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+
**HIP
HOTELS**
MIAMI, GOA
& RABAT

**THE
TRAVEL ISSUE**

SHOP THE WORLD WITHOUT
EVEN LEAVING TOWN

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden designs for the show by Tom Stuart-Smith and Jamie Fobert.

WINNING GARDENS

Designed by Andy Sturgeon, The Daily Telegraph Garden, won both a RHS Gold Medal and RHS Best in Show Award.



“INSPIRED BY A VISIT TO ITALY THIS GRAVEL GARDEN WON GOLD”

Chelsea Cool

Hot news from London's famous RHS Chelsea Flower Show, where the world's leading landscape designers created the coolest show gardens for town and country pleasure

WORDS: JULIE RONALD

BRONZE BEAUTY

Designer, Tom Stuart-Smith
The Laurent-Perrier Garden

RHS Gold Medal

A sublime design by multiple RHS Gold Medal Winner Tom Stuart-Smith who created a romantic, peaceful garden ideal for entertainment or quiet reflection.

Centrepiece of this secluded garden with its subtle and varying textures was an elegant bronze pavilion, a fluid, asymmetric design in panels of patinated copper by acclaimed architect Jamie Fobert. It overlooked an elongated pool of water surrounded by lush Spring woodland planting, bordered by large cloud-pruned box balls (*Buxus Sempervirens*) whose glossy dark-green leaves provide all-year foliage and interest.

A hand-laid dry stone wall added another element to this gentle garden with its pattern of natural stone paths set in a grove of *Betula River Birch* trees whose copper bark, peeling off in sheets, reflected the colour of the pavilion walls. The naturalism of the fresh white flowers, woodland grasses, *Euphorbias* and blue *Iris Siberica* contrasted with the sculptural beauty of the bronze. Look out for more designs by Jamie and Tom.

MEDITERRANEAN MOOD

Designer, Andy Sturgeon
The Daily Telegraph Garden

RHS Gold Medal and RHS Best Show Garden Award

Inspired by a visit to Italy, Andy Sturgeon, leading garden designer, author and TV presenter, five times an RHS Gold Medal Winner, created a clever, contemporary, gravel garden drawing on ideas and ingredients from the Mediterranean, Latin America, Asia and Antipodes, whilst adding familiar British plants to produce an English yet international flavour.

In this attractive garden with its array of planting and warm colours, voluptuous amber hue flag *Iris* (*Action Front*) stood tall in a trio of hand-made stone bowls while eye-catching *Cor-ten* steel screens (a coppery alloy with a russet brown look) gave form and focus to the garden. Their hoop arches cast decorative shadows in the sun and framed a variety of garden vistas, viewed from pathways of pale *Portland* stone.

Focal point at the rear was a *Purbeck* stone water wall flowing into a narrow L-shaped canal, an idea sourced from the Islamic courtyard gardens of Spain. Seeking shade under a canopy of three tall European pine trees (*Pinus Nigra*) you could relax on Italian designer garden seats by *Paola Lenti*. Mediterranean gravel gardens are growing in popularity for their good looks and easy maintenance as seen in this winning composition. Andy's Middle East projects include villas in Bahrain and Abu Dhabi. ▶

Designed by Robert Myers,
the Cancer Research UK
Garden, 'Seeing the Light',
won a RHS Gold Medal

"THE CIRCULAR POOL
REPRESENTS LOTUS
FLOWERS, A SYMBOL
OF ENLIGHTENMENT"

SEEING THE LIGHT

Designer, Robert Myers

The Cancer Research UK Garden

RHS Gold Medal

Another success for landscape architect and frequent RHS Gold Medal winner Robert Myers and the Cancer Research UK garden, this time on a theme of 'Enlighten' to celebrate the work of this important worldwide charity.

At its heart was a calm terrace and social meeting point, bathed in light, where a sky circle was set into a striking slatted canopy above a reflective circular pool of water lilies, representing lotus flowers, a Japanese symbol of enlightenment. Embracing the garden was a slatted timber cloister with benches hand-made in scorched oak. The abstract sculpture 'Enlightenment' by Ben Barrell provided a focal point near a decorative border grid of clipped box cubes (*Buxus Sempervirens*) interspersed with flowers.

At the entrance stood a group of white-stemmed birch trees with abundant green and white planting beneath, where a rocky granite path wove past scattered reflective pools and colourful herbaceous plants into an open glade, towards Enlightenment. Light, an emblem of hope, was a key feature of this garden, which is to be auctioned in aid of Cancer Research UK.

TROPICAL TOUCH

Designers, James Wong and David Cubero

The Tourism Malaysia Garden

RHS Gold Medal

This full-size tropical show garden, a first for Chelsea, was designed to be a chic, ultra-modern update of a traditional Malay village known as a 'Kampung', capturing the essence of idyllic outdoor living and rural tranquility.

Created by award-winning duo James Wong (who is of Malaysian descent) and David Cubero, the design used an angular terraced layout, where 'floating' white Malaysian limestone steps above a calm reflective pool led up to the white roofed pavilion at the head of this tropical garden; a shady retreat from the sun.

Giant tree ferns with vivid green fronds and dark trunks echoed the dark Malaysian timber struts of the pavilion and there were densely planted 'living' walls, typical of Malaysia. A rainforest atmosphere permeated this garden, which includes Asian strangler figs and rare slipper orchids. It was opened by Malaysian 'tourism ambassador' famed for his fabulous shoes, Jimmy Choo, OBE.

BLAZING A TRAIL

Designer, Scott Wynd

The Trailfinders Australian Garden presented
by Fleming's Nurseries

RHS Gold Medal

This winning garden design by Scott Wynd, known for his urban designs, showed the perfect outdoor area to relax and entertain friends and family, uniting the love that Australians have for outdoor living, modern architecture and green space. The multi-purpose, terraced garden included a swimming pool and spa, pool seats with laser-cut seat tops, wet bar, sunken lounge, kitchen area, breakfast bar and barbecue. In the ceiling of the pavilion was a circular moon window over a circular 'swimout' pool. Spotted Gum decking provided the main flooring for this living space that offered the comforts of home and outdoor living in the seclusion of a luxurious garden, with heavenly bamboo and bird of paradise plants. Scott has been involved with Chelsea Flower Show since the 'Australian Garden' won RHS Gold in 2005. ■

Designers James Wong
and David Cubero
Tourism Malaysia Garden
won a RHS Gold Medal