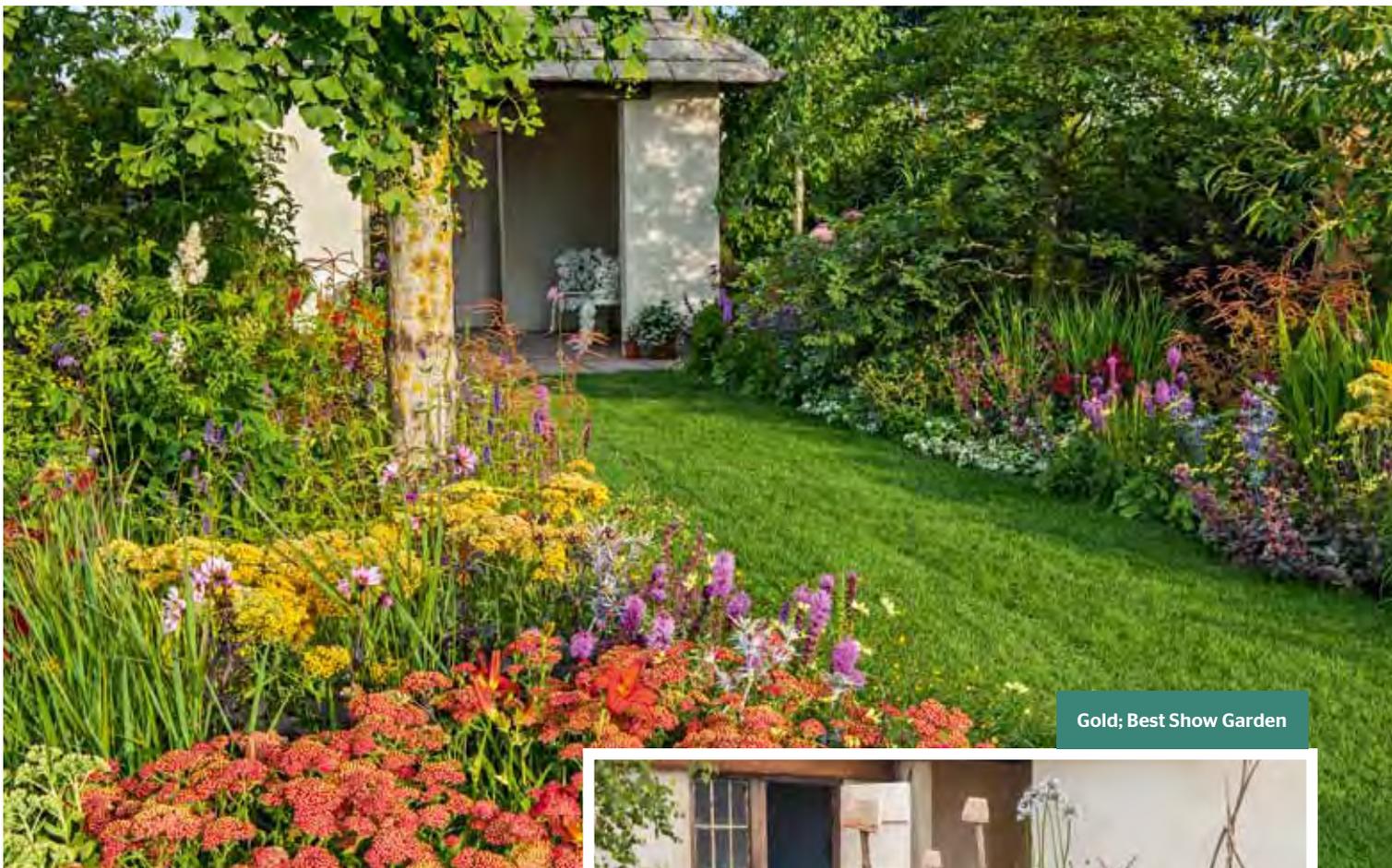


RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2015

In July the North West's biggest flower show held true to its traditions of friendliness with a strong local flavour. Back to Back Gardens made a welcome return, Water Garden and Year of Light categories were added, and floral standards were as high as ever

Photography: Lee Beel, Neil Hepworth and Tim Sandall



Gold; Best Show Garden

'The Perennial Legacy Garden Supported by Glendale'

Awarded Gold and Best Show Garden, Paul Hervey-Brookes' design for the charity Perennial successfully evoked elements of a large English country estate, using twin borders filled to bursting with late-flowering perennials (inspired by those of nearby Arley Hall, and Upton House in Warwickshire). Behind the gardener's bothy was a re-creation of a corner of a walled fruit, vegetable and cutting garden. (Sponsors: Perennial - The Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, Glendale, Rollins Bulldog, Travis Perkins, Bradstone.)



► 'A Quiet Corner'

This understated yet supremely elegant design by Sarah Jarman and Anna Murphy took Gold and the award for Best Back to Back Garden. Within the allocated 6 x 4m (20 x 13ft) space, a shimmering silver, curved wall embraced a secluded seating area with a shallow steel water bowl. The planting was similarly demure, featuring primarily an airy, naturalistic mix of grasses and ferns, and an exceptional multi-stemmed native field maple (*Acer campestre*).



Gold; Best Back to Back Garden



Best Primary School Garden

▲ 'Cheshire Cat'

The Best Primary School Garden, by Whirley Primary School, Macclesfield, took inspiration from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, featuring no fewer than three broadly grinning, quite-at-home Cheshire cats made from recycled cushions, all with mesmeric compact disc eyes. There were also two sizeable black and white cows made of plastic containers and tin cans, sporting pink rubber gloves as udders. Quirky and fun.

Gold; Best Year of Light Garden



'Light Catcher'

Judged best of the Year of Light Gardens, marking the United Nations International Year of Light, the central structure in 'Light Catcher' focused attention onto a central bowl of reflective water. Planting in blues and purples was enlivened with yellows and whites, with many grasses adding sparkle and movement. (Design: Sharon Hockenull; sponsors: Marshalls Paving, BREMO Plants, Urbis Design, Artisan Plant Supports, Gripple UK, Steeltech-Kinetix.)

Silver-Gilt; Best Water Garden



▲ 'Nature's Reflection'

Tonnes of sandstone rock placed with stratified precision, tumbling water and a grassy knoll complete with hammock from which to enjoy it, made up this traditional large water garden, a new category for RHS Flower Show Tatton Park. Moisture-loving perennials and alpines in the rock crevices were the main plant groups used. (Design: Jackie Knight; sponsors: Jackie Knight Landscapes in association with Pickmere Perennials.)

Ideas to take home

With such an emphasis on garden and planting design at the show, there was no shortage of ideas, combinations and design elements that could be adapted and reproduced at home.



DESIGN: FRAZER MCDONOUGH
GARDEN: URBAN SPACE SILVERGILT

Furniture can transform a garden; here the curves and vivid red of the seat contrasted with the verticals of bamboo and *Equisetum* (horsetails) in a brave, flowerless design.



DESIGN: REASEHEATH COLLEGE

Purple wooden poles enhanced with spirals of coloured wire added an extra, vertical element to a planting in the 'Cheshire's Carnival of Gardens' show feature.



DESIGN: CLIVE SCOTT
GARDEN: SURF 'N' TURF GOLD

Verticals of a different nature helped evoke a maritime theme in a coastal garden without gravel: age-worn sentinels among salt-tolerant plants that typify the seaside.



DESIGN: KATE'S AVILL
GARDEN: TIME IS A HEALER GOLD

A sunken area gave extra space in this modern physic garden, edged with dry-stone walling topped with wooden seats - a lovely combination of natural materials.



DESIGN: PETER SHIRLEY OF FRYER'S ROSES
GARDEN: ROSY HUES SILVER

Well-planted containers can become focal points: this simple wooden bucket teaming ferns with hostas held its own (by dint of contrast) among a great many rose blooms.



DESIGN: LANDS END NURSERY SOMERSET

A group of wicker baskets made unusual, but strikingly original, containers for *Sempervivum* (houseleeks), more familiar in alpine troughs and on green roofs.

New plants from the show

A selection of new and interesting plants seen at this year's show



Tiarella 'Emerald Ellie'

Starry white flowers appear in spring above dark green foliage enhanced by inky-black veining. Plants cost £7.50, from the breeders, Plantago, Cheshire; 01270 820335.



Veratrum album var. flavum 'Primrose Warburg'

This selection has green flowers that turn yellow with age. Not yet available. Harperley Hall Farm Nurseries, Durham; 01207 233318.



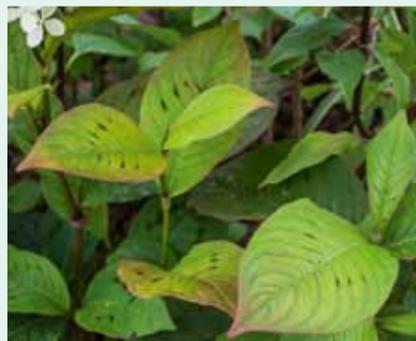
Lilium 05-450

Yet to be given an official name, this fine lily has huge blooms that are highly scented and upward facing. Available in 2016 from Harts Nursery, Staffordshire; 01270 485379.



Crocosmia 'Lady Jane'

Blooms of this plant are red on the outside and yellow inside. Stems and foliage have a purple hue. Plants are £5 from Trecanna Nursery, Cornwall; 01822 834680.



Persicaria 'Guizhou Bronze'

Similar to *P. amplexicaulis* (red bistort), this perennial has bronzey foliage and spikes of pink flowers. Plants are £6.50 from The Botanic Nursery, Wiltshire; 07850 328756.



Clematis Sacha ('Evipo060')

Ideal for small gardens at 1.2m (4ft) high, and covered in lilac blooms from May to October. Plants are £13 from Taylors Clematis Nursery, South Yorkshire; 01302 700716.

► 'Reflecting Photonics'

Voted People's Choice Best Large Garden by the public, this colourful, conceptual Year of Light Garden was based around optical fibres and their ability to transmit data almost instantly. (Design: Helen Elks-Smith and Kate Hart; sponsors: Optoelectronic Research Centre at the University of Southampton, CED, SureSet UK, Dural, Barcham Trees, Grange Fencing.)



Gold; RHS People's Choice Best Large Garden



Gold; RHS People's Choice Best Small Garden

'Melitta'

Andrew Walker's Back to Back Garden, named for a genus of European bees, was a riot of colourful flowers with nectar and pollen appeal to bees of all kinds. Bees woven from willow dotted the plot, with honeycomb-shaped wooden dividers adding structure. Honey-coloured walls with warm terracotta tiles helped make a balanced whole. It was voted RHS People's Choice Best Small Garden.



Gold; RHS Young Designer of the Year 2015



Silver-Gilt

▲ 'The Sunset Garden'

Designed to be 'a garden room for an English country house garden', and to be enjoyed in the particular warm light of low sun late in the day, this immaculate garden won Tamara Bridge (right) the title of RHS Young Designer of the Year 2015. (Sponsors: Redwood Stone, Andrew Crace Garden Furniture.)



◀ 'China "Mother of Gardens"'

Demonstrating authentic traditions of Chinese garden design, while at the same time showing just how many of 'our' familiar garden plants are native to the vast area of eastern Asia that makes up China, was a difficult design brief, but one the Tatton Park Team of gardeners managed to pull off with some panache. Plants collected by EH 'Chinese' Wilson were prominent, and the interior moon-gated courtyard was particularly fine. (Sponsor: Cheshire East Council.)

More on the show

For more on the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2015 visit: www.rhs.org.uk/tatton

- ❖ Download the full lists of medal winners.
- ❖ Browse profiles of all the gardens, and find inspiring elements for your own plot.
- ❖ View the floral attractions and enjoy the school gardens.

- ❖ Watch videos from the show, including design tips for small gardens by *The Garden* Editor Chris Young, and a highlights tour of the whole show.

