

## **Design Explanation Lincolnshire Show**

The brief was for a garden which was “achievable”, that is which would be suitable for construction in a limited number of days as a show garden, which was attractive, involved vegetables and elements of sustainability and which would provide an area, both indoors and outdoors for hospitality. The garden should also incorporate an eye catching external feature to draw people in.

To meet these requirements I decided to create three, quite different gardens, which would be linked through the use of trellis, but which would each have a different purpose and feel. The transition from one space to another is highlighted by arches, which provide a gateway into the new garden. Each arch is set at an angle, so the visitor cannot see everything at once and to create a sense of journey. The use of different floor treatments and planting will further emphasise and determine the character of each garden. All the beds are raised, which disguises the plant pots for the planting.

The first garden incorporates the indoor and outdoor seating area and was initially designed to display drought tolerant plants, incorporating a rockery, with a Mediterranean feel lent by the use of Italian cypresses. However, due to plant availability, the theme of this garden changed to an English country garden. A bed spanning both inside and outside links the two halves, and the use of roses, other cottage garden favourites and picket fence creates the country garden theme.

The second garden is the productive garden and contains a range of fruit, vegetables and flowers suitable for cutting. The use of rustic log roll and bark floor covering is designed to create an earthy, woody environment.

The third garden demonstrates low maintenance planting but has been given an exotic twist with the use of tree ferns and other hardy palms and large leaved plants. The garden relies on the drama of the foliage to create interest, with occasional punctuation by hot coloured flowers.

An eye catching external feature is provided through a “living sculpture” is made of glass blocks, to represent the glasshouses of the horticultural part of the University, and grasses, which represent the agricultural dimension.

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