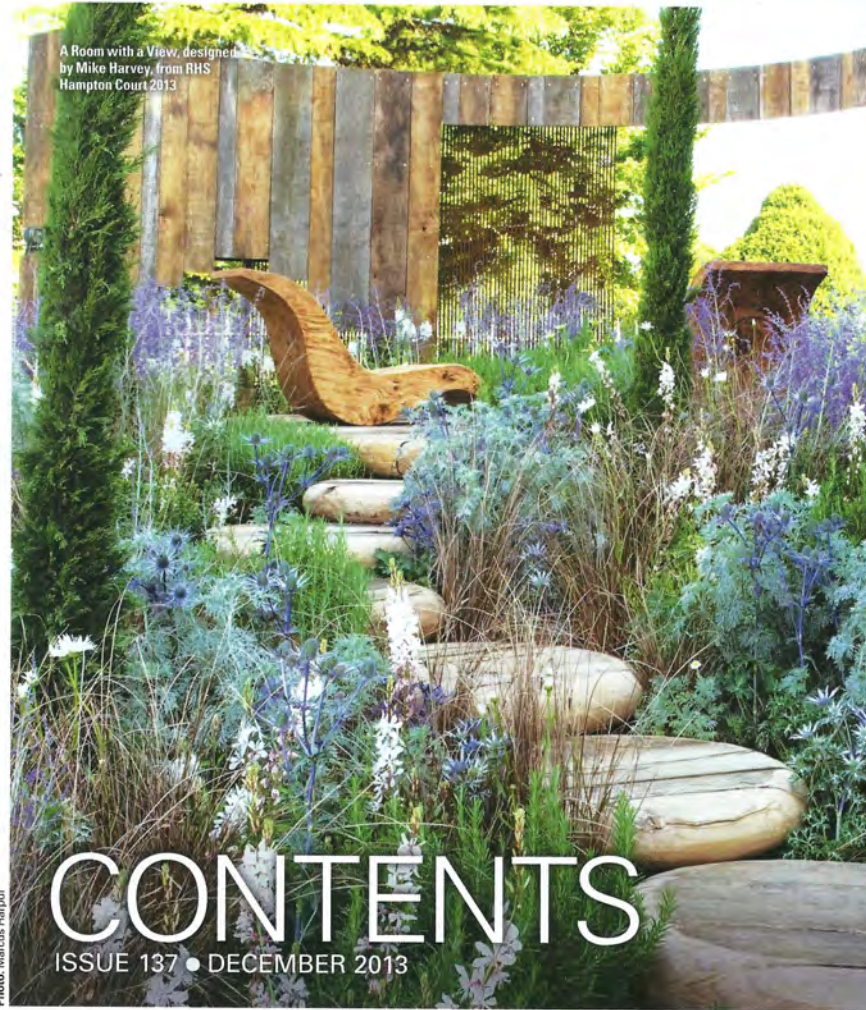


A Room with a View, designed by Mike Harvey, from RHS Hampton Court 2013

Photo: Marcus Harpur



# CONTENTS

ISSUE 137 • DECEMBER 2013



47

Combining art and function in our showcase of contemporary products

## Upfront

### 03 Inside space

Be inspired by a Pop Art show at the Barbican until February

### 07 Tim Richardson

On why he has just begun teaching a new diploma course at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna

### 09 Newsprint

The Sydney Garden Show wows all comers; Piet Oudolf's new professorship; SGD members are winners at the BALI awards; SGD members win medals at the New Homes Gardens Awards



## 9. A Valley Garden

*Designer: Sophie Walker*  
*Contractor: Mark Wallinger Landscapes Ltd*  
*Category: Show Garden*  
*Medal: Silver Gilt, and People's Choice Show Garden*

This garden had its critics and didn't get a Gold, but the public liked it enough to give it the People's Choice award. The 'slice' in the pool beckoned one inside towards a wonderfully atmospheric area – welcome in the baking heat – but disappointingly there was no space to sit and contemplate. Hampton Court is generally a very 'flowery' flower show, but here was something different – foliage-only architectural planting, full of texture and boldness. Sophie worked on the scheme with the venerable Sue and Bleddyn Wynn-Jones of Crûg Farm Plants and used their brilliant and unusual plants – among others *Gunnera kiliipiana*, *Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris* from Yakushima, as well as some lofty, hardy *scheffleras*, and *Muhlenbeckia complexa*, which carpeted the lower 'valley'.

## 10. A Room with a View

*Designer: Mike Harvey* *Contractor: Arun Landscapes*  
*Category: Low Cost High Impact Garden* *Medal: Gold*

Monty Don was overheard telling Mike Harvey that this was his favourite garden and it was a

sound choice. There was so much to like here. The shimmering blue and silver Mediterranean-style planting was traversed by 'floating' mushroom-shaped steps carved from oak sleepers by a deft chainsaw, which was also responsible for some elegantly sculpted oak seats. Most of the £15,000 budget went on a 'curtain' of 2m reinforcing bars, which opened and closed perfectly all week via a manual winch. This screen served to filter the wind while retaining glimpses of views beyond. Hats off to Arun for pulling off such an original idea.

## 11. Desolation to Regeneration

*Designer: Catherine MacDonald*  
*Contractor: Landform Consultants Ltd*  
*Category: Conceptual Garden*  
*Medal: Gold, and Best Conceptual Garden*

On the whole this year, the Conceptual Gardens came up a little short of expectations, apart from this one. It may have gone a little too far in the name of theatricality by using a photographic backdrop, but everything else about it was well thought through and beautifully executed. Catherine MacDonald created a multi-sensory experience to reinforce her message. There was birdsong and fresh young planting in the regreening half, but the fired section had the full BBC effects department in tow – smoke

machines and the sound of crackling flames, burnt-wood charcoal-mulch producing smoky fumes, and rusty mild-steel burning-tree-sculptures that became progressively blacker (less on fire) as one walked through towards the regeneration half. I really liked the desolation-planting as well: many Australian plants like crimson callistemons and kangaroo paw were used, as well as blood-red *Dianthus crenatus*.

## 12. A Cool Garden

*Designer: Ruth Marshall*  
*Contractor: Cool Gardens Landscaping*  
*Category: Summer Garden*  
*Medal: Gold, and Best Summer Garden*

Four extremely handsome *Corylus avellana* 'Contorta' set at each corner of this eloquent garden were the starting point for the design. From there, Corten steel twists into sinuous rails bearing cool streams of water, as well as a decorative gate and screens of organic art nouveau-style flourishes. Different levels offer opportunities to cool one's feet in the water below and allow users to conceal themselves in a chilled and private place. Rust-hued foliage plants complemented the steel and were well put together. This was one of the most sophisticated designs at the show and it looked good from all angles.