

HOUSE & GARDEN

JANUARY
2011
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PARTY PLANNING

*UK house-party
venues, exotic
recipes, smart
table linen, chic
thank-you cards*

THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO STYLISH LIVING

THE H&G
GUIDE TO
THE LEADING
GARDEN
DESIGNERS

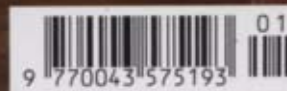


THE *professionals*

**WE LOOK INSIDE THE
HOMES OF A TEXTILES LEGEND,
A GALLERIST, AN ANTIQUES DEALER
AND A YACHT DESIGNER**

IMPORTANT DETAILS

**PERFECT LAMPSHADES
EMBOSSSED LEATHER
DECORATIVE INLAY**



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Interiors

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On the cover: the dining room of a Tudor country house (pages 114–121), photographed by Simon Upton. **Cover stories** are highlighted in colour

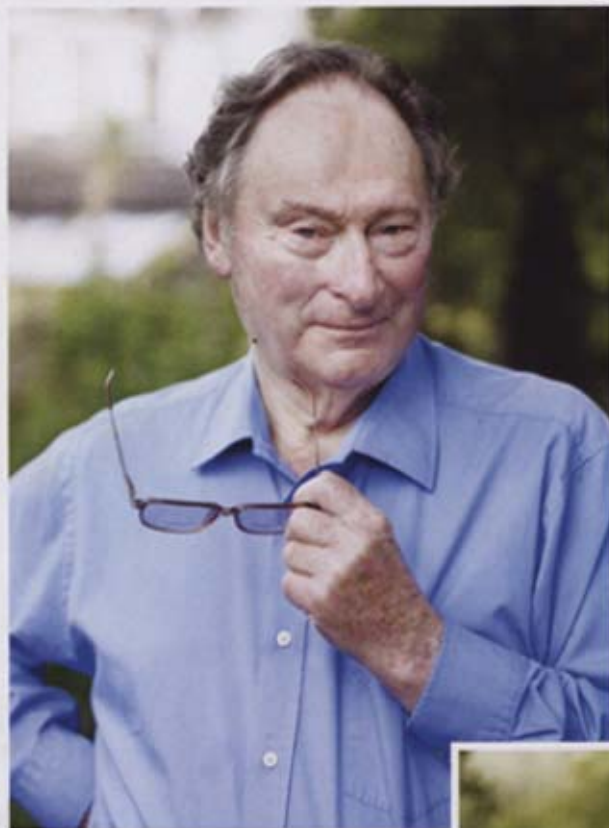
With a career that extends over 50 years, John Brookes MBE is one of the country's longest-established garden designers. He has worked on private gardens all round the world, from Japan to South America, and still travels widely as a consultant and lecturer. His gardens, both large and small, are defined by a simple, architectural underlying structure, with an overlay of planting that gives each project its individual character. 'I never try to be fashionable,' he says. 'A garden must relate to its environment, to the style of the house and to the wider landscape. And above all it must reflect the aspirations of the client. I always tell people that I work with them, not for them.' John has written more than 20 books on the subject of garden design, including the best-selling *Garden Design*, published by Dorling Kindersley, and his own renowned garden at Denmans in Sussex is open to the public. Design trend: 'The return of the traditional country garden, mixing flowers, vegetables and fruit in an ornamental way.' 01243-542808; www.denmans-garden.co.uk

del BUONO GAZERWITZ

Since they joined forces in 2000, Tommaso del Buono (right) and Paul Gazerwitz (left) have gained a reputation for hip, urban gardens that blend pared-down sophistication with high-quality materials and interesting planting. Minimalism is a key theme in many of their urban gardens, with restricted palettes of hard materials and plants. 'We like to think that we don't have a fixed style, but we do like clean lines, beautiful materials and unfussy detailing, and enjoy playing with scale and proportion,' they explain. 'We also like to give our gardens strong green bones to support a softer planting.' When the budget allows, they also design bespoke furniture, gates and containers. Although their reputation has been built on urban gardens they are increasingly working in larger, rural spaces, with more commissions abroad, particularly in the Mediterranean. 'New places, new people and new challenges excite us and keep us alert,' they say. The pair designed the Summer Solstice garden for Daylesford Organic at the 2008 Chelsea Flower Show, and the garden has been reconstructed at Daylesford's Gloucestershire headquarters. Design trend: 'Good modernist outdoor furniture by Harry Bertoia, Richard Schultz and Ernest Race, and gardens without borders.' 020-7613 1122; www.delbuono-gazerwitz.co.uk

'A garden must reflect the aspirations of the client'

JOHN BROOKES



LUCIANO GIUBBILEI

Luciano Giubbilei is a London-based Italian who started designing gardens 14 years ago after completing a diploma in garden design at the Inchbald School of Design. His signature minimalist, urban-garden style is influenced by the pure geometry of Italian Renaissance landscaping, by black-and-white photography, and by art and architecture. While he is known for his beautifully simple gardens with their elegant clipped hedges and rhythmic motifs, Luciano is currently broadening his portfolio and translating his distinctive genre into more rural settings, with commissions both in this country and abroad. 'I have realised that I can create the same atmosphere by using a wider variety of plants,' he says. 'Gardens are an expression of what people want at the time. When I started designing, there was a drive towards the "outdoor room" and using the garden as an outdoor entertaining space. Now



people have moved on. Today, it's more about sustainability and ecology, and people have longer-term visions.' Luciano is currently teaming up with Japanese architect and designer Kengo Kuma. Together they aim to create a garden that explores the theme of nature and human intervention for the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show. Design trend: 'We've had the slow-cooking movement; now it's time for the slow-gardening movement.' 020-7622 2616; www.lucianogiubbilei.com

Long-established designer Mary Keen and rising star Pip Morrison have worked together for six years on projects ranging from Chilham Castle in Kent to private gardens for a glittering list of clients, including Lord Rothschild at Waddesdon Manor and Matthew Freud and Elisabeth Murdoch at Burford Priory. Specialising in gardens for listed buildings, they 'tread lightly' when designing, preferring to make gardens that look as if they have been there for years. 'Imposing displays interest us less than atmosphere and a sense of space,' says Mary. 'Our designs are shaped by architecture, history, landscape, local distinctiveness and the way a client wants to live; we particularly enjoy working directly with architects.' Pip, who studied landscape architecture at Edinburgh and worked for a time at Great Dixter, describes the design process as 'a bit like a jigsaw puzzle', and especially enjoys the process of editing the various layers that exist in a historical garden. Mary and Pip run a small office because they like to give each project their personal attention, and they are always involved with the maintenance and management of the gardens they have designed. Design trend: 'The seed mixes from www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk are hugely popular at the moment and really seem to work.' mary.keen@btinternet.com; pipmorrison@yahoo.co.uk



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Our designs are shaped by architecture, history and the way a client wants to live'

MARY KEEN

My job is done when I can leave a garden and nobody knows I've been there'

MARTIN LANE FOX



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Martin Lane Fox designs and landscapes gardens in this country and abroad. Current projects range from a London garden for Mick Jagger, to a massive 12-year project on the former Yugoslavian naval base in Montenegro. On a site that stretches almost 1.5km along the coast, he is landscaping Europe's largest marina and development complex. Many of the private gardens he designs are for listed buildings, so the landscape is dictated by the style of architecture – as he says, 'you can't put a Victorian parterre in front of a seventeenth-century manor'. Martin's principal design ethos is to leave as small a stamp on the landscape as possible: 'I really believe that my job is done when I can leave a garden and nobody knows I've been there.' His aim is to 'get people's feet moving' around a garden; to create a sense of the unexpected through the clever use of ornament or structure. He believes the most important ingredient is the colour green in all its shades. Design trend: 'I have yet to see a defining twenty-first-century garden style; too much modern design relies on inappropriate gimmicks.' 01929-459122 □

BOTH PAGES Among the top garden designers featured in the first instalment of our three-part series are, from left, Luciano Giubbilei, Michael Balston, James Alexander Sinclair, Paul Gazerwitz, Isabel Bannerman, Christopher Bradley-Hole, Julian Bannerman, Mary Keen, Pip Morrison and John Brookes, all photographed in the historic Chelsea Physic Garden. Shown overleaf but not pictured here are Jinny Blom, Tommaso del Buono and Martin Lane Fox



Clare Foster has scoured the country to identify the UK's most talented

A photograph of five garden designers standing in a lush garden. From left to right: a man in a dark suit, a man in a blue polo shirt, a woman in a grey trench coat and pants, a man in a grey blazer, and a man in a blue shirt and dark vest. They are standing on a stone path with large trees and greenery in the background.

The House & Garden
guide to the LEADING
GARDEN
DESIGNERS OF
TODAY

garden designers. In part 1 of 3, she presents A to L of her findings

PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW MONTGOMERY

James Alexander-Sinclair's own garden at Blackpitts House in Northamptonshire embodies his relaxed approach to garden design. Plants come first in this delightful, flowing garden, and the colours, textures and combinations reveal a skilled, sensitive plantsman who is genuinely excited about the boundless opportunities plants can bring to a design. 'I would rather work with plants than paving stones,' says James. 'My gardens are about controlled anarchy – using plants to create wild, extravagant scenes, and taking them to the brink of what is acceptable. It's gardening on a long leash.' Working throughout Britain, James is known for his large, country gardens, where his naturalistic schemes are completely in step with the surrounding landscape. His three-step design philosophy gives equal weight to the style of the building, the way the client lives and the landscape in which the garden sits. Design trend: 'Look out for a dramatic resurgence of rhododendrons, and the increasing use of shrubs in a naturalistic context.' 01327-857682; www.blackpitts.co.uk



'My gardens are about controlled anarchy – using plants to create wild scenes, and taking them to the brink of what is acceptable'

JAMES ALEXANDER-SINCLAIR

'I like to translate a well-thought-out concept into a finely constructed and planted reality'

MICHAEL BALSTON



MICHAEL BALSTON

Michael Balston has been designing both public and private gardens since the late Seventies and established his own practice in 1983. Based in Wiltshire, where he has developed his own large garden, he works all over the world, translating 'a well-thought-out concept into a finely constructed and planted reality'. Michael originally trained in architecture and, as a result, his private gardens are very architecturally driven, with strong frameworks meticulously structured from a wide variety of materials. Equally passionate about plants, he uses his own garden as a 'working laboratory', experimenting with a vast range of plant combinations, which he then incorporates into his designs. Michael is a member of the RHS Council and of the Shows and Gardens Committees. Design trend: 'The naturalistic planting trend has definitely influenced me and, as a result, I am now designing in a much more relaxed way.' 01380-848181; www.balston.co.uk

ISABEL AND JULIAN BANNERMAN

Husband-and-wife team Isabel and Julian Bannerman are known for their romantic, theatrical designs that often combine imaginative timber or stone structures with rich, sensual planting. Past projects include the stumpery at the Prince of Wales's garden at Highgrove and, more recently, a new garden at Arundel Castle. Their own garden at Hanham Court near Bristol, opened not long ago to the public, encapsulates their distinctive style, with wide borders of scented plants and a tumbledown folly beside a pool. 'Above all we make places that we would want to live in, because this is what gardens are all about,' says Isabel. 'What we aim to do is to draw out the beauty and the pleasure to be had from being outdoors, and the broader landscape is hugely important in this.' Some of the main themes that run through their work include large-leafed architectural plants, romantic roses clambering through trees and shrubs, ruins, fountains and water tricks, shellwork and grottoes and rustic oak structures. Design trend: 'Working without box because of box blight.' 0117-961 0593; www.bannermansdesign.com



JINNY BLOM

From an initial career in psychology, Jinny Blom took a sideways step into garden design in 1996, setting up her own practice in 2000. Since then she has become one of the country's most sought-after designers, with an impressive string of projects to her name. Her approach is sensitive and thoughtful, with an emphasis on beautiful materials and lavish planting. Eschewing a particular style, she describes each garden as 'extremely bespoke', and approaches every project in an intuitive way, paying close attention to structure and detail. She sums up: 'The process of garden designing has become a well-considered progression, through analysis of the location, understanding the clients, their lives and their wishes, the soil, the existing plants and the creatures living there, the wider landscape and the climate. I believe that if one approaches the work with integrity, then the result will be attractive in every sense of the word.' Design trend: 'I honestly believe that gardening and garden design should exist outside the realm of fashion.' 020-7253 2100; www.jinnyblom.com



CHRISTOPHER BRADLEY-HOLE



As one of the country's leading garden designers, Christopher Bradley-Hole offers what he describes as a 'specialist design service for contemporary landscapes'. Projects as far afield as Abu Dhabi and Moscow range from small urban gardens to large country estates: 'Size is immaterial to our approach,' he explains. 'Quality is the thread that links our projects.' Christopher's background is in modern architecture, and his work highlights the calm

geometry, proportions and rigorous detailing that were the benchmarks of his original training. Trees and hedges have long been an obsession, and he is fascinated by the way these natural materials can be used to form integral green architecture. Water is also a recurring theme, whether he is using it as calm pools to reflect light and to create openness, or as more vibrant fountains and torrents. His planting is typically relaxed and naturalistic, relying predominantly on perennials and grasses, which he loves for their echoes of the natural landscape. Christopher has designed several award-winning Chelsea show gardens and is the author of two books, *The Minimalist Garden* and *Making the Modern Garden*, both published by Mitchell Beazley. Design trend: 'A closer appreciation of light and shade.' 020-8939 1748; www.christopherbradley-hole.co.uk

If one approaches garden design with integrity, then the result will be attractive in every sense'

JINNY BLOM