

GARDEN DESIGN JOURNAL

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Constructing bridges
Alternatives to cement
Front garden showcase
At home with Henk Scholtz
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Drawn together

Plans in the making for Chelsea



A wave sculpture made from a fallen Giant Redwood Tree dominates Hoblyn's garden



Foreign & Colonial Investments Trust

Thomas Hoblyn, MSGD

Winning a Gold medal last year with his urban garden, 'Tempest in a Teapot', Thomas Hoblyn has moved up a league this year as he takes on his first show garden at Chelsea. The garden will take on the qualities of a typical North Carolina bog, highlighting how certain bog plants can adapt to various zones. The driving theme is climate change, and Hoblyn's design handles many important topics that need addressing by gardeners. He says: 'The garden is to highlight the vulnerability of highly specialised plants within bogs as well as celebrate the adaptability of other plants species.'

Working with the planting is a large wave sculpture made from a fallen giant Redwood that undulates through the garden, implying upheaval in the world. A boardwalk runs through the centre providing a central viewpoint and area to rest.

The planting will be muted in colour, a blend of blue green and white with the predominant plants being: *Sarracenia flava* (carnivorous plant), *Taxodium distichum* (swamp cypress), *Quercus palustris* (Hoblyn claims it will be the biggest tree at Chelsea this year) and *Halesia carolina* (not seen at Chelsea before).

Bog gardens are not something seen regularly at Chelsea, especially on the show garden scale. It certainly delivers an intriguing array of plants and addresses environmental issues that warrant recognition. With such a strong planting concept, it will be the plant's relationship to the hard landscaping and purpose of those features within the space that will come as a challenge to meet all RHS criteria.

Chelsea news

Hertfordshire designer Pat Fox of Aralia Garden Design, will be creating an 'edible wall' for her first time at Chelsea with a Courtyard Kitchen Garden. Pat worked with Marc Laurence of Biotecture and all the plants have been grown hydroponically.

The full list of Chelsea exhibitors had not been released when we went to press. For an update, see: www.rhs.org.uk