

Pro Landscaper

Concept to Delivery

April 2016

DESIGN, BUILD,
AND MAINTAIN

OUT & ABOUT

APL AWARDS

**LET'S HEAR IT FROM
MARCUS WATSON
OF GROUND CONTROL**

**PHOTOGRAPHY
ADVICE**

**ARE WE DOING
ENOUGH TO
CELEBRATE**

**CAPABILITY
BROWN?**

WORK, REST & PLAY

APPLETONS

WORK



I guess I have to confess straight off to being a bit of a workaholic with a very addictive personality. I absolutely love what I do and the fact that I get paid for something I love so much is real genius.

I originally trained in fashion design (alongside John Galiano), set up and ran my own business designing, sourcing and supplying a wide range of products for major high street multiples. I gave it all up because I wanted to spend more time with my family and found it all too stressful.

I took up gardening as a hobby, booked onto a course at Writtle College to keep me out of mischief and somehow ended up establishing and running a landscape design practice, all quite accidentally. My hardest time of day is simply getting out of bed (I am not a morning person). Once I'm up all is great.

ARALIA
INNOVATION IN LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Until recently I would have said my favourite project was Maltese Road but I would now say the series of penthouse roof terraces at Chelsea Creek for St George plc, for which we have just been awarded the BALI Principal Landscape Design Award.

I haven't really had a mentor, but I have had a couple of fantastic business coaches over the last 10 years. I wouldn't be without one. I have a great team at Aralia, the strongest ever. I see 2016 as the year that all the hard work that has been put in over the last few years is going to reap massive rewards.

Aralia has changed enormously over the three years since our show garden at RHS Chelsea, with a series of excellent appointments. I like to think I inspire my team, we don't ever want to do mediocre work just to pay the bills. We strive for excellence, and innovation is what we love.



INSPIRATION

I love creating things. Designing something from scratch, seeing it develop and come to life and then the final result is what drives and inspires me more than anything else. I find inspiration one of the most natural things in the world, I've never really had that 'blank sheet freeze' moment.

My biggest problem is having too many inspired ideas, so we simply don't have the hours in the day! I am always wanting to move onto the next challenge. I absorb everything around me on a daily basis and it kind of filters through and bubbles out as an idea.

I love visiting landscapes, art galleries and anything art related – I think I prefer to take inspiration from outside the industry rather than within. I want to create new innovative landscapes, I don't want to emulate other designers or be affected by what other people are doing. If pushed I would say the designers I love most would be Versace, Martha Schwartz, Jimmy Choo and Steve Martino – I love designers who push the boundaries and make their own way.

I find I am taking more inspiration from the wider landscape than gardens themselves. I was so enthused on our trip to South Africa, it's given me a whole new idea about how we could approach planting design in the UK.



LIFE/STYLE

PATRICIA FOX

From art gallery to open seas, Kerala to South African game reserve, Patricia Fox talks about her work, play and inspirations



PERSONAL



My favourite hobby is sailing. We are lucky enough to own a gorgeous sailing boat, which we originally kept in the Hamble on the south coast but moved to the Mediterranean a couple of years ago.

For me it was a massive personal challenge since hubby was too busy at work so I sailed from the south coast of England to southern Spain as skipper, with the help of friends. There were a couple of very scary moments including a two and a half day offshore sail encountering 5m waves, at night in almost gale force winds! But overall it was an amazing experience and I would do it again.



My most treasured possessions would have to be my two girls – they are now 21 and 23 and I can't quite believe they are officially adults. To me they will always be my babies. I'm a hopeless cook but have the good fortune to be married to an amazing one who doesn't allow me to make anything other than breakfast (I really am so, so lucky). My favourite drink is a massive gin and tonic, Spanish style. I just love how they don't bother with measures, along comes the bottle and they just pour it until you tell them to stop. The Spanish also have amazing gin cocktails with so many little additions that you can literally have a different one each time.



TRAVEL

I missed the gap year thing, so belatedly got the bug for real travel just a few years back. I treated Anouska, my eldest daughter to a trip to Kerala in India, just mum and daughter as a reward for her hard earned masters in physics. I absolutely loved India, the exotic nature of the landscape, people and culture. India touches you in every sense, it's almost overwhelming.



Last December Keith and I had an amazing trip to South Africa that took us from Cape Town to the winelands, along the Garden Route and then finally to Shamwari Game Reserve. That took my breath away – seeing the animals close up in the wild was so exciting. I'm not a morning person but had no problem being bright as a button at 5.30am to get up and out on a game drive.

Our main family holidays until then had been skiing and sailing. I love skiing, who wouldn't? You have the breathtaking scenery, the fun and sometimes danger. I'm definitely a bit of an adrenaline junky.

I don't do lying on a beach, I've either got to be doing something active on holiday or experiencing something new. I still haven't been to South America and that's next on my hit list – places like Patagonia and Columbia. Oh, and the northern lights still to do.

