The Garden Design Co Ltd

www.gardendesignco.co.uk

2014/2015 Newsletter

Balcony railings designed by Jo Alderson Phillips, created by Michael Jaques.

A year in the life of...

Having been designing and creating gardens for 21 years, the start of our 22nd year did not bode well with the winter floods of 2013/2014 effectively writing off January.

Still, there was no snow and when spring, summer and autumn arrived we were blessed with excellent weather and rain when we needed it.

Winter started very mild and kind (as long as you kept moving!) and all this good fortune coincided with a very positive economy and feel-good factor, such that work is now booked in for the next six months.

Planning ahead is thus more important than ever, but then again that is what we have always stressed. Taking time to plan and design, whilst being flexible enough to work as the garden evolves, is crucial to ensure that our creations have a longevity that makes all the effort a pleasure and, frankly, a great investment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Rob Jones

The Garden Design Company Ltd
Rivermead, Manor Rd,
Goring, Reading, Berks RG8 9ED

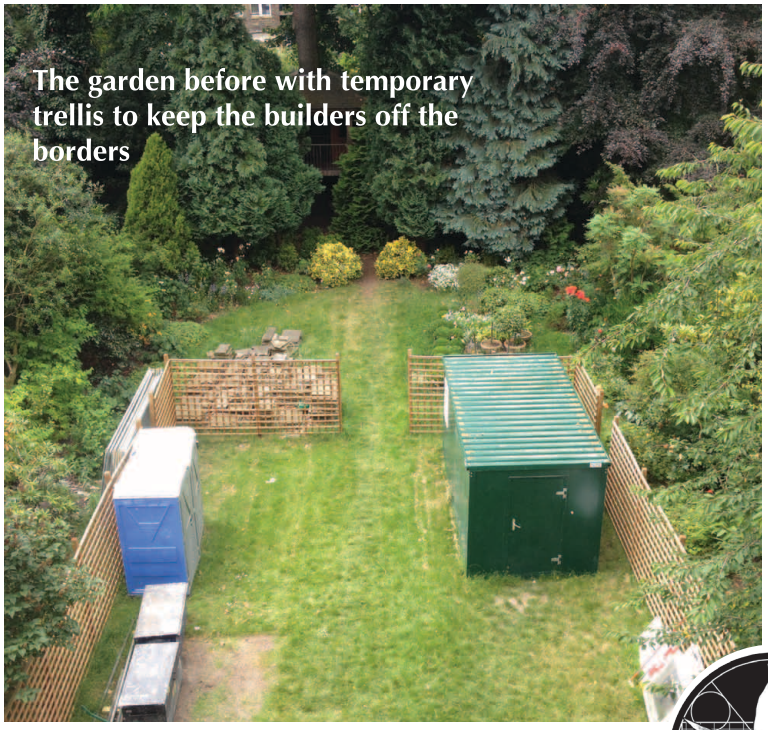
Tel: **07973 261852**

www.gardendesignco.co.uk

London Calling

Usually a trip to London is just to use some sneak preview tickets to Chelsea; Muntons (www.muntons.net), whose steel obelisks and pergolas leave such a striking impact even in winter, kindly gave us early entry tickets so we saw the award winning Luciano Giubbilei garden free of crowds. Best in Show, what a stunning creation. If ever a garden illustrated that less is more...

Luciano Giubbilei best in show; Chelsea 2014



The garden before with temporary trellis to keep the builders off the borders

But London did call in other respects when we were asked to restore a garden in Holland Park, for clients with whom we have worked for many years. Working in central London is extrodinarily challenging, as we dance around builders and resident only parking; it's a work in progress, but inspiring to work on a garden of this size in such a location.

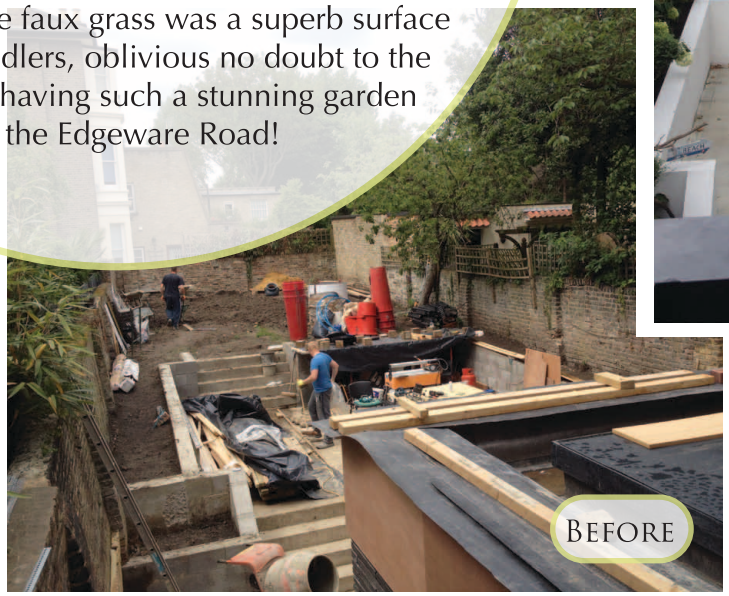
The garden being cleared...

... work in progress

Maida Vale

Meanwhile another project, this time in Maida Vale, saw every bag of compost, mulch and plants having to be carried through the house, as a new garden was created in conjunction with a significant house restoration.

With much of the design by Jo Alderson Phillips, the faux grass was a superb surface for two toddlers, oblivious no doubt to the wonder of having such a stunning garden yards from the Edgeware Road!



When is the best time to plant a tree?

The answer, of course, is 25 years ago. Failing that, the winter is excellent when trees are dormant.

Planting between November – March is a really economical option when bare rooted trees are lifted from nursery fields before being quickly and easily planted whilst they are still asleep.

On the other hand, imagine having instant trees. Then imagine instant trees that have actually formed the centrepiece of Hilliers' Gold Medal winning stand at Chelsea Flower Show. Not normally available for sale, these trees are usually retained to form the backbone of their next Gold Medal winning garden.

Having bought our very first trees from Hilliers in 1992, we go back a long way. So when I started talking to Ricky Dorlay of Hilliers (who has created 49 Gold Medal winning gardens, about sourcing a collection of 35 notoriously slow growing Japanese Maples, to create a stunning Acer glade, we were offered these Chelsea specimens, which otherwise were on the verge of outgrowing their pots.

Fast forward seven months, the trees had been visited by me on three occasions before finally being tagged and loaded.

Planting in winter, their skeletal forms look dramatic and full of promise. You can see them in the flesh when this 5 acre garden opens to the public for the first time on Wednesday 24th June 2015.

Created over 5 years, the garden near Amersham, is stunning. Of course cakes and plants will be on sale with the proceeds going to charity, so do email me if you would like a personal invite.

If you cannot make the open day, worry not, for a video of the garden and the Acers being planted is being made and will be on YouTube later in the year.

ngs gardens open for charity

The space...

The legend that is Ricky Dorlay of Hilliers with Jo

The leaf...

Maytenus borea, tagged...

Delivered...

Planted...

Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'

Prunus 'Amber Beauty'

Acer 'Sangu kaku'

Acer japonicum 'Aconitifolium'

Hedge Layering in Henley

Seeing a desolate and neglected garden, we always look for the potential. Hence on this steeply sloping site, near Henley, a stunning design has been created by Jo Alderson Phillips. However, first we had to restore the seriously neglected hedgeline.

After

Thickened up by some cost effective whips, the layered Hazels and Hawthorns soon 'broke' in May to reveal fresh new growth, that will help the neglected hedge transform into a mixed native boundary hedge.

Before

Leggy hazels, hawthorns and Hollies fought for light with some stunning mature oaks. So we resorted to the traditional art of hedge layering, to create a stock proof boundary which, with some fencing, will deter deer and rabbits.

New growth in May

Spirit of Summer 2014

June 2014 saw the public launch of The Tree and Garden Gift Company at The Spirit of Summer Fair at Olympia.

The response was overwhelming and the feedback so interesting. Choosing, sourcing and planting trees is second nature to us, but it was amazing to see how intimidated many visitors to our stand were at the thought of just choosing, let alone planting, a tree.

Small wonder that the concept of an all inclusive supply and planting service was so well received. And it was a pleasure to plant the Silver Birch from the stand for Mrs Harrison, who was one of many who correctly identified the tree on the stand.

The Tree and Garden Gift Company

The Tree and Garden Gift Company provides a unique and easy solution for choosing and planting trees, whether for yourself or a friend.

Whether you are looking for the perfect christening or retirement present, a Christmas gift or an original wedding list option, these gifts will last and last. The Tree and Garden Gift Company will help you find a well considered and meaningful gift for a loved one.

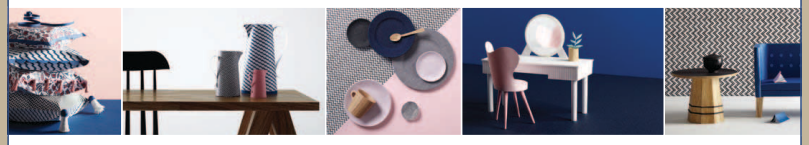
Advice is also available on the site to help with positioning, soil type and of course look, with a choice of trees up to 16 feet in height, the vast majority of which are UK grown.

All the inspiration, ideas and advice you will need to both buy and have planted, the perfect and lifelong tree of your choice are a few simple clicks away with www.treeandgardengiftcompany.co.uk

HOUSE

17-20 JUNE 2015 OLYMPIA LONDON | HOUSE & GARDEN

THE HOUSE EVENT FOR INSPIRING INTERIORS, DESIGN AND DECORATION



BOOK TICKETS AT WWW.HOUSE.EVENTS
OR CALL 0844 412 4623 *

*Calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras. Subject to booking fee per order. Box office closes 16 June 2015.

Date for your diary

Do make a note that we will be back at the Spirit of Summer fair again on 17 - 20 June 2015, at Olympia, with a bigger stand than ever but crucially still opposite Mosimann's pop-up restaurant!

Gardens Illustrated

August 2014

Employing a gardener for only part of the year means selling your gardener and your garden short

Rob Jones, is director of The Garden Design Company Ltd

The July issue of this magazine provided some useful guidance on the issues that can arise from using paid help in the garden.

Finding reliable, skilled and knowledgeable help is not always easy. Low wages don't help to encourage people into the profession, and this problem is made worse by the fact that such work can often also be irregular and insecure. Many garden owners expect their highly skilled gardener to appear at Easter and then simply disappear once the nights draw in.

In fact there is always work to do in a garden, at all times of the year. Even in the winter there are jobs, such as mulching, compost turning, disinfecting the greenhouse or re-pointing the terrace, and for gardens to look their best, it's essential both gardener and client are willing to make the same long-term commitment.

Employing someone all year doesn't just give your gardener security, it makes your life easier too. Not only will your gardener develop a better understanding of your garden's needs, but come spring you won't be frantically searching through Yellow Pages for reliable, skilled help to get your garden under control.

• What's your view? Write to us by post or email (details above). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Introducing Ed Brooks...

One of the numerous high quality partners we work with, Ed and his brother Alex (www.edbrooks.com), specialises in designing and producing bespoke outdoor and indoor furniture.

All pieces are unique to a place and personally tailored to the client. They now own their own 13-acre wood, just a few miles from the workshop where much of the timber is sourced in deepest Dorset.

Hinges and metal work are custom made by the village blacksmith and where possible other materials such as stone, copper, steel and glass are recycled from a previous use.

Not Forgetting

None of these creations could occur without the hard work of the select group of suppliers who we carefully choose and designers that we work with including Jo Alderson Phillips, Helen Sales and Sarah Massey.

And then of course there's the likes of Des, James, James S, Jim, George, Pete, Veronica and Martin who work in all weathers with such care and attention to detail.

Finally there's Sally, Emma, Jackie and Sarah, who juggle family life with working so hard in the background for us and dare I say it 'front of house' during the Spirit of Summer Show.

And not forgetting elder statesman Franco, soon to be helped by Denzel. A great team, who deserve a great thanks.

Rob

Another bench by Ed Brooks

Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.gardendesignco.co.uk/newsletter or call on 07973 261852