

HOMES & GARDENS[®]

FEBRUARY 2018
£4.50

INSPIRING SPACES

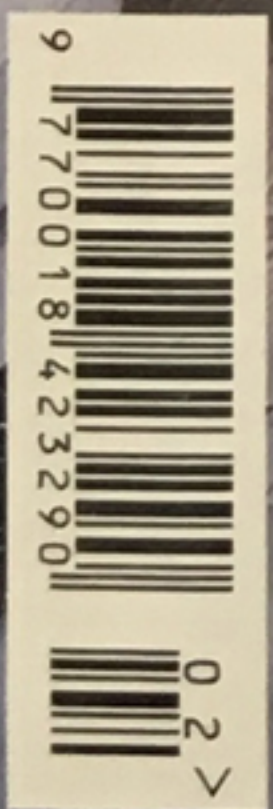
EXQUISITE HOMES FILLED WITH LIGHT AND LIFE

SMART TOWN
GARDENS
THREE SCHEMES
FOR URBAN LIVING

STYLISH STORAGE
CLEVER IDEAS FOR
CLUTTER-FREE ROOMS

H&G
FABRIC
AWARDS
WE CELEBRATE
THE BEST

RECALL: 31/1/18



PASSION *for* PATTERN

DECORATING WITH BOLD COLOURS & MOTIFS
DESIGNER RUGS & LAMP SHADES

INTO THE WOODS

Shade-loving plants are woven together in a tapestry of texture and colour in this stylised woodland design for a compact city garden



DESIGNER PROFILE With qualifications in fine art and garden design, Jane Brockbank set up her studio in 1999 and has won many awards for her contemporary designs; this garden is shortlisted in the Society of Garden Designers' Awards 2017.

Can you tell us about the brief for this garden?

The garden belongs to John Smart, a London-based architect, who had recently finished building his own house and asked me to help him design the garden around it. John wanted the back garden (pictured), which is just outside the basement kitchen, to be like a work of art framed by the room's picture window. He asked for masses of plants to make it as green as possible, and the design also needed to reflect the style of his modern home.

What inspired your design?

It was John who provided the inspiration, and the garden is very much a collaboration between the two of us. The mature trees that surround the property also played a part, encouraging us to use stylised woodland-floor planting. I designed generous island beds filled with shade-loving, textural plants that flow over and around gravel walkways. We put in long concrete benches to display John's collection of herbs and succulents, and he designed the patterned screen based on materials used inside the house.

How did you select the plants?

The plants all have to cope with the shade cast by the surrounding trees, and because this small garden is on permanent display, they also needed to look good all year round. The final design includes evergreens, such as a pretty *Saxifraga umbrosa* (saxifrage), *Sesleria autumnalis* (moor grass), ferns and euphorbias, together with large dramatic perennials with rich leaf textures, such as rogersia and darmeria. Foxgloves and other flowers provide seasonal highlights, but the foliage is the star of the show.

What hard landscaping materials did you choose and why?

John and I wanted to link the garden with the house. The terrace and paved edges are laid with Petersen bricks, which John used for the interior walls of the house, and the colour matches the polished concrete kitchen floor. The patterned screen combines natural and grey painted wooden laths with diagonal strips of Corten steel, and the striking design is based on one that John has used in the house. We thought through every detail, even down to the gravel, which has a pink tinge to match the pale pink of the house exterior.

How do you create a textured planting scheme?

First, choose a selection of plants that like the conditions in your garden – shade is best for texture as the bold, large-leaved species



tend to like lower light conditions. Then pick out a selection with contrasting foliage textures, such as the small fleshy leaves of saxifrage and deeply veined rogersia. I have also included *Acaena microphylla* (New Zealand bur), a low-growing plant with tiny serrated leaves. Group these plants so that smooth is next to rough, shiny combines with matt, and large leaves contrast with smaller ones. The clouds of tiny saxifrage flowers add to the texture here, but for a garden with year-round interest, I recommend you mainly choose plants for their leaves.

What makes a small-space design successful?

The best small gardens are usually designed with just one intention. We had a single goal for this garden and that was to present a beautiful picture. This meant that we could be generous with the planting and allow each leaf and flower to shine.

INTERVIEW ZIA ALLAWAY
PHOTOGRAPH MARIANNE MALIERUS (GARDEN)



“The concrete benches have pink lights beneath them, so the garden is lit at night with a colour inspired by the inside of the house.”



KEY PLANTS

- 1| *Osmunda regalis* (royal fern)
- 2| *Saxifraga umbrosa*
- 3| *Darmera peltata* (umbrella plant)
- 4| *Chaenomeles speciosa* 'Kinshiden' (Japanese quince)
- 5| *Euphorbia mellifera* (canary spurge)
- 6| *Euphorbia seguieriana* subsp. *niciciana* (spurge)
- 7| *Clerodendrum bungei*
- 8| *Hydrangea aspera* Villosa Group
- 9| *Rodgersia aesculifolia*
- 10| *Digitalis purpurea*
- 11| *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Silberfeder'
- 12| *Arbutus unedo* f. *rubra* (strawberry tree)
- 13| *Lamium maculatum* 'Beacon Silver' (dead nettle)
- 14| *Viburnum davidii*
- 15| *Acanthus mollis* (bear's breeches)
- 16| *Sesleria autumnalis* (moor grass)
- 17| *Euphorbia cyparissias* (Cypress spurge)
- 18| *Trifolium repens* 'William' (ornamental clover)
- 19| Selection of herbs and succulents in pots
- 20| *Scabiosa columbaria* subsp. *ochroleuca* (yellow scabious)
- 21| *Viola cornuta* Alba Group
- 22| *Acaena microphylla* 'Kupferteppich' (New Zealand bur)
- 23| *Papaver atlanticum*
- 24| *Geum* 'Savannah Sunset'

PLANT SUPPLIERS

Crocus, 01344 578111, crocus.co.uk.
Hopleys Plants, 01279 842509, hopleys.co.uk.
Long Acre Plants, 01963 32802, plantsforshade.co.uk.

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIERS

The gravel is CEDEC Red from CED, 01708 867237, ced.ltd.uk, and the brick paving is from the Kolumba range at Petersen, 0045 7444 1236, en.petersen-gruppen.dk. The concrete benches and timber and Corten screen are original designs by John Smart, 020 7633 0055, johnsmartarchitects.co.uk. The timber fencing is also a bespoke design by John Smart and is painted in Light Gray, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com. The table and bench are from Another Country, 020 7486 3251, anothercountry.com.

GARDEN DESIGN

Jane Brockbank, 020 7371 9475, janebrookbank.com.