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GARDEN WRITERS' GUILD MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR

Andy Sturgeon



Andy took 'progress' as this year's theme and has created a contemporary woodland garden with a series of ever-larger ponds to symbolise the advancements of his sponsor, Cancer Research UK.

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WATER IS A KEY ELEMENT of many gardens at this year's Chelsea, and Andy's is no exception. His contemporary woodland includes four rectangular pools, which increase in size towards the front of the garden. "The pools are set at different levels, so that they appear to float within the lushness of the planting," says Andy. Innovative technology creates the effect of 'raindrops' rippling on the water's surface, which sweep along in waves through the pools, symbolising the scientific advances made thanks to the charity's work. The rectilinear walkways between the pools are made of Portuguese limestone, which is light grey in colour with interesting black streaks and a textured surface. *Dicksonia antarctica* tree ferns add drama and lushness to the scheme, while the planting is predominantly green. The dramatic boundary wall is in fact one huge piece of sculpture made from variously sized rings of shot-blasted aluminium, whose flat grey colour is accentuated by silver-leaved astelias. Behind it, a block wall made entirely of low-allergen, natural materials is painted sage-green. Almost every element of the garden will be reused or recycled.

INSPIRATION

"Looking at Cancer Research UK's website, I realised the word progress is used repeatedly. I chose this as my theme as the advances made by the charity have contributed hugely to individuals and families around the world."

STYLE/COLOURS: The boundary wall is painted in sage green and green plants predominate, with accents of orange, purple and blue. The aluminium provides a flat grey colour offset by silver-leaved *Astelia*.

"The word 'progress' is used repeatedly by Cancer Research, so I took this as my theme"

ANDY STURGEON

PLANTS

(1) *Nothofagus antarctica* (see Mixed Media on page 108 for more on this tree); (2) *Pilosella aurantiaca*, known as fox and cubs for its burnt-orange, daisy-like flowers; (3) *Rehmannia elata*, the Chinese foxglove, a little-known plant with striking purple flowers; (4) Tree ferns *Dicksonia antarctica* frame the pools.



2008 Chelsea preview

The Chelsea Flower Show is arguably the world's greatest showcase of garden designs, plantsmanship and garden paraphernalia. For those who can't visit the show there's extensive coverage all week on BBC television, and at www.bbc.co.uk/gardening



Designer Andy Sturgeon's
2007 show garden sponsored
by cancer research.

Chelsea contents

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