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# Garden answers

MAKING BEAUTIFUL GARDENS

## Chelsea Special

Style glamour & planting inspiration

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### SNEAK PREVIEW

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Insider stories & photos

### SHOPPING IDEAS

Get show garden chic without breaking the bank

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Designer plants that shine together

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- ✿ Drought-proof plants dazzle among driftwood
- ✿ Flower borders with a painterly look

### HOW TO...



✿ **UPCYCLE A METAL BEAM**  
Give succulents a stylish home



✿ **GIVE THE CHELSEA CHOP**  
Enjoy more flowers for longer



✿ **WELCOME BIRDS & BEES**  
Smarter plots can be green too



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**DESIGNER** Andy Sturgeon **SPONSOR** The Telegraph  
**CONTRACTOR** Crocus **BRIEF** No formal brief - just to create something thoughtful and beautiful **INSPIRATION** A childhood visit to the Natural History Museum - being overwhelmed by the scale of the exhibits **GREATEST CHALLENGE** The complicated build. "The stone blocks will be like a giant, very slow jigsaw puzzle"



“The design is all about being humbled by nature, geology and the passage of time. It’s quite rocky and elemental - with a line of monumental bronze fins running down one side and an island of limestone blocks

evoking the Jurassic landscape, and all the scale and gravitas that goes with it.

“Rather than let the garden’s boundaries reflect its layout, I’ve used the bronze fins as a sculptural starting point, rather like the spine of a mountain range, letting them



dictate the spaces and places for the other garden elements - the stone island, the smooth stone bridge, a melt-water stream and areas of planting.

“The fins are made of steel sprayed with bronze so they’ll age like bronze and develop a weathered patina. The stone blocks are coming from Portugal, hand carved for a rough-hewn, ancient look.

“The planting is very textural - using grasses and trees such as *Arbutus unedo*, which has peeling bark.

“The limestone and bronze fin colours suggested plants for an arid landscape, but I didn’t want it to look too Mediterranean. Instead I’ve gone for fresher, richer spring colours, capturing the essence of the dry mountain landscape in May. It was quite a challenge and I’ve visited Spain, Italy and the south of France to find plants adapted to dry conditions.”