

Design Explanation, Domestic Garden, Minting, Horncastle

Border Redesign

The client did not want to have a full garden design service, but rather wanted to have three overgrown and unsightly borders redesigned. Their requirement was to have low maintenance planting in each case, with year round interest. They wanted to retain some existing mature shrubs and to reuse existing herbaceous perennials where possible. In one bed the soil had quite a high clay content in one area and was prone to becoming very damp and boggy in the summer.

The first bed was remodelled to a horseshoe shape to provide a feeling of enclosure and to add interest. The planting scheme was

strong colours, predominantly reds, yellows and whites, using contrast between foliage and textures as much as possible. Use of evergreen plants such as *Choysia ternata* 'Sundance', *Hedera* 'Sulphur Heart', *Epimedium rubrum* and *Bergenias* will provide winter structure, whilst the coloured stems of deciduous dogwoods will provide contrasting winter interest. The use of bog loving plants such as *Osmunda regalis*, *Astilbes*, *Rodgersaria* and *Astrantia* will provide lushness of foliage punctuated by bright red flowers.

The second bed was planned around a large boulder as a central feature and incorporates a tree sculpture at the client's request. It is based on conifers and ferns, with a smattering of bulbs to provide spring and autumn colour, but is purposely muted in colour,

allowing the subtle changes of the conifers over the seasons to complement the copper tree sculpture.

The third bed is built around an existing mature Weigela and Osmanthus. The colour theme within the planting here is pinks (in various shades), white and black. The use of evergreen plants such as Ophiopogon, Hebe, Heuchera and Phormium will provide year round interest and structure, whilst deciduous shrubs and herbaceous perennials will spring, summer and autumn fullness.

Client Comments:

Overall, we're really pleased. All the beds look so much better than before and we're looking forward to the plants maturing and seeing the progression. Lyn was very sympathetic to our needs and wishes. It's probably harder to adapt something that's already got

a basic structure (that can't be changed) than it is to come up with a completely new design. Additionally Bill and I like different things and don't always agree about what we should have – this is where the suggestions of an unbiased third party really helps.

I think that we definitely needed more time in order to source all the right plants but work commitments didn't allow this – we couldn't get them and as time past by it became imperative to get plants in. In order to plant as per the plans it would have been better to commission someone else to do it as they wouldn't have been sidetracked or agreed to substitutes. However, we really appreciated the thought and ideas behind the plans and hope that although we've strayed from them, we've also managed to interpret

the general idea and have been really grateful for the stimulus that they provided.

Costs

Design and Planting Plans (3 beds)

£200 per bed

Labour approx £400

Taking out existing plants and potting up/heeling in those to keep

Planning and cutting out new shaped bed for South Garden

Adding soil conditioner and digging in

Putting in "membrane" for boggy section

Putting in sump for copper tree

Adding farmyard compost to all beds

Putting weed proof membrane over Rock Bed

Materials

Soil conditioner/improver £124

Composted Farm Manure £50

Big Rock, granite chips, membrane, trellis and poles £580

Copper Tree - £535

Lighting £160

Paint £100 – includes that for trellis, arbour etc round north side of garden.

Plants

Hall Farm Nursery £150

Crowders £150 Wragby Conifers - £75

Woodthorpe Hall £60

Fern Nursery (Binbrook) £40

Bulbs - £29