

# Hampton Court 2012

This year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show (sponsored by Ecover) celebrated gardening, flowers, design and conceptual ideas

Photography: Tim Sandall, Neil Hepworth and Sarah Cuttle

## ► 'Contemporary Contemplation'

The strong horizontal lines of the box hedge and slatted timber boundary in this sleek Show Garden contrasted with rounded box balls in curvy pots and tall white agapanthus. White metal fretwork was used as a screen and for a matching cantilevered seat (designer: OneAbode; sponsors: Morgan and Neal, OneAbode).



Gold



Gold; Best Show Garden

Hampton Court Palace

## ◀ 'Bridge Over Troubled Water'

In this Show Garden, steps rise up and across a large pool of swirling water (symbolising the path to relief enjoyed by sufferers once they receive treatment for bladder complaints). Soft plantings in pink tones of *Dicentra* 'King of Hearts', *Knaulia macedonica* and *Dianthus* were complemented by the rusts of *Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum'. Columnar forms of *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Elegantissima' behind drew the eye upwards (designer: Anoushka Feiler; sponsor: Astellas Pharma).



Gold; Best Conceptual Garden

## ▲ 'Light at the End of the Tunnel'

Designer Matthew Childs created this Conceptual Garden to portray his personal recovery from injury in the July 2005 London bombings. A limited planting of shade lovers in the gloom of the tunnel burst out to encompass airy combinations of *Gaura*, *Stipa tenuissima* and *Gypsophila*.



Silver Flora

## ◀ 'Summer in the Garden'

In the first year of the Low Cost High Impact Garden category, four gardens had a fixed budget for build and planting (£7,000, £10,000 and, in this example, £13,000). Here, designer Mike Harvey's sunny patio with pockets of thyme in the paving was surrounded by spires of *Eremurus x isabellinus* 'Cleopatra' emerging through drought-tolerant *Santolina chamaecyparissus* 'Lemon Queen' and lavender. Rocking chairs made from pallets faced an open fireplace; textured walls added interest (sponsor: Arun Landscapes).



## ▲ Plants used in high places

1 Sempervivums planted on a sloping wall in Conceptual Garden 'Free Fall' (designer: Jo Hanslip) can tolerate challenging conditions. 2 Ivy draws the eye skywards in Modernist-inspired Summer Garden 'Falling Leaves' (designer: Elizabeth Seymour; sponsor: Plumpton College). 3 Grasses top the boundary wall of Summer Garden 'Coastal Drift' (designers: Susan Willmott and Adele Ford; sponsor: Wyevale East Nurseries). 4 Ferns and *Vinca* soften pergola frames in "live outdoors", a £13,000 Low Cost High Impact Garden (designer: Roger Smith). >>





## ▲ New ways with topiary

5 Hostas were used to soften the outline of tightly clipped box balls in a shady area in 'Contemporary Contemplation' (see p42). 6 Young plants of *Eucalyptus gunnii* had been clipped into loose balls on 'Coastal Drift' (see p43). 7 With attractive narrow foliage and a naturally dense, rounded habit, *Hebe stenophylla* formed soft mounds in 'Falling Leaves' (see p43). 8 The open habit of *Pittosporum eugenioides* 'Variegatum' was used as a light informal hedge in 'Celebration & Jubilation', a Summer Garden designed by Jayne Thomas.

## ► 'Discover Jordan Garden'

This Show Garden, one of four in the new World of Gardens category, conveyed the contrasting landscapes to be found in Jordan, as discovered by designer Paul Hervey-Brookes through his travels. A depiction of the ruins of Petra appeared to be carved out of a rocky hillside colonised by drought-tolerant plants such as pines, *Cistus* and wild thyme (sponsor: Jordan Tourism Board, Cox and Kings).



## ▲ 'A Riot of Colour'

This Show Feature focused on the aftermath of the 2011 London riots, where the neglected urban space has been taken over by plants. Grasses in tarmac appeared to push up the double yellow lines to form a seat (and potentially a tree guard). It was designed and built by The Edible Bus Stop project to illustrate its work to transform abandoned urban wastelands into green spaces for the local community.



## ◀ 'The Swiss Alpine Garden'

Another Show Garden in the World of Gardens hinted at the rocky peaks, mountain lakes, chalets and summer alpine meadows of Switzerland. The realistic grassy hillside studded with boulders descended to a long grassy meadow filled with ox-eye daisy, *Centaurea montana* and the rounded blue heads of shepherd's scabious (*Jasione laevis*) (designer: Sadie May Stowell; sponsor: Switzerland Tourism).



## ▲ A collection of garden boundaries

9 Recycled scaffold boards created an open screen in 'Our First Home, Our First Garden' (see above). 10 Clipped hornbeam alternated with quartz-faced panels in 'The Italian Job' Show Garden (designer: Jack Dunckley; sponsor: Birchfield Nursery). 11 Ornate fretwork steel panels in the World of Gardens 'Russian Museum Garden' (designer: Heather Appleton; sponsor: Friends of the State Russian Museum of St Petersburg). 12 Dry walls of volcanic basalt in 'The Azorean Garden', also in the World of Gardens (designer: Stephen Hall; sponsor: The Azores). >>

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Gold; Best Low Cost High Impact Garden



## ▲ 'Our First Home, Our First Garden'

Designed for a busy young couple, this Low Cost High Impact Garden offered plenty of space to relax and entertain without sacrificing areas for plants. The design met the £7,000 budget by using recycled materials in the sunken area (designer: Nilufer Danis).

## ◀ 'The Landform Garden'

Naturalistic planting in orange tones such as *Achillea* 'Inca Gold' and *Anemranthele lessoniana* (pheasant grass) surrounded and softened an intimate seating area in this restful Summer Garden (designer: Catherine MacDonald; sponsor: Landform Consultants).

## RHS Online

For highlights from the 2012 RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show visit:

[www.rhs.org.uk/hamptoncourt](http://www.rhs.org.uk/hamptoncourt)

❖ Find full lists of the medal-winning gardens in the Show, World, Low Cost High Impact, Summer and Conceptual categories, along with the Best Garden awards.

❖ View highlights from the RHS Floral and Growing for Taste Marquees.

