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MARIANNE MAJERUS/ANDY STURGEON

Andy Sturgeon believes 'gardens can be architectural, but planting is paramount'

ANDY STURGEON

Sturgeon started his career as a landscape gardener. 'I wanted to be outside,' he explains. 'My dad was a commuter – our garden always looked awful.' He trained at the Welsh College of Horticulture and worked for a garden designer before starting his practice in 1989. A TV break came in 1997. 'I wrote a book for first-time gardeners and suddenly I was on TV.'

Sturgeon's designs are influenced by art and architecture and tend to be contemporary and urban. He is well known for his use of sculpture, imaginative lighting and innovative planting. His hi-tech roof gardens have become something of a speciality, although he sticks by the tradition that, 'Gardens can be very architectural but the planting is paramount.'

He describes his own garden as: 'a bit contemporary, but there are lots of plants. It's very long and narrow like a ribbon.'

For more information call 01273 553 336 or visit www.andysturgeon.co.uk

<p>PRIZE DRAW</p>	<p>Westonbirt Festival of the Garden Package</p>	<p>Want to see the future of gardening for yourself? Westonbirt Festival of the Garden is the Saatchi of outdoor design, courting innovation and vision in a 200-square-metre plot. The 2004 festival runs from 4 June until 12 September. This year's designs include a hidden garden, a garden based on stories of Celtic mythology, a sustainable eco-garden, and a garden of life and death inspired by <i>Six Feet Under</i>. The Chelsea Flower Show is just petals in comparison.</p> <p><i>BMW Magazine</i> is offering one reader and a guest a weekend of wild outdoor ideas and rural luxury with exclusive tickets to Westonbirt, and a night of indulgence in one of Whatley Manor's luxurious suites. The Westonbirt experience will include a whole day of hospitality and a tailor-made tour of the exhibits. Whatley Manor is a new and privately owned hotel only three miles from Westonbirt. Set within 12 acres of timeless English country gardens, Whatley Manor has just 15 rooms and eight suites, each individually decorated. And there's a perfect opportunity to unwind at the end of the day; a La Prairie treatment each in Spa Aquarias, one of the UK's most exclusive spa experiences.</p> <p>For information on Westonbirt Festival of the Garden visit www.festivalofthegarden.com and for information on Whatley Manor visit www.whatleymanor.com</p>
		
<p>How to enter</p>	<p>To win this prize, please call 0901 381 0036, email festival@cedarcom.co.uk or post entries to <i>BMW Magazine</i>/Festival PO Box 161, Croydon CR9 1YF. The closing date is 26 July, 2004. The prize must be taken on a week day before 12 September, 2004, excluding Bank Holidays and subject to availability. Personal expenses plus travel to and from Whatley Manor are not included. For full terms and conditions see page 3.</p>	