

# GARDEN DESIGN JOURNAL

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Interview with  
Tony Heywood  
Round-up of RHS  
shows in 2013  
Artificial turf  
comes of age

## THE URBAN JUNGLE

Why Singapore is a true 'garden city'

NEWS/GARDENS/DESIGNERS/PLANTING/SUSTAINABLE DESIGN/BOOKS/COURSES/EVENTS  
THE JOURNAL FOR THE SOCIETY OF GARDEN DESIGNERS

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## COLLEGE SEEKS NEW GOVERNORS

Respected for its courses in garden design and horticulture, Writtle College is currently looking for new people to join its Governing Body.

Dr Stephen White, Principal of the College, said: "Being a governor is a voluntary and rewarding role. We are currently looking for enthusiastic people who are interested in playing a key role in helping the College to strengthen its position as a high-quality provider of higher and further education." If you are interested in applying, contact Rosemary Leno at [rosemary.leno@writtle.ac.uk](mailto:rosemary.leno@writtle.ac.uk)

## New product promises healthier plants

The new **ROOTS BOOST** Mycorrhize range, produced exclusively for Dragonfly by one of the world's largest biological product companies, Novozymes Biologicals, promises to help designers and landscapers increase tree and shrub survival rates after planting, especially when in weak soils. The company also says that it helps to reduce watering requirements for plants in the ground and in containers, as well as minimising fertiliser requirements. For more details go to [www.dragonfly.co.uk](http://www.dragonfly.co.uk)

## VECTORWORKS LAUNCHES NEW DESIGN SOFTWARE

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc, has released the 2014 version of its award-winning Vectorworks range of design software. The new software includes more than 120 improvements, including increased site design capabilities for landscape architects and designers. "For the 2014 release of Vectorworks software, we have concentrated on customer workflows," said Dr Biplob Sarkar, Chief Technology Officer of Nemetschek Vectorworks. "The theme for this release can be summed up as 'You have told us, and we have listened.'" Visit [www.vectorworks.net](http://www.vectorworks.net)

## MEMBERS SECURE A HOST OF BALI AWARDS

**FIVE SGD MEMBERS** have scooped BALI awards this year, with designs by James Scott and Andy Sturgeon winning in the Landscaping categories, while those by Christine Whatley, Pat Fox and Helen Eka-Smith secured prizes in the Design Excellence categories.

Christine's winning design in the under £50k category was for a new front and rear garden in Hampshire that form part of a rural farm complex. "The front garden welcomes visitors with a traditional parlour, set within the old flint walls, and utilises existing Irish yew," explained Christine. "The design at the back takes its cues from the surrounding farmland, incorporating hedges, planting and paving running in the same direction as the crop lines and field hedges."



Christine Whatley's award-winning garden

Pat Fox's aim for her Hertfordshire garden, also in the under £50k category, was to link the main dwelling with an old stable building, and to create a welcoming entrance from the road. "The clients wanted a changing picture, which I have achieved with a mix of seasonal perennials and grasses. We have also unified the area between the house and outbuildings and created a journey through the garden," she explained.

Helen's garden, which won in the over £50k category, was designed as a relaxing space, which complements a holiday home in the New Forest. "The use of local stone and attention to detail in the stonework is a particular feature of the scheme. I also love the sculpture

by Jude Tucker in the courtyard, which holds the focus," she said.

The Garden Company, owned by designer and landscaper James Scott, won for Domestic Construction under £30k. He said: "We had to pack a lot into a small space in this young couple's garden. The fact that we were in charge of both design and landscaping gave us the edge in terms of the quality of finish."

Andy Sturgeon's contemporary design was instrumental in The Outdoor Room's success in the Domestic Construction 60K-£100K category and PC Landscapes award in the over £250K category.

For full details of all the award winners and the Awards Ceremony at London on 5 December 2013, visit [www.asiaworks.co.uk](http://www.asiaworks.co.uk)

## Three peaks team make it to the top

A TEAM of intrepid landscapers, designers and nurserymen has completed the challenge of a lifetime, raising funds for horticulture trade charity Perennial, which supports people in the industry during times of need.

The 3 Peaks Extreme Challenge team endured six grueling days climbing the three highest mountains in the UK (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon) and cycling the 450 miles between them. The team was led by Brian Herbert, Managing Director of Outdoor Options, and Richard Gardiner of Norris & Gardiner, and included SGD member John Wyer.

Speaking about this great achievement, Brian said: "We are incredibly proud to have completed this challenge and I feel honoured to

have been part of a team that has shown such great commitment. A huge thank you to our amazing support team and everyone who has donated so far."

Jo Ayley, Head of Development at Perennial, commented: "Horticulture is an industry that relies on the physical fitness of its workers and this team has pushed their physical strength to the limit. The money they have raised is vital in helping us maintain our services for horticulturists in need and their families."

The team has vowed to keep fundraising until the end of the year, and is asking colleagues in the industry to dig deep to help them hit the target of £30,000.

To donate, please visit [www.justgiving.com/3PeaksExtreme](http://www.justgiving.com/3PeaksExtreme)



## THE JEAN GENIE

**AWARD-WINNING** landscape architect Jade Gots has collaborated with leading denim retailer The Griffin to install show-stopping vertical gardens in its store windows in Worthing. The plants within the installation reference the part they traditionally played in the denim-making process, such as *Andropogon distachyus*, which was traditionally used to create indigo dye, and *Gossypium hirsutum*, the plant used to produce cotton. The green wall is also being highlighted with sculptural neon lighting at night, and has been created with products and support from Treebox Ltd. Visit [www.thefixbook.com/griffinindian](http://www.thefixbook.com/griffinindian) and [www.isaw.jadegots.com](http://www.isaw.jadegots.com)

## Ornamental plants under threat



Heuchera specialist Plantagogo is under threat from new EU legislation

**LEADING GARDEN** conservation charity Plant Heritage is seeking urgent action over proposed EU legislation, which could threaten many National Plant Collections and ornamental plants. The regulations are designed to rationalise and simplify current legislation and offer greater protection to consumers, but the wording requires all plant varieties sold in Europe to be listed on an official register, making it illegal to sell

unregistered plants. At present only 2,000 of an estimated 77,000 cultivars sold in the UK are registered, and with costs of up to £500 per variety to register, many small nurseries could be forced to close, including a large proportion of our National Plant Collections.

Plant Heritage Conservation Officer Mercy Morris said: "It seems that the legislation assumes only Botanic Gardens or networks developed purely for the purpose carry out conservation work, but Plant Heritage (and our counterparts in Europe), encompassing many small commercial operators, spends vast amounts of time on conservation work. In many cases, the conservation of cultivars is only possible because of commercial involvement on the part of the Collection Holder, and without the ability to sell their plants this work could be curtailed."

Plant Heritage urges people to lobby their MEP to make them aware of the danger that this proposed legislation poses and to request that the regulation is not applied to ornamental plants. [www.nccpg.com/news](http://www.nccpg.com/news)

## NEW GARDEN FOR BOSTON ARTS MUSEUM

**THE ISABELLA STEWART** Gardner Museum in Boston has unveiled an exciting new garden design in its grounds by celebrated landscape architect, Michael Van Valkenburgh. The museum's historic Monks Garden was originally designed in 1901 in an Italianate style by the founder, Isabella Stewart Gardner. It has had various guises since then, but in 2012 Van Valkenburgh's firm was appointed to develop the space, which now has greater prominence, following the reorientation of the museum's front entrance and the addition of a contemporary wing by Renzo Piano, which includes a transparent first floor, as well as expanded gardens.

Van Valkenburgh's contemporary redesign binds the historic and new buildings and draws inspiration from the way the museum's galleries encourage visitors to meander rather than take direct routes. Comprising a sinuous path and central courtyard surrounded by trees and perennials, the new Monks Garden provides a contemplative space for strolling and small gatherings. [www.gardnermuseum.org](http://www.gardnermuseum.org)



The Monks Garden's winding path

Photo: Boston Museum

## MEMBERS WIN PRESTIGIOUS NHG AWARDS

**FOUR SGD MEMBERS** have been awarded Gold Medals at the New Homes Garden Awards. Sally Court and Helen Billetop of CGD Landscape Design won two awards for a domestic garden in the Russian Federation. Their design scooped gold for Best Overseas Garden/Landscape and also the prestigious Landscape of the Year award. Set around a new-build timber house, the design reflects the essence of an English country garden, with formality close to the building blending into more informal naturalistic planting beyond. "Making this English-style garden in such an extreme climate has been a huge learning curve for our company and Honka, the Moscow-based landscape contractor," said Sally.

Pat Fox of Aralia Garden Design won gold for Best Renovation Project with a design for a Grade II listed five-storey property in London. "The design carves the garden into five 'rooms' for entertaining and relaxation, each reflecting the architecture of the house, and creating a sense of journey through the space," she said.

Andrew Fisher Tomlin won Best Urban Design for gardens in Kingston-upon-Thames and St George's Hill, and Best Rural Garden for a project in Sussex. For details of all the award winners visit [www.newhomesgardenawards.co.uk](http://www.newhomesgardenawards.co.uk)



Pat Fox's Best Renovation Garden

Photo: Aralia



Sally Court's garden near Moscow



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