

The Society of Garden Designers' GARDEN DESIGN AWARDS 2013

Now in its second year, the Society of Garden Designers' (SGD) Garden Design Awards showcases the best new gardens created by SGD members. Entries to the 2013 awards included work by old hands as well as designs by new members who are part of the pool of emerging talent that is shaping the future of garden style in Britain and overseas.

Nearly all of the awards were for domestic gardens and the judges found that winners offered a wide breadth of inventive, sensitive and extraordinary styles, full of beautiful planting and hard landscaping details. Added to the existing awards, the *Community Spaces Award* makes its first appearance this year, showing how garden design can energise shared public spaces, even on a limited budget.



THE JUDGING PANEL

RICHARD SNEESBY Garden designer, lecturer and author.
TRUDI ENTWISTLE Senior lecturer in Landscape Architecture at Leeds Metropolitan University.
WILLIAM BURFORD Lecturer, landscape architect and garden designer.
ARABELLA ST JOHN PARKER Houses & Gardens editor, *Homes & Gardens* magazine.
PAUL NULTY (BEST LIGHTING AWARD) Director, Paul Nulty Lighting Design.

STUDENT AWARDS JUDGES

TOM STUART-SMITH MSGD Garden designer.
SARAH EBERLE MSGD Garden designer.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Winner Sally Court FSGD for her *Barvikha garden in Russia*. **Sponsor** Landform Consultants.

The brief To design a quintessential English garden on a sloping site within mature woodland, with ponds, pergolas, lawns and gorgeous planting. The materials had to be transported to Russia from Britain and the local workforce taught how to build in the English tradition.

Judges' comments "This impressive design illustrates the essence of an English garden, with well-defined spaces and beautiful details. The high standard of execution, despite the logistical challenges, sets it apart from the rest and illustrates the best of traditional garden design in an international context." ▶



PHOTOGRAPH STEVEN WOOSTER



PUBLIC OR COMMERCIAL OUTDOOR SPACE AWARD

Winner John Wyer FSGD for his design for *The Collection* in north London. **Sponsor** Brickworks Vande Moortel.

The brief To create a space for residents of a luxury terrace of contemporary houses on one side, and period buildings on the other. The garden sits within a linear courtyard and over a car park so, as with a roof garden, no digging was possible.

Judges' comments "An interesting layout and clever use of a narrow area, which screens the surrounding buildings and unifies the space into a single composition. The curved beds, filled with low-maintenance but colourful, textural planting, complement the rectilinear architecture and turn a long courtyard into a flowing space."

PHOTOGRAPH MARCUS HARPUR

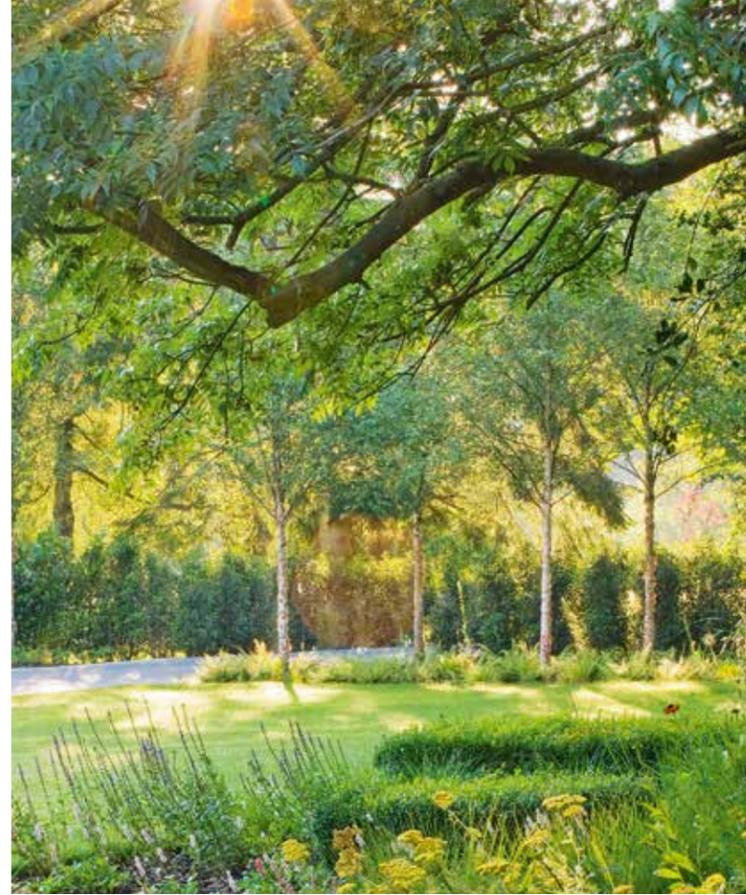


BEST MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL GARDEN AND THE JUDGES' AWARD

Winner Amanda Patton MSGD for her design for *The Old Rectory, Somerset*. **Medium Residential sponsor** Europlants UK; **Judges' Award sponsor** CED Natural Stone.

The brief To transform a dull, empty space surrounded by mature trees and classic village views into a garden in the English tradition, but with contemporary elements and using local materials and building techniques.

Judges' comments "The layout makes the garden feel much larger and adds new character while acknowledging the surroundings. A highly sophisticated design and a leading exemplar. We had no hesitation in giving it our Judges' Award." **The judges also highly commended** Rose Lennard MSGD for her Cusphaus garden and its clever use of different levels, precise detailing, action and interest; an intriguing solution for a unique blank canvas.



PHOTOGRAPH CLIVE NICHOLS

BEST LARGE RESIDENTIAL GARDEN, THE GRAND AWARD AND THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Winner Andrew Wilson FSGD for his design for a Hertfordshire garden. **Large Residential sponsor** Provender Nurseries; **Grand Award sponsor** Barcham Trees; **People's Choice sponsor** Homes & Gardens.

The brief To create a garden to match an impressive contemporary house, incorporating an ancient dew pond, mature trees, a kitchen garden and views to the wider landscape.

Judges' comments "The whole garden is beautifully done and gives a feeling of space and cohesion. Introduced, native and naturalised species have been used to develop exciting and challenging planting combinations that are displayed in a wide variety of contexts, from fantastic borders to ecologically driven wetlands. Architectural elements, such as screens, hard landscaped terraces and the driveway, have been designed with great skill and in scale with the house and the surrounding landscape. It is a garden full of surprises."



PHOTOGRAPH JERRY HARPUR

BEST SMALL RESIDENTIAL GARDEN

Winner Andy Sturgeon FSGD for his *Vermeer garden, London*. **Sponsor** Stonemarket.

The brief To create a design inspired by Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, to suit a space with buildings at either end and which can work when viewed from above and at ground level.

Judges' comments "The bold inclusion of high, curved ornamental space energy, movement and intrigue – an impression of a journey and sense of discovery for a predictable urban garden. The elegant use of plants and materials creates harmony and serenity without ignoring the practical aspects of relaxing and entertaining."

PHOTOGRAPH MARCUS HARPUR



BEST FUTURE DESIGNER AWARD

Winner Jo Thompson for her garden, *Sea Gem, Camber Sands*. **Sponsor** Deepdale Trees.

The brief To create a small seaside garden for a contemporary beach-front house using native and introduced coastal species planted in shingle. Rope and timber have been used to indicate boundaries rather than screen the design.

Judges' comments "This is a great example of how to work with the natural landscape, its light, colour, textures and materials. The design links the house to the beach and horizon while providing smaller scale venues for outdoor dining and relaxing. The juxtaposition of contemporary architectural detailing, traditional seaside elements and naturalistic planting is beautifully executed and shows in-depth knowledge, restraint and great skill in design." **The judges also highly commended** Lucy Wilcox for her beautifully conceived design that makes excellent use of a small site. With clever attention to detail that includes artificial grass, bespoke fence panels and a children's playhouse, it is a masterclass in design based on a complete understanding of the site.

BEST USE OF HARDSCAPE AWARD

Winner Andy Sturgeon FSGD, for his design for *The Westminster Terrace in Hong Kong*. **Sponsor** Stockscape.

The brief To create a garden overlooking Hong Kong Harbour in which the users of a mixed development could relax and entertain within a high-quality contemporary setting.

Judges' comments "The arrangement of built elements provides a variety of ways to move throughout the site and a large number of destinations, all with an extraordinary view as a backdrop. The areas of water provide natural air conditioning and link the hard horizontal surfaces to the reflected sky. Beautifully executed and faultless in its detailing."



PHOTOGRAPH HELEN FICKLING

BEST PLANTING DESIGN AWARD

Winner Andy Sturgeon FSGD, for a garden in North Wales. **Sponsor** Sculpture by the Lakes.

The brief To create a low-maintenance design for an empty, sloping, rectangular plot within a much larger garden enclosed by a brick wall and mature trees, and to unify the surrounding spaces while giving the plot an identity of its own.

Judges' comments "The garden cleverly disguises the changes in level by using stepped features hidden behind hedges, planted banks and outcrops of boulders. Instead of using harsh-edged borders, vistas through to the mature trees have been invigorated by informal plantings that demonstrate a clever use of colour, form and texture with different-sized, deciduous and evergreen structural plantings that help reduce any looming effects."



BIG DESIGN, SMALL BUDGET AWARD

Winner Christine Whatley MSGD for her *Kinesis garden*. **Sponsor** Natural Paving Products.

The brief To create a garden focused on a huge, branching, sculptural tree at the top of a sloping site, incorporating a lawn, outdoor storage, a dining terrace and privacy from neighbours.

Judges' comments "This is a good example of how a smaller budget need not compromise good design. The planting palette is simple and self-confident and the drifts and associations of plants work well with the overall composition, setting and site conditions." ►

PHOTOGRAPH MARIANNE MAJERUS



BEST LIGHTING DESIGN AWARD

Winner *Charlotte Rowe MSGD, for a garden in London. Sponsor Paul Nulty Lighting Design.*

The brief To create a lighting scheme that would energise the garden as a place to relax and eat in during the summer months, and as an inviting place to be seen from inside the period house with contemporary rear extension. The lighting had to be subtle for the inner-city location, and to pick out key plants and boundary treatments as well as enticing the owners into areas they wanted to use for sitting and informal gatherings.

Judges' comments "This is a very good, well-thought out lighting design with the carefully considered sources of illumination. It provides a well-balanced composition that creates an interesting and playful space for the owners of the house to enjoy."



BEST STUDENT DESIGNER AWARD

Winner *Nick Morton for his design entitled Malmesbury. Sponsor Haddonstone.*

The brief This award is open to any student member of the SGD. It is not necessary for the garden to have been built, but the entry needs to show full mastery of the design process.

Judges' comments "This design has a lovely simplicity about it; the spaces are not overworked and the site is well handled, with a good balance of formal and more natural areas. It was the most consistent, methodical and cogent presentation of all the entries, with competent graphics and persuasive images. It showed an ability to handle scale and understand space, and fulfilled the brief in a clear and concise way." **The judges also highly commended Matt Cairns** for his highly thoughtful, exciting design that exhibited good spatial awareness.



BEST PAPER LANDSCAPE AWARD

Winner *Nicola Greaves for her design called Cemetery Park. Sponsor The Modern Garden Company.*

This new award celebrates designs that are an exploration of ideas, and designs which will never be built. **The brief** To design an urban public park for a disused but still consecrated cemetery, respecting its graves and historical context.

Judges' comments "A standout winner. It is a fascinating idea and an intellectually stimulating design, beautifully communicated. A wonderful fantasy of a design that does not destroy the history of the site."



BEST DESIGN FOR A COMMUNITY SPACE

Joint winners *Gibbon's Rent, London (left), and Montpelier Community Nursery Garden. Sponsor Easigrass Distribution.*

This new category celebrates the importance of design and redevelopment of public and community spaces.

Judges' comments (Gibbon's Rent) "This reworking of a 1970s community garden has led to a flexible landscape where the residents have ownership and the freedom to personalise and adopt the site. Reclaimed materials and community-led construction make this an inviting and engaging design that is loved and well-used by locals."

Judges' comments (Montpellier Community Nursery Garden) "This design, with its excellent balance of soft and hard landscaping, looks natural with little evidence of manmade toys; it feels open for an urban environment and doesn't dictate how children should play."



THE JOHN BROOKES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Winner *Andrew Lawson, photographer. Awarded by the Council of the Society of Garden Designers. Sponsor Alitex.*

"Through his own beautiful work, Andrew has highlighted that of many garden designers, and inspired a generation to greatness. His photographs allow us to feast on colour, light and form; stresses drain away and we feel grateful to work with landscape and plants." ■

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FEATURE RICHARD SNEESBY AND ARABELLA ST JOHN PARKER | PHOTOGRAPH (LEFT) ANDREW LAWSON