

HOMES & GARDENS®

OCTOBER 2010 £3.70

RECALL: 29/09/10



NEW MOODS

INSPIRATIONAL 50s FLAIR

STATEMENT STRIPES
THIS SEASON'S FABRICS

**WELCOMING
COUNTRY HOMES**

Restored historic
houses in Somerset
and Leicestershire

■ **ESSENTIAL GUIDE**

Wood flooring

■ **FOOD & TRAVEL**

Tempting recipes
for mushrooms
Ancient Syria

SIMPLY AUTUMN

BRILLIANT COLOUR FOR THE GARDEN

HOMES & GARDENS

OCTOBER

HOMES

- 58 **LIVING HISTORY**
Vibrant colours and sumptuous detailing add charm and character to this stone-built Somerset property.
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Classic design creates a relaxing feel in Claire and Ben Smith's restored country house in Leicestershire.
- 80 **KEYNOTES: ROUND MIRRORS**
Where to find examples like those in the Smiths' home.
- 84 **NATURAL TALENT**
The Noyoris' beautifully crafted retreat is a peaceful haven surrounded by birch and fir trees.
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Countryside bolt holes similar to the Noyoris'.
- 95 **WOODLAND SPIRIT**
Contemporary Danish style in a secluded forest location.

GARDENS

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The Hutchison family's garden was transformed into a unique scheme of individually themed areas.
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Stone and composite inspired by the Hutchisons' garden.
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Jinny Blom's contemporary, show-stopping design at *Jardins, Jardin* in Paris.
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Flowers, foliage, grasses and berries blazing with rich shades to round off the gardening year.
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The new season brings delicate shapes bursting with colour to trees and shrubs. ▶

DESIGNER SECRETS

At this year's *Jardins, Jardin* show in Paris, Jinny Blom's design broke new ground



DESIGNER PROFILE

JINNY BLOM is an internationally acclaimed garden designer who set up her practice in 1996. Before that she studied theatre design, then ran her own delicatessen and subsequently trained as a psychotherapist, a career she pursued for 12 years. But, she says, she finally found her *métier* in garden design, and with three Chelsea show gardens to her credit and a portfolio of stunning work here and abroad, she is one of the UK's most revered designers.

THE BRIEF "My clients at Laurent-Perrier were keen to exhibit at the *Jardins, Jardin* show in Paris this year and wanted me to create an innovative, surprising, beautiful and stylish design that would capture the essence of their brand."

"I have a great relationship with the Nonancourt sisters who run Laurent-Perrier, having worked with them on three of my Chelsea gardens, and I was excited by the challenge of creating an exhibit at the annual *Jardins, Jardin* show in Paris. My main inspiration was an aerial photograph of the Champagne region, which showed a tapestry of green, cream and pinkish chalk vine fields, set out in straight lines. The streets of Paris are also laid out on a grid, so I decided to use this as the plan for the garden. Keen to inject more feminine curves, I also had the idea of giant fossilised seeds falling from the sky and splitting open to reveal their secret interiors. First I created prototypes of the seeds from plasticine, which I then had mocked up to full size before they were cast in marble dust. The outer shells are embossed with leaves cast into the stone and lined with the bases of champagne bottles, suggesting the seeds of a juicy fruit. At more than six by two metres, the sculptures create a dramatic effect. My clients and the public responded really well, and it was great to do something outside my natural comfort zone."



1 USING MODERN SCULPTURE

"Garden sculpture is often undersized, but you will achieve more exciting effects if you think big. One or two of these seeds would work well in an urban garden with soft herbaceous planting, or in a larger woodland garden among trees with underplanting. Lighting is key too, creating new perspectives after dark."

2 APPLYING IDEAS FROM AN INSTALLATION GARDEN

"Although this design is for a show, you could use elements of it in a larger or a communal garden. The limestone pathways intersecting lawns are practical features and would be relatively easy to maintain, while the seeds could be used as seats and arbours."



3 CHOOSING PLANTS FOR CONTEMPORARY SCHEMES

"Here, I have used just one plant, *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna', because it is upright, guaranteed to flower in June and mirrors a line of crops. I would not recommend monoplanting as a rule since it is difficult to find one species that gives year-round interest. Instead, choose plants that you relate to emotionally, in terms of colour, shape or habit, and look at their seasonal characteristics, blending your selection to create an extended show."

FACT FILE

KEY PLANTS

- *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna'.
- Turf.

WHERE TO BUY

Crocus.

0844 557 2233,
crocus.co.uk.
For a wide range of salvias and other hardy perennials.

Worlds End Nurseries.

01905 640977,
worldsendgarden.co.uk.
For a large selection of hardy salvias.

Online Turf.

0871 222 2522,
onlineturf.co.uk.
Turf mail-order specialist.

LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

The seeds were made from eco-friendly marble dust composite and the paths were laid with crushed limestone. The champagne bottle bases were cast in resin and the seed pods were fabricated from Jinny's designs by the specialist company Dynamic 3.

WHERE TO BUY

Specialist Aggregates.

01785 661018,
specialistaggregates.com.

Dynamic 3.

020 8291 3132,
dynamic3.co.uk.
Specialist in sculpture construction.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Jardins, Jardin.

jardinsjardin.com.

The annual garden show is open every June in the Tuileries gardens, Paris. ■