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20

- 40 **Golden touch** Anna Pavord visits the romantic gardens at Temple Guiting in the Cotswolds, an instant classic by designer Jinny Blom
- 54 **The painter's paradise** Artist John Hubbard's gardens tumble picturesquely down an idyllic Dorset hillside
- 76 **When less is more** Wild flowers and native trees lend a natural look to the garden of James van Sweden, set in the 'minimalist' landscape of Chesapeake Bay in Maryland

## people

- 74 **Who's who** Meet Anja Oudolf, the Dutch grower who runs one of Europe's most influential nurseries
- 122 **Seeking perfection** Frank Ronan reflects on those fleeting moments when everything is absolutely right in the garden

## design

- 89 **Design news** Events and new design projects
- 92 **Immaculate jungles** Bold landscaping and exotic planting are the hallmarks of American landscape architect Raymond Jungles

## regulars

- 3 **Editor's letter**
- 6 **Contributors**
- 8 **Readers' letters**
- 13 **Dig in News** Including events and Nosey Parker
- 25 **Shopfront** Tea in the garden
- 32 **Subscription offer**
- 99 **Book reviews** The latest titles assessed
- 110 **Crossword and back issues**
- 113 **Classifieds**
- 121 **Next issue** What's coming up in July

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# editor's letter



There's nothing quite like the prettiness of cottage garden planting to tug at the heart strings. But today's gardeners want more than just chocolate-box good looks: we want our gardens to be attractive for as many months as possible, draw in wildlife, and preferably need little in the

way of primping and preening. On page 48 designer Jane Brockbank brings this enduring style right up to date with her ten favourite cottage garden plants. We also have some stunning gardens this issue: Jinny Blom's design for Temple Guiting Manor in the Cotswolds (page 40), artist John Hubbard's private garden in Dorset (page 54), and the nature-inspired planting at landscape architect James van Sweden's home in Maryland (page 76). In addition, specialist grower Ian Christie profiles the best blue poppies (page 66) and we visit Botanic Nursery's National Collection of foxgloves (page 34). Alongside a host of other top-notch growers, Botanic Nursery will be exhibiting at the Cottesbrooke Plant Finders Fair on 25-27 June. I've long admired the European plant fairs, such as Courson, Saint-Jean de Beauregard, Bingerden and Beervelde, and am delighted to say that Cottesbrooke (run in association with GARDENS ILLUSTRATED) has the same quality, style and flair. As designer Cleve West puts it: "resistance is futile".

I couldn't agree more and hope to see you there. For details turn to page 10.

*Jane*



A fabulous collection of foxgloves blooms at the Botanic Nursery in Wiltshire – turn to page 34.



Jinny Blom's romantic planting for the Tudor manor house at Temple Guiting in the Cotswolds.

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS



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Garden designer, plantsman and columnist.

## In brief

**WHAT** Private formal garden surrounding a Grade I, early 16th-century house.

**WHERE** Temple Guiting, Gloucestershire.

**SOIL** Hungry, fast-draining Cotswold brash.

**CLIMATE** 250m up in the Cotswolds, but in a relatively sheltered valley and with many internal walls offering protection.

**SIZE** Roughly 14 acres, divided into 12 different areas.

**SPECIAL FEATURES** Major new garden by award-winning designer Jinny Blom.

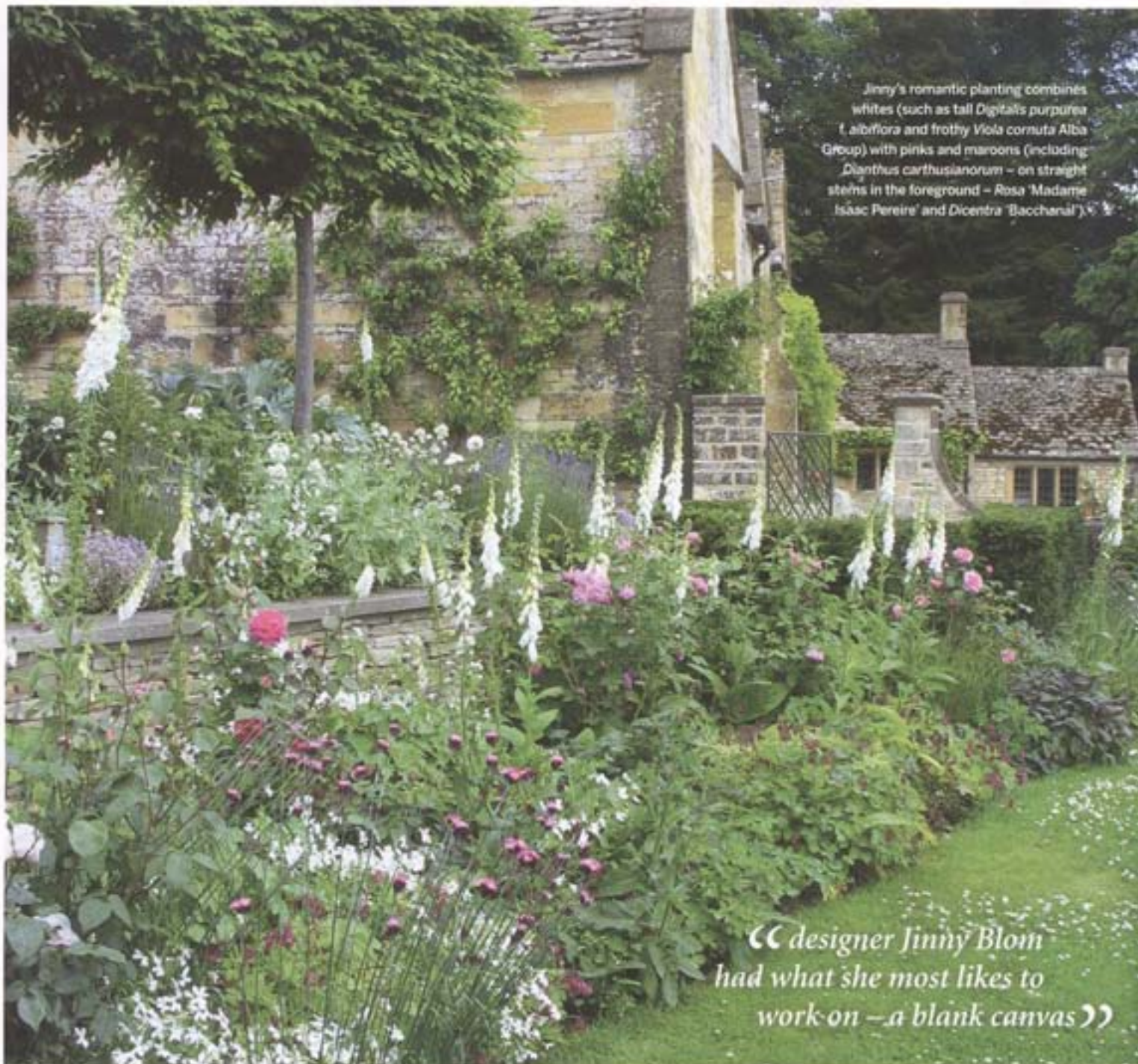
**GARDEN PLAN** See page 47.

Blue Iris 'Jane Phillips' blooms beneath pleached hornbeams on a balmy evening in early summer.

# Golden touch

Designer Jinny Blom's luxuriant planting lends this Cotswold garden a richly romantic atmosphere

WORDS ANNA PAVORD PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW LAWSON



Jinny's romantic planting combines whites (such as tall *Digitalis purpurea* f. *albiflora* and frothy *Viola cornuta* Alba Group) with pinks and maroons (including *Dianthus carthusianorum* – on straight stems in the foreground – *Rosa* 'Madame Isaac Pereire' and *Dicentra* 'Baccharis').

« designer Jinny Blom had what she most likes to work on – a blank canvas »

Temple Guiting lies in the middle of the Cotswold hills, which roll from Westonbirt in the south all the way up to Hidcote in the north. From the high ground there are long, clean views over drystone walls and ploughed fields. In the valleys, beech replaces thorn and flashes of sun highlight streams winding through patches of marsh marigolds and mud.

In one of these valleys you'll find The Manor, where for eight years garden designer Jinny Blom has been creating a new setting for the house, now owned by entrepreneur Steven Collins. There was little worth keeping from the property's previous life as a llama farm, so Jinny had what she most likes to work on – a blank canvas.

The house itself is set quite tightly into the southeastern corner of its land, so Jinny planned a new garden to the west where broad, generous terraces face the valley. As the garden has spread into new areas, around granary and barn, the spine of the whole design has become the Granary Walk, a long, narrow strip running between old stone walls, superbly planted in the colours of faded velvet

curtains. The walk is punctuated by clipped drums of yew, which stand in borders planted in soft, gauzy blue-purple; butterflies flit over mounds of *Origanum laevigatum* 'Herrenhausen', matched with *Viola* 'Belmont Blue' and creeping thymes. There are grey-mauve asters, tall eryngiums, explosions of alliums and (top star of all) the *Sedum* 'Matrona', its dark, fleshy leaves lolling over the gravel path.

In June the garden is full of roses. A big 'Gloire de Dijon' romps about in a sheltered corner of the courtyard in front of the house. The Pemberton musks 'Penelope' and 'Prosperity' (pink and creamy white) fill the Granary Walk with scent; grey-leaved *Rosa glauca* grows at the far end of the walk. Climbing roses include 'Desprez à Fleur Jaune', whose blooms drift between pink and apricot and a gentle buff colour – entirely right for the handsome stone walls against which they are trained.

Wandering slowly up the Granary Walk there are temptations on either side. A small door opens into a tennis court with clematis and masses more roses thrown over its enclosing walls. Standing ▶



There are lots of places to sit and enjoy the fragrance of early summer blooms.

LEFT Bushy, vigorous *Rosa* 'Madame Knorr' will flower until autumn.



A simple box parterre in the Lower Terrace contrasts with the lavish planting of the Long Borders.

RIGHT The crimson thistles of *Cirsium rivulare* 'Atropurpureum' will thrive in full sun and moist soil.



Tall clumps of the grass *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster' and lofty flower spikes of *Eremurus robustus* dominate the Peacock Garden.

LEFT *Aquilegia vulgaris* var. *stellata* 'Ruby Port' with *Astrantia major* 'Roma'.

## Jinny Blom's top six plants

The planting at Temple Guiting includes some irresistible and reliable plants that the designer loves to use in her gardens



**Iris 'Jane Phillips'**

This bearded iris is tall (90cm) and flowers in May and June. Plant in free-draining soil, in sun or partial shade.



**Clematis 'Madame Julia**

**Correvon'** flowers from midsummer to autumn. Plant in free-draining soil, in sun or partial shade. Resistant to wilt.



**Rosa x odorata 'Mutabilis'**

From summer to autumn, bears single flowers that drift from yellow into orange and red. Likes sun and fertile, well-drained soil.



**Carpinus betulus**

Pleached hornbeam makes tall still hedges either side of the Long Water. It will tolerate heavy clay soil and hard pruning.



**Taxus baccata**

Yew topiary will thrive in acid or alkaline soils, and in sun or deep shade. Clip once a year, in summer or early autumn.



**Dianthus carthusianorum**

This pretty European native plant prefers well-drained, neutral to alkaline soil, in full sun. It flowers all summer to a height of 40cm.



« the spine of the design  
has become the Granary  
Walk, a narrow strip  
between old stone walls »

In the Granary Walk, frothy white valerian (*Centranthus ruber* 'Albus'), pale blue bells of *Campanula persicifolia* 'Telham Beauty' and rich blue spires of *Aconitum* 'Spark's Variety' swirl around yew columns.

« Beyond, the land plunges dramatically to the River Windrush, before rising again through pasture »



Swathes of astrantias and aquilegias surround an antique Swedish bench in one corner of the Rose Garden.

▷ around the court, like expectant spectators, are groups of topiaried yew – pillars, drums, puddings, pyramids. Out of the corner of your eye, you half expect to see them moving around, gossiping together.

### Views through the garden and beyond

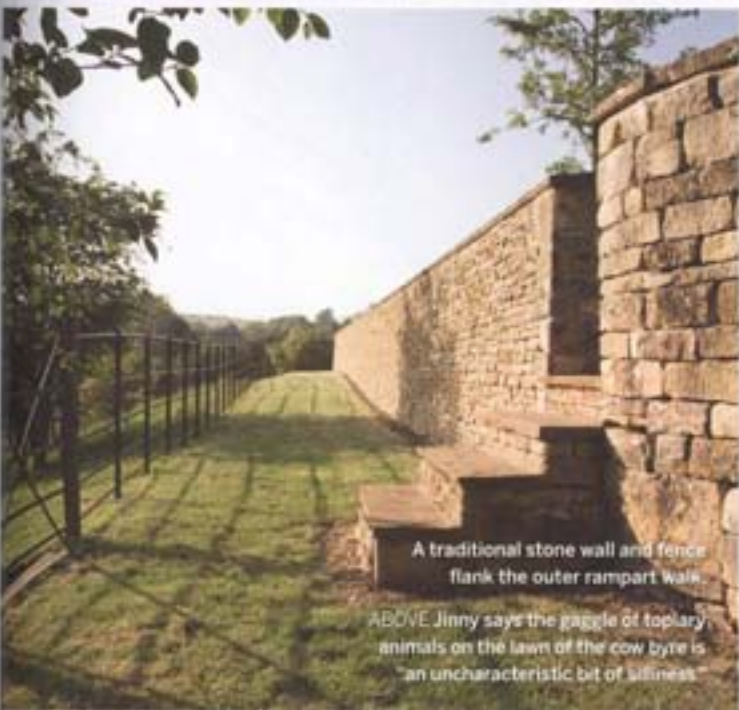
A long vista runs south from the tennis court door through the terraced layers of the main garden below, past the tall pleached hornbeams that surround the central canal and out between the clipped cornerpieces of yew in the Block Garden. "I felt an important part of my job was to stage the view out of the garden," explains Jinny, "but also to slow it down, so that it unfolds gently, a bit at a time."

At the top part of the Granary Walk, the borders loosen and open out. Plants grow directly out of the gravel – monkshoods, agapanthus, masses of the dark bearded *Iris* 'Dusky Challenger', bronze fennel, peonies, *Salvia verticillata* 'Purple Rain', mounds of purple-leaved sage punctuated by bigger mounds of viburnum and, surprisingly, currant bushes:

black, white and red. It's a relaxed, domestic planting, in contrast to the more formal areas in the main part of the garden.

To the left is another tempting doorway. This leads to the Peacock Garden, its swirling beds divided by wide, curving grass paths (pictured on page 43). The gift to this space is the low, sweeping stone roof of the lincay that closes off the western end of the garden. It creates a superb backdrop for the plants, planted in huge drifts dominated by sheaves of *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'. The colours here are deep and saturated: *Thalictrum aquilegifolium* 'Thundercloud', dark purple columbines, maroon *Cirsium rivulare*, swaying curtains of *Verbena bonariensis* and, at the end of the summer, *Dahlia* 'Chat Noir'. In the back corner, a fine old hawthorn leans into the space like a pensioner who finds himself unexpectedly at a rave.

Turning now, you drop down from the Peacock Garden to the Long Water, the canal that forms the centrepiece of the walled garden (pictured on pages 40–41). Framing it on either side are luscious ribbons of the blue *Iris* 'Jane Phillips', with pale campanulas, white



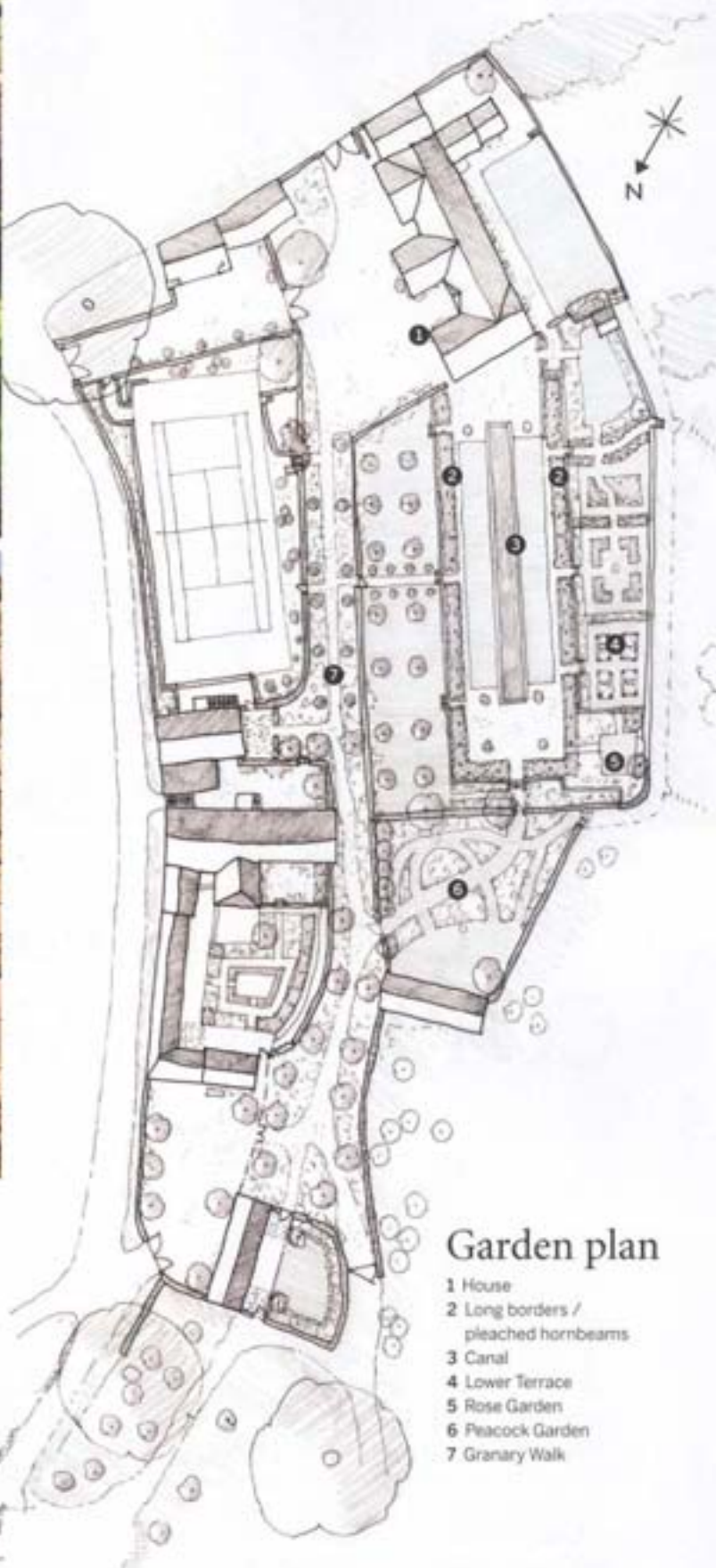
A traditional stone wall and fence flank the outer rampart walk.

ABOVE Jinny says the gaggle of topiary animals on the lawn of the cow byre is an uncharacteristic bit of silliness.

and white agapanthus. The palette is cool and calm, the lines long and straight, stopping only when they meet the house at the far end.

Above is an orchard, where espaliered apples share their space on the enclosing stone wall with white *Clematis* 'Huldine'. Below the canal garden, clipped yew marks out the squares of the herb garden and the Block Garden. Beyond, the land plunges dramatically to the River Windrush, before rising again through pasture to the soft outline of trees against the sky.

The Manor at Temple Guiting is a remarkable place. Now, thanks to Jinny Blom, it has the garden it deserves. □



## Garden plan

- 1 House
- 2 Long borders / pleached hornbeams
- 3 Canal
- 4 Lower Terrace
- 5 Rose Garden
- 6 Peacock Garden
- 7 Granary Walk

### USEFUL INFORMATION

**OPEN** Under the National Gardens Scheme for one day only on Sunday 27 June, 2pm to 6pm. Admission £3.50.

**ADDRESS** The Manor, Temple Guiting, near Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire GL54 5RP.