for this architect's self-designed house in South London was that the garden must be

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Photo: Marianne Majerus

predominantly green; it was primarily for looking at and adding to the beauty of the house. The garden had an existing tall timber and steel screen, and to complement it, a concrete bench was installed, softened by succulents in pots. Greenery was provided via taller mixed shrubs and herbaceous planting to the rear, with mid-height grasses and low creeping planting to the fore. Hard standing was created to form the basis of an exterior dining space and surrounding walkways, to blend the interior of the house with the exterior, in Peterson bricks set at varying lengths to add interest.

**15 MATT KEIGHTLEY MSGD
VINEYARD MEWS**

The clients of the mews house wanted a contemporary theme that linked strongly to the interior. The primary objective was to create a space that looked incredible from the inside; secondary was to create a sociable seating area towards the bottom of the garden. The designer helped maximise the feeling of space by using all surfaces available – including the vertical planes,

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Photo: Marianne Majerus

creating a living wall with lush evergreens. A number of large multi-stem trees added height as well as privacy, while bespoke furniture was created to ensure there was no compromise on the design and to create the most efficient use of space. Bursts of colour were injected through the use of evergreen topiary, while granite sculptures with flashes of silver picked up on the tones of the bench and gravel. Subtle lighting has been incorporated to highlight the key features in the garden.

**16 SUE TOWNSEND MSGD
SINUOUS PATH**

The brief for this central London space was to create a secluded garden with a sense of privacy. The designer had to consider the clients' wish to retain their two existing mature lime trees, while giving a sense of space to a very narrow corner plot. The designer created a sinuous loose gravel path to connect two seating areas. Corten steel was used to give a stylish edge and to create a raised bed on the north side where the soil levels were higher. Reclaimed York stone was used for

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Photo: Marianne Majerus

18



the seating areas, while pleached hornbeam were used to create a sense of privacy. The planting has a woodland feel with winter structure and seasonal interest, including clipped box balls, hydrangeas, grasses, hostas and hellebores. An *Acer palmatum* 'Bloodgood' provides autumn colour. New railings were installed and painted the same colour as the house, and subtle garden lighting has been used to create ambiance.

**17 EMILY ERLAM
PLIMSOLL TERRACE**

The brief for this roof garden in the heart of Kings Cross was to create a feeling of privacy and seclusion; a tough call for a 13th floor corner roof terrace. The designer created an extensive multi-layered steel planting system that divided the space up into smaller 'rooms' to create a sense of intimacy. She worked closely with Landform and Kinley Systems to maximise structural impact within the weight tolerance allowed. The design included a 70s-inspired water feature in aged bronze and a timber day

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Photo: Caroline Mardon

bed, both of which wrap around in the same way as the planters. Mediterranean planting, including sea buckthorn, *Lonicera nitida*, viburnum and lavender, is used throughout, and there are also free-standing planters for herbs and bulbs.

**18 ALEXANDRA FROGGATT
KENNETT GARDENS**

The art-loving owners of this small garden in Bradford on Avon wanted an interesting outdoor room. With this in mind, the designer created a real wow factor with a bespoke, sculptural aluminium pergola, which provides both a focal point and shelter. The carefully placed angles and level changes create the illusion of greater space. Decking was included as a space for entertaining, including a cantilevered bench. A rainfall waterfall, with a reservoir covered in slate, was placed at the end of the path to add a desired sound of water. Lighting is used throughout to highlight key features and plants. A multi-stem tree adds vertical interest, while other planting includes herbs, grasses and perennials to create a pretty

'wild herb garden'. The back section of the garden cleverly disguises a shed accessed by a discreet door.

**19 KAREN ROGERS
COURTYARD, WEST LONDON**

The new owners of this bijou garden in Chiswick were after a complete transformation. Its previous owner had turned the back garden into a car park, which made for a fairly utilitarian view. The client wanted a design to complement the interior, and it also had to be big enough for a table and chairs for entertaining. The designer created a circular terrace to provide seclusion, interest and depth. Pleached trees were used to screen the garden from the buildings at the back. Wide, deep steps were created from the house to the terrace area to open up the space and give a sense of grandeur, while attractive brickwork was used extensively throughout, housing both the steps and raised beds, which contain a mix of evergreens and perennials around the seating area.

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20 ANNE WINDSOR SHARED COURTYARD GARDEN

This Manchester courtyard is set in the centre of a four-storey apartment building with an almost complete absence of sunlight at ground level. The designer's principle aim was to introduce soil and plants to bring life to a harsh urban space. Semi-mature birch trees rise vertically through the centre, while shade-loving plants are layered at seat level. Honeysuckle and clematis climb the new galvanised trellis, with the aim in time to clothe the existing structural metalwork to create a 'green canyon'. Soil is contained in low planters clad in galvanised steel to the centre and edges of the courtyard. Timber benches are set on top of the planters and surrounded by plants. The benches suggest a circle, which can be seen from ground level and above.

**21 ANN-MARIE POWELL GARDENS
CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE**
Chestnut Tree House is a children's hospice that caters for short-term and end-of-life care and also

provides long-term facilities for children with life-threatening illnesses. Ann-Marie Powell MSGD and team created a garden for families to spend time together outdoors. A woodland walk lets children experience nature in a sensory way. The woodland was zoned, with spaces for therapeutic play, education, gatherings, cooking and camping, and remembering. A Millboard polymer-resin boardwalk and sub-frame creates a non-slip route through the woods. A 'pole cathedral' draws the eyes of children up into the tree canopies, and a central deck allows observation of wildlife. Wooden sculptures were included as visual and sensory signposts, and a hanging garden adds colour and playfulness.

**22 LULU URQUHART & ADAM HUNT
PRIVATE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ESTATE**
The designers were approached to consider the forecourt of Grade II listed Dowdeswell Court, the landscaped grounds of which are within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The

forecourt is the main arrival point to the house, and the brief was to develop a comprehensive design scheme that acknowledged the historical influences of the house and use them alongside a more contemporary approach. A lavender bank has been planted alongside other perennials such as rosemary, *Echinacea* 'Meadowbrite', *Nepeta* 'Blue Wonder' and *Erysimum* 'Bowles's Mauve'. These have been interspersed with bulbs for seasonal interest, such as alliums, iris and tulips including 'Odalisque', 'Ballerina', 'Havana' and 'Black Parrot'. Wisteria has also been added, alongside 10 *Osmanthis burkwoodii* trees for vertical interest.

**23 SARAH JARMAN & ANNA MURPHY
PROJECT: WOODLANDS**
The brief for this large architect-designed family home set in several acres was to create planting schemes for a new driveway and beds, as well as to create screening from neighbouring properties. The designers removed a large leylandii hedge, and an outdated central circular bed. Greater prominence

was given to the main front entrance of the property, while existing trees were retained alongside new additions in the form of deciduous and evergreen specimens to create screening while allowing light in. Naturalist woodland planting schemes, including *Ilex* 'Dragon Lady', *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* and sarcococca were used throughout the space, bringing texture, movement and year-round interest and softening the approach to the house.

**24 CHRISTIAN SWEET MSGD
VILLA BALBIANO, LAKE COMO**
Villa Balbiano is a historically important 16th-century mansion on the shores of Lake Como. The brief was to build on the surviving formal framework from the last major redesign in the 1960s, and to breathe new life into the gardens. The designer created a series of distinct rooms, including an ornamental vegetable garden, a shaded vine walk, a garden of mixed shrub borders, a rose garden and a terrace garden, complete with pergola festooned with wisteria and jasmine. Over 6,500 plants have been

added to the gardens, including trees, topiary, shrubs and bulbs. The project also included the repair and renovation of the central fountains and cascade for which the villa is well known.

**25 MARIAN BOSWALL MSGD
BREDE PLACE**
The original building at Breda Place was erected in 1350, so there is a rich history to both the house and its gardens, which have fallen into disrepair. The plan for this new garden is to provide a setting for the historic manor house, with both open and enclosed spaces, and to integrate it with the countryside beyond. A sweeping new drive will build a sense of place, a family arrival courtyard will offer a rural aesthetic, and a new walled garden kitchen leads to a pool and entertaining space with fireplace and loggia. A pleached lime walk will lead from the family parking area to the entrance courtyard, from which a series of shallow terraces with a central infinity edge rill widen and frame the view and provide the focal link to the house. A new moon

garden is planned to the north of the rill terraces; plus renovation of topiary from the 1900s and lakes, dells and woodlands in the wider estate.

**26 CAROLYN WILLITTS
HALE GARDEN**
This design was created for a new house in Cheshire, where the client wanted a formal, family garden. The brief included a request to screen views into neighbouring properties, so the designer included box-pleached trees and hedges to create a sense of enclosure. The formal garden blends into more informal landscape towards the boundaries, aided by naturalistic ornamental, meadow and woodland planting with birch grove. Other elements include cloud-pruned topiary spheres and artworks sited across the landscape. The hardscaping is drawn from a palette of limestone and sandstone, used as paving slabs, setts and gravel. Two feature benches in granite have illustrations etched onto the surface in layers traced from photos of vegetation from the first site visit. →

THE SGD AWARDS 2017: SHORTLISTED FINALISTS



THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD 2017

Seventeen of these gardens are also shortlisted for The People's Choice Award. See more on each entry and cast a vote for your favourite project at www.sgdawards.com. Voting closes on 31 October 2017.

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH

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SGD AWARD CATEGORIES

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

SPONSOR: Landform
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



PUBLIC OR COMMERCIAL OUTDOOR SPACE

SPONSOR: Vande Moortel
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



LARGE RESIDENTIAL

SPONSOR: Gabriel Ash
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL

SPONSOR: Capital Garden Products
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



SMALL RESIDENTIAL

SPONSOR: Stonemarket
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



GARDEN JEWEL

SPONSOR: Brett Paving
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



ROOF GARDEN

SPONSOR: Gavin Jones
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



BIG IDEAS, SMALL BUDGET

SPONSOR: Country Supplies
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered & Pre-Registered



HEALING OR LEARNING GARDEN

SPONSOR: Easigrass
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered, Pre-Registered & Student



PLANTING DESIGN

SPONSOR: Barcham
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered & Pre-Registered



HARDSCAPE

SPONSOR: Hardscape
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice & Partially Registered



HISTORIC GARDEN RESTORATION

SPONSOR: Deepdale
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered & Pre-Registered



PAPER LANDSCAPES

SPONSOR: TBC
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: FSGD, MSGD, Registered Practice, Partially Registered & Pre-Registered

STUDENT DESIGN AWARD – COMMERCIAL

SPONSOR: British Sugar TOPSOIL
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: Student Members & Qualifying Pre-Registered Members



STUDENT DESIGN AWARD – DOMESTIC

SPONSOR: London Stone
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: Student Members & Qualifying Pre-Registered Members



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SPONSOR: Alitex
Awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession and is gifted by the SGD Council.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

SPONSOR: Homes & Gardens
By public vote, open to Shortlisted finalists in Award categories 1 to 7



THE JUDGES' AWARD

SPONSOR: Harrod Horticultural
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: This is awarded by the judges looking for something 'extra'. Open to Registered, Partially Registered Members shortlisted in Award categories 1 to 15



THE GRAND AWARD

SPONSOR: CED Natural Stone
MEMBERS ELIGIBLE: The winner of winners, open to Winners in Award categories 1 to 7



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