

LIFE ARGUS

Award-winning gardener reveals top designs

FOR nearly two decades Andy Sturgeon has been winning awards for his garden designs, all dreamed from his Brighton base. He talks to reporter FLORA THOMPSON about his five favourite garden creations.



Award-winning landscape gardener Andy Sturgeon



Picture: Andy Sturgeon Garden Designs

ANDY Sturgeon has won an impressive 38 awards around the world for his gardening talents. Based in Clermont Road, Brighton, he creates striking architectural and landscape visions for nationally-renowned locations and private gardens.

Since he set up business in 1988, he has also been praised for his work at events including the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show, contests in America and the Singapore Garden Festival.

This year he was shortlisted for the Royal Institute of British Architects New Homes Award.

Also named as one of the UK's top ten landscape designers, he dedicates his time to making gardens of all shapes or sizes look beau-

tiful, while merging modern styles with classic architecture.

The 56-year-old, who discovered his love of landscape gardening when he took up a job after leaving school, said: "Each job is a different project. I love matching modern designs with traditional features."

"I've worked on gardens all around the world, from tiny roof terraces to large rambling estates."

"I adore the space and freedom of designing large rural country gardens just as I relish the challenge and excitement of designing for the urban environment."

Mr Sturgeon will appear at Chelsea Flower Show again next year with a garden for the Daily Telegraph.

Call Andy Sturgeon on 01273 533306 or visit andysturgeon.com.



1 Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, terrace and roof garden, 2008
The 3,000 staff at the hospital had nowhere to escape from the stresses of work until Andy Sturgeon and his team were commissioned to create a calm, contemporary roof garden. It needed to serve its purpose 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and was designed in recognition of the victims of the 7/7 bombings. Andy used glass laminated timber frames to set the view across London in focus at various points around the space and separated sections of the garden to create a feel of lots of different spaces. He said: "We had to work around this idea that this space would be used by a huge range of people. It was a roof so planning and engineering is what really made it interesting. The end result is the space is used for everything – it feels like it's been very successful. It feels like it has fitted its purpose so we achieved what we set out to do."

Picture: Specialist/Andy Sturgeon Garden Designs



Picture: Andy Sturgeon

4 Sussex House, Pulborough, 2015
In the garden of a contemporary house on a ridge facing the South Downs, it was little to compete with nature. Rather than try and beat it, Andy decided to join it and intertwine with his design. Trees were positioned to obscure the few buildings in the distance, fences which interfered with the views were removed and wild flower meadows were planted in the old paddocks at the front of the property. The driveway was curved through copes of new trees. The back garden was designed to reflect the geometry of the architecture in the house. This design was shortlisted for the Royal Institute of British Architects House of the Year Awards. Andy said: "I just had to design this around the landscape and natural beauty which was already there. I contoured the ground for organic shapes and copied the geometric style of the house in the back garden between the house and the outbuildings. I was inspired by the architecture."



2 The Chelsea Flower Show garden for The Daily Telegraph, 2010
This design – created as a metaphor for the different journeys one can take through life – won the best in show and a gold medal. Several paths lead through the garden and each route has a subtle difference. Three steel screens frame views, set out the paths and offer an insight into each of them. Other natural materials are used, the plants are inspired by the Mediterranean and water cascading into a narrow pool takes its cue from a typical Moorish garden. Andy said: "Winning best in show is one of the reasons why I like it. It really sums up the ideas of my approach to gardening. The space was limited – smaller gardens are much harder to design."



Picture: Helen Peaking/ASD

5 Andy Sturgeon Garden Design's office garden, 2008
The staff wanted to turn the tiny outside space into somewhere to relax when occasionally taking their noses away from the girdstone. Recycling at its best, the garden is made from three separate Chelsea gardens including the lighting, furniture, plants and limestone. Andy was particularly pleased with how the modern elements sit comfortably against the garden's 240-year-old Sussex flint wall. He said: "We wanted to make it modern, crisp, clean and very low maintenance in a Victorian terrace. It was great to use recycled items from Chelsea in 2006 and 2008. It works really well as an amalgamation of new and old and it is quite a realistic garden."



3 The Vermeer garden for a private client in Chelsea, 2008
One of the most unusual client requests, Andy was tasked with making a garden echo the palette of famous Dutch painter Vermeer's style. He picked Portland and York stone to complement this and avoided symmetry and formality. It also had to be good for entertaining – so a serpentine bench was created. Privacy was also needed so a small wall was placed near the seating so while sitting there is some shelter from the surrounding Georgian houses. Andy said: "This was complicated because it was overlooked by tall Georgian houses. But we built a one and a half metre wall so when you sit down on the bench you feel enclosed but you can stand up and look over the wall at the rest of the garden. To tie in with the Vermeer theme we chose the same sort of colours and textures all the way through – natural ones – and matched this with plants like foxgloves."

Picture: Andy Sturgeon/ASD

Andy Sturgeon's 38 awards between 1988 and 2015
2015 RIBA New Homes Award (Shortlisted)
2014 Singapore Garden Festival
2014 Governors Trophy Philadelphia Flower Show
2014 Society of Garden Designers Awards
2013 British Association of Landscape Industries Principal Award
2013 Gold Award Suncheon Bay Expo, South Korea
2012 Horticultural Excellence Award Singapore Garden Festival
2012 Singapore Garden Festival
2012 Singapore Garden Festival
2012 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
2010 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
2010 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
2010 Gardening World Cup, Nagasaki, Japan
2010 Putrajaya Garden Festival, Malaysia
2010 Association of Professional Landscapers
2009 British Association of Landscape Industries Awards
2009 Future Gardens Industries Awards
2009 American APLD
2008 Health Care Awards
2008 British Association of Landscape Industries
2008 British Association of Landscape Industries
2008 Association of Professional Landscapers
2008 Singapore Garden Festival

2008 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
2007 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
2007 British Association of Landscape Industries
2007 SPATA
2006 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
2006 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
2005 Society of Garden Designers
2005 Society of Garden Designers
2005 Design and Decoration
2004 British Association of Landscape Industries
2003 Westenbirt International Festival
2001 RHS Chelsea Flower Show
1998 RHS Hampton Court Flower Show

Picture: Helen Peaking/ASD