

HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW

Despite mixed temperatures over the week, this year's show did not disappoint, with 'grow your own' a prominent theme, and many innovative gardens of all sizes. Photography by Tim Sandall and Neil Hepworth



Gold

'Vestra Wealth's Gray's Garden'

This stylish Show Garden design was inspired by the clean lines and simplicity of the work of Eileen Gray (1878–1976), furniture designer, architect and pioneer of modernism in the 1920s and 1930s. (design: Paul Martin Designs; sponsor: Vestra Wealth)



Gold, Tudor Rose Award for Best Show Garden

'I am, because of who we are'

While the limited-colour planting palette of white and green contrasted with rusty iron walls, this garden featured interlocking circles of block planting. Where they overlapped the plants merged, creating movement and flow within the space. (designers: Caroline Comber with Petra Horackova; sponsor: CDN Consular Services)

NATURALISTIC DESIGNS

Featuring in this year's Hampton Court Palace Flower Show were plantings based on wild areas and natural ecosystems, artfully weaving native plants and grasses with complementary non-natives. The style may seem deceptively simple, but it is not easy to make such 'wild' areas look convincing.

Silver-Gilt Flora



Silver-Gilt Flora



ORNAMENTAL EDIBLES

The RHS 'grow your own' theme was again on display at the show, but several exhibits suggested ways to mix edible and ornamental plants. In addition, new and innovative ideas for accommodating fruit, vegetables and herbs into even the smallest garden were shown.

'The CoppaFeel! Garden'

Among this year's Conceptual Gardens, Hugo Bugg's design for breast-cancer awareness charity CoppaFeel! (below) used bold shapes and strong colours to help raise awareness of the disease. (contributors: Crocus, Archibald Ingall Stretton, AddaGrip, Norstone, Mass-Concrete, AHS, Streetscape, ExcelEdge, theplasticshop.co.uk)

'Heathers in Harmony'

Named Best Small Garden and taking the Most Creative Award, this design for a small, low-maintenance urban garden on three levels (right) showed the versatility of heathers – both in the ground and vertically on the 'wall'. (design: William Quarmby; sponsors: Horticultural Development Company; British Heather Growers Association)

Gold, Best Small Garden



'The Stockman's Retreat: WorldSkills London 2011 Team UK'

A pool that seemed to have been there for some time (top) helped this Show Garden demonstrate the skills of a team of young craftspeople. (design: Chris Beardshaw; sponsors: Marshalls, Makita, York Survey & Supply, Bulldog Tools, Askham Bryan College)

'The Copella Plant and Protect Garden'

Designed to depict the cycle of life within a romanticised English apple orchard (above), melding old trees and modern sculptural elements, this Show Garden also contained some beautifully planted naturalistic edging. (design: Sadie May Stowell; sponsor: Copella Fruit Juices)

'The RHS Edible Garden'

Centrepiece of this year's show and the largest exhibit, Jon Wheatley and Anita Foy's design for this multi-themed area included a colour-packed fruit, vegetable, flower and herb garden (above) in which all the plants had culinary uses. Other spaces held hops, vines, bees and an olive grove.

'The Burgon and Ball 5-A-Day Garden'

Packing an amazing range of edible plants and herbs into a tiny 10sq m (108sq ft) Small Garden (below), this clever design demonstrated just how productive and versatile a modest courtyard area can be. (design: Heather Culpan, Nicola Reed; sponsor: Burgon & Ball)

Gold





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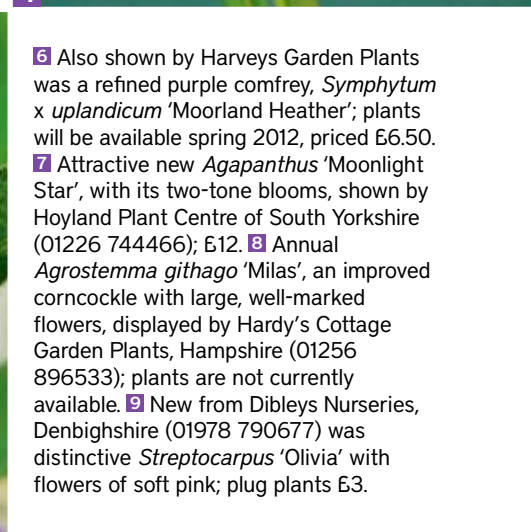
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NEW AND UNUSUAL PLANTS ON SHOW

1 Vivid, newly available *Gladiolus* 'Kashmir' was shown by Pheasant Acre Plants of Mid Glamorgan (01656 664086); £7 for 10 corms. **2** Beautiful new *Passiflora* 'La Morellina' is good for a cool conservatory, shown by Tynings Climbers of North Somerset (01275 852439). Available 2012. **3** *Ixia paniculata* 'Eos', displayed by Jacques Amand International, Middlesex (020 8420 7110); bulbs available in autumn. **4** Recently introduced *Hemerocallis* 'Storm of the Century' shown by Brookfield Plants, Kent (01233 624934); price: £12. **5** *Echinacea* 'Hot Papaya' shown by Harveys Garden Plants, Suffolk (01359 233363). Limited stock; price £8.50.

6 Also shown by Harveys Garden Plants was a refined purple comfrey, *Symphytum* x *uplandicum* 'Moorland Heather'; plants will be available spring 2012, priced £6.50. **7** Attractive new *Agapanthus* 'Moonlight Star', with its two-tone blooms, shown by Hoyland Plant Centre of South Yorkshire (01226 744466); £12. **8** Annual *Agrostemma githago* 'Milas', an improved corncockle with large, well-marked flowers, displayed by Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Hampshire (01256 896533); plants are not currently available. **9** New from Dibleys Nurseries, Denbighshire (01978 790677) was distinctive *Streptocarpus* 'Olivia' with flowers of soft pink; plug plants £3.

MINIMALISM

Using space well does not necessarily mean cramming in as much as possible. Sometimes what is not there can be more eloquent, by focusing attention or making a point – that 'less can be more' was true of several Conceptual Gardens.

'The World Vision Garden Powered by Plantify.co.uk'

Juxtaposed hemispheres of grass within a reflective pool (right) symbolised that half the world (the convex dome) is prosperous, while the other half (concave) is not: the 'haves' and 'have-nots'. (design: FlemonsWarlandDesign)

'Diamonds and Rust'

Tony Smith's design (below) explored landforms and the transience of man's activities viewed over geological time.

Gold



Silver-Gilt Flora



Silver-Gilt Flora



'Excuse Me While I Kiss The Sky'

Described as 'a sculptural upside-down garden', this design suspended container plants from a canopy, to reflect in the central mirrored sphere set amid ranks of agapanthus. (design: Anoushka Feiler; contributors: Boskke Recycled Sky Planters, Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Concreations)

MORE ON THE SHOW ONLINE

For many more highlights from the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, visit RHS Online: www.rhs.org.uk/hamptoncourt

Highlights include:

- videos and 360-degree views of all the Show, Small, Conceptual and English Poet's Gardens;
- commentary from gardening experts and members of *The Garden* editorial team;
- ideas for all sizes and styles of gardens, and planting combinations you can copy;

- planting displays with a 'wow' factor inside the RHS Floral Marquee, including video guides;
- details of all the medals awarded to gardens and exhibits in the various marquees;
- how to 'get the Hampton look' in your garden;
- plenty of advice on growing your own fruit and vegetables.

More from RHS flower shows and events this autumn

See *The Garden*, July (pp466–469) for highlights of RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Next month, RHS Flower Show Tatton Park will be reviewed.

- To book tickets for the Malvern Autumn Show, 24–25 September, visit: www.threecounties.co.uk/malvernautumn or tel: 01684 584924

