

FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE



Hambrooks

This award-winning garden juxtaposes a modern style including ample space for entertaining, with the original Georgian style of the house and original garden

An original Georgian Walled Garden dating back to 1830, which had no space for entertaining and had no sense of connection or identification to the classic style of the house. It was laid out with simple areas of mixed planting, a formal lawn, gravelled areas and decking in one corner. The new garden was to be modern while also being sympathetic to the style of the listed Georgian house, which the owners were restoring. Used to living abroad in the sun, the client wanted a garden where the emphasis was on entertainment, while incorporating the feeling of being 'organised' and adding movement through planting and water.

The design needed to consider the presence of existing trees, which included a large Arbutus unedo, a walnut tree and two silver birches that were nearly forty years old. Additionally, essential screening was required from a neighbouring development of apartments and adjoining Georgian house that flanked the property on the left.

The importance of renovating of the garden and what this meant to the client was highlighted when they asked designer Stuart Towner to meet them on the day they received the keys to

ABOUT LAND DESIGN PARTNERSHIP



One of the UK's most long-standing independent landscaping businesses, Hambrooks has been creating gardens since 1970 covering all aspects of garden design and landscaping, together with domestic and commercial garden maintenance. There are four businesses under the Hambrooks umbrella brand, with a Head Office site in Curdridge that includes a Wholesale Hard Goods Yard and Nursery together with a Garden Landscaping Centre in Titchfield. The company also has two garden design studios which provides customers with a venue where they can informally discuss and obtain advice from one of Hambrooks' in-house garden designers on redesigning their gardens, whether this is for a small makeover plan or for a complete redesign.

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their house. Other than their primary requests, (entertainment, modern yet sympathetic to the Georgian era and screening) they gave Stuart the freedom to come up with his own design concept and ideas. The client, Mrs N. Nutley is Russian, giving Stuart the idea for the name of the project.

THE COMPLETED GARDEN

A large stylish summerhouse adorns the south-facing corner with the main terrace of the garden wrapping around it. A reflection pool runs down the right side and along the rear where it curves round the summer house terrace and comes

to rest by a water wall. Floating stepping stones connect the main entertaining areas and a secluded seating spot under the canopy of the Arbutus. Cut from the same stone as the water wall, Cumbrian monolith stones dominate and break the otherwise perfectly still water of the reflection pool. The repeated use of this material creates a flow and connection between these two dominating features.

Based on the design principles of the Arts and Crafts, the planting blends the informal with the clean lines of clipped Buxus balls that mix harmoniously with splashes of colour from the acid greens of Euphorbia. This neatly contrasts with the pinks of the Bergenia, along with →



WINNER
Domestic Garden
Construction -
£60-£100k



COMMENDED
Project Value
£50,000 -
£100,000



Project details

Timeline of development:
Summer to autumn 2012

Cost: £89k

Size:
25m x 30m

the calming blues of *Allium caeruleum* that appear later in the season. The mass of undulating planting is punctured by grasses such as *Calamagrostis x acutiflora*, 'Karl Foerster' and *Miscanthus transmorrisonensis*, while a neatly clipped lavender hedge flanks the formal lawn, following the underlying modern contrast to the planting. The finishing touch to the planting is a row of semi mature *Magnolia grandiflora*s that flank the right hand boundary of the garden to provide screening from neighbouring properties.

The second entertainment space in the garden is a decking area that houses a built-in outdoor fireplace, with a fully working sink and electrics. The fireplace is adorned with a French limestone surround and honed Purbeck work surfaces on either side. Above the deck, and still in construction, is a steel framed, wood clad pergola. This will have glass inserts in the roof to complete an outdoor area that caters for our temperate weather conditions. A raised bed, pleached fruit trees and fruit bushes are within

easy reach of the kitchen.

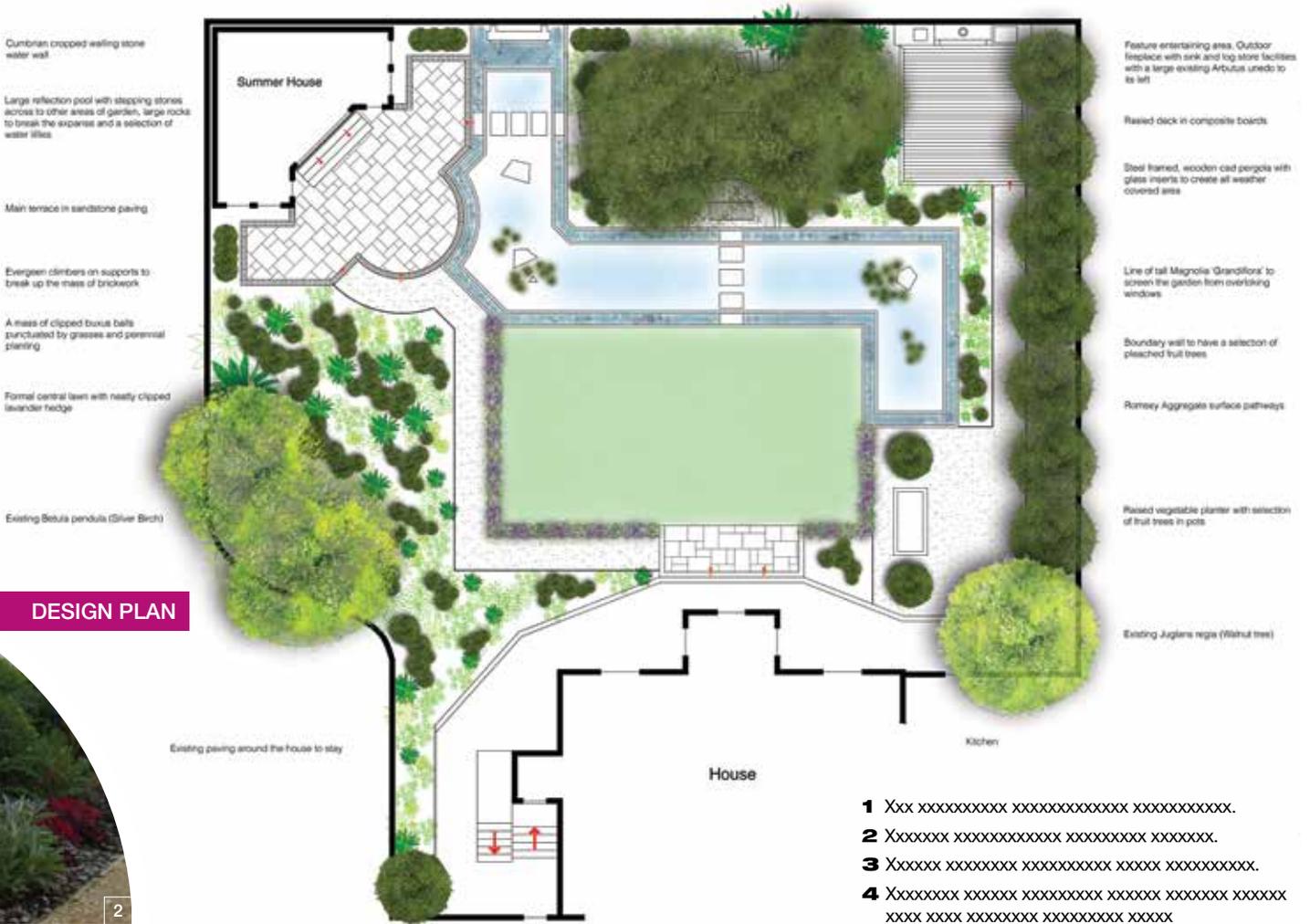
An original terrace that adjoins the house has been left in place and is separated by a gravel strip and step to the new sandstone terrace clearly demonstrating the seamless connection between the new and old. To complete the garden an irrigation system works off a rain harvesting tank and the clever use of subtle lighting gives the garden a calming ambiance for evening entertainment or relaxing.

UNUSUAL FEATURES

The rain harvest tank is under the lawn and is connected to the overflow of the main water feature. Access hatch is also under the lawn. Due to the presence of an original horse mill wheel buried in the ground, it was not possible to place the tank under the main border as originally intended.

Furthermore, all materials had to be lifted over a wall by crane as the access gate was too small.





REFERENCES

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