



Royal Horticultural Society

CENTENARY
EDITION



Foreword by
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TAKE CHELSEA HOME

PRACTICAL INSPIRATION FROM THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

CHRIS YOUNG

Outside space with something different

So much of gardening relates to how the individual personalises his or her outdoor space. Whether it is a certain combination of plants that reflect personal preference, or an array of materials that indicate different travels, a garden can be developed to make specific or oblique reference to the creator's desire. With this in mind, how a gardener 'decorates' the space should be considered in conjunction with any hard or soft landscaping that is needed to ensure

the desired look will still be created as the scheme nears completion. For Chelsea designers, such examples of decorative touches include bespoke sculpture, ingenious practical ideas and whimsical suggestions, and these can inspire gardeners into thinking harder about what could go into their garden. With a dash of creativity and confidence, supported by practical skills, a range of different ideas can be achieved.





This "outdoor office" envisions an enjoyable, useful working environment. It has areas for staff to work alone or have meetings, new materials are used (the planters are recycled plastic); and textured planting contrasts with the hard landscaping.

Rooftop Workplace of Tomorrow, Patricia Fox
(Aralia Garden Design), 2012



Gardening for a beautiful bounty

The joy of growing your own can bring different ages, cultures and abilities together. Just as with ornamental planting, productive gardening can represent your personal interests; it can reflect the style of your overall garden, respond to needs and tastes, and can help you understand the relationship between garden and soil. In all, productive gardening can be a hugely rewarding experience, where successes are greeted with glee and delight, and failures met with a steely determination to try something different next time. Growing your own is not always easy, and problems are often encountered, but when a seed germinates or your first tomato is ready to pick, it brings a smile to even the most experienced of growers.



EXPERT TIP

Jekka McVicar
Planting up a container
for summer salad crops

Salad rocket (*Eruca vesicaria* subsp. *sativa*), dill (*Anethum graveolens*) and mustard (*Brassica juncea*) are all great salad herbs that can be easily raised from seed and grown in a container. The trick is to choose a planter large enough to grow a crop for cutting: an ideal size is 23cm (9in) wide by 18cm (7in) high, or 5 litres/1 gallon, or larger. Fill with compost and water well, then sow the seeds and cover lightly with more compost. Set the container in a sheltered warm spot that is shaded from the midday sun. Once you start cutting your salad, feed the plants every week with a balanced liquid fertiliser. This will help them to develop productive succulent growth.



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Growing vegetables in raised planters gives physically easy access while allowing soil to be free-draining and easily improved.