

London Evening Standard

Wednesday 14 November 2012 **FREE**

Homes & Property

Londoners who turn their homes into pop-up art galleries **PLUS** The reinvention of Fulham

YOUR TOP PROPERTY GUIDE



BANK CHIEF WARNS OF SLOWDOWN AS AUSTERITY STRIKES HIT EUROPE

FASTEN BELTS FOR 'ZIG-ZAG' ROAD TO RECOVERY

Nicholas Cecil, Jonathan Prynn and John Dunne

BRITAIN'S economy may be shrinking again as it continues to be buffeted by the eurozone crisis, the governor of the Bank of England admitted today.

Sir Mervyn King predicted a "long and winding road to recovery" as the Olympics boost fades and millions of households continue to see their incomes squeezed. His grim forecast will inevitably raise fears of a triple-dip recession. Sir

Mervyn said that Britain's "zig-zag" economy was being dragged down by the sickly eurozone, which was hit today by a wave of strikes.

"The immediate economic outlook remains a challenging one," he said. "Growth is likely to remain sluggish and inflation above target. The road to recovery will be long and winding."

The economy grew one per cent between July and September, buoyed by the London Games, and bringing the longest double-dip recession

Continued on Page 4



Pink lady: Jill Kelley, the socialite in the US army sex scandal, breaks cover in another glamorous outfit at her Florida home. Paula Broadwell, who had an affair with ex-CIA boss David Petraeus, branded her a "seductress" **FULL STORY: Pages 24 & 25**

THE 'SEDUCTRESS' IN US ARMY SEX SCANDAL

Baronet loses fire engine contract in fiasco

PAGE 5



Billie Piper 'thrillingly good' in her new stage role

PAGE 3

Tycoon's £20m gift to help law students

PAGE 6

Gerrard on playing for England as he wins 100th cap

PAGES 64 & 65

Get that warm, contented Friday feeling...on a Wednesday

Donate to BBC Children in Need before Friday's Appeal Show at our cash machines
Limits apply



NatWest

Helpful Banking

Change your view of life

If your garden looks out over an ugly urban landscape, don't scream – just screen

GARDEN designers talk about the merits of using borrowed landscape, which is fine and dandy if you are surrounded by idyllic views of green pastures and sculptural trees. If you live in town, however, chances are that your outlook is more high-rise flats or the neighbour's extension – a view you would rather block than borrow.

"Privacy is the major issue for my London clients, because it's the most emotive," says Patricia Fox, of Aralia Garden Design. "I have a client who is obsessed with privacy and we've had to literally barricade her garden. It is overlooked by her neighbour, so the surveyor estimated the height of the neighbour's window, and I worked out a way to screen it out, by creating a double hedge. First we're installing a two-metre evergreen hedge, and then we'll plant a pleached (trained) evergreen hedge inside that, which has two metres of bare stems with two metres of tree foliage on top. So essentially she will have a four-metre evergreen boundary. For the hedge we're using yew, but photinia or laurel would work well too, and for the pleached hedge,

Pattie Barron



we're going for holm oak, but Portuguese laurel would be a good choice as well. If you don't mind a barrier that isn't completely evergreen, you could have green or copper beech."

For a cheaper way of crowding out the hinterland, Fox suggests bamboo, because it costs little, grows fast and provides a lively barrier that rustles and moves in the wind. "Plants in five-litre pots are about two metres tall and grow so quickly that they will reach four metres within two years. The bamboo I use is *Phyllostachys aurea*, which has stems that turn golden-yellow in the sun. If you want it to bulk up quickly, plant 60-70cm apart.

"You will need to use a root barrier so it doesn't run all over the place, and you need to keep it irrigated, or else plant in a relatively moist spot."

Conifers are the easy screening option, but a solid wall of green or gold fir is bulky, not an object of beauty and can



High-rise hedge: an avenue of pleached copper beech makes an effective screen



Fastest fence: golden bamboo grows quickly to make a tall barrier

makes a nice solid screen, and doesn't take up much width, as the depth is only about 30cm."

Sometimes all it takes to distract the eye from beyond the garden is a structure that keeps the focus firmly within. In a small Regent's Park garden that garnered Fox a major design award, she erected a custom-made metal canopy that straddles the width of the space, from wall to wall; lattice trellis covers the canopy to encourage climbers. "A ceiling of any kind in the garden anchors the space, so it doesn't visually 'leak'," explains Fox. "Even a small ceiling, like the canopy of a ready-trained parasol tree, has a similar effect. You can find holm oak, photinia or tilia, for instance, all with a clear two-metre stem, but with a head height of 30-40cm and a width of at least 1.2 metres."

THERE are situations, too, where you might not only want to borrow the landscape, but bring it right into your garden. "If you're surrounded by large trees," says Fox, "embrace that, rather than fight it. Choose something similar so, for example, if next door has a huge cherry tree, you could plant a more modest cherry, such as *Prunus serrula*, that doesn't get too big. Not only will you be bringing in a piece of the surrounding landscape, planting a tree will make your garden look larger, too."

easily grow out of control. "Avoid *leylandii* at all costs," says Fox, "because it's totally unsuited for urban gardens. Instead, you could plant a series of the slimline juniper *Skyrocket* to divert the eye from an ugly view. Think of it as a vertical that takes the eye up, rather than beyond. My first choice for a small garden is the box-leaved holly *Ilex crenata*, which has an upright habit,

See it buy it

See it: winter container demo

ON FRIDAY, head to Petersham Nurseries, Richmond, for an informative talk and demo on stylish winter planting. Horticulturalist Thomas Broom will show how to create a series of striking displays using the plants and eclectic containers stocked at Petersham Nurseries, and will offer tips and advice, as well as welcome questions.

The event runs from 10.30am until noon and costs £10, including tea and coffee on arrival. To book a place, call 020 8940 5230 or email info@petershamnurseries.com

Fine style: get ideas for original pot plantings from the experts at Petersham Nurseries



Buy it: ultimate garden app

THE first garden publication designed specifically for iPads has just arrived. Part magazine, part app, intoGardens has inspiring photographs, gorgeous plants, fruit and veg tips, global gardens, projects from the UK's top designers and even plot-to-plate recipes. You can click on a plant to learn more about it and save the picture or, if you can't wait, buy the plant straight away from within the app. A scrapbook stores any extracts you want to keep or share. Each quarterly "episode" costs £2.99 – or take out an annual subscription at £9.99 – and download from the App Store.

iPad inspiration: download the new intoGardens



Smart barrier: a lengthy pergola looks good and blots out the neighbours' garden