



STONEMARKET

SMALL RESIDENTIAL AWARD

WINNER: Andy Sturgeon FSGD for Riverside Garden
SPONSOR: Stonemarket
SIZE: 180m² BUDGET: £95,000
CONTRACTOR: The Outdoor Room

IT IS NOT OFTEN THAT flood defence forms part of a design brief, but it was an essential requirement for the owners of this Riverside Garden. As a family garden, they felt a lawn was essential and also wanted to diminish the impact of tall boundaries near the house while enhancing a visual connection with the river.

"Small gardens are always the hardest," says Sturgeon, who chose to divide the long thin plot into zones. The terrace closest to the house runs out seamlessly from the internal floors, and is bounded by a feature wall combining a rendered surface with a contemporary take on a dry stone wall. To break up the surface further and increase the perception of width, mirror-lined recesses were let into the wall. A second terrace at the far end of the garden houses a gas firetable and comfortable seating. The existing bund has been clad in Purbeck stone and a glass balustrade takes care of safety issues without obscuring views of the River Thames.

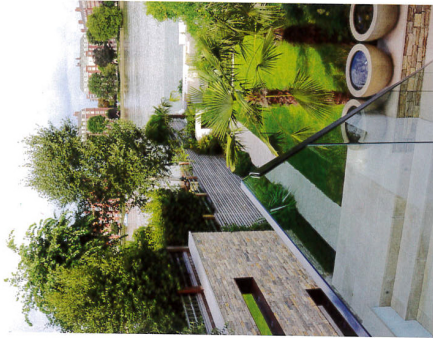
Between these two decks, a large lawn and areas of bold contemporary planting reinforce the aesthetic. There are also a number of sculptural elements, including a group of three pebble-lined water bowls on a low plinth of Purbeck stone, and a contemporary 'shrine' to Buddha.

What the judges said:

"A very pleasing garden with lots of interesting details without feeling overworked. Clever use of space for a difficult plot. Has a wonderful 'Mediterranean feel'."

About the award

The Small Residential Award is presented to a domestic garden within the UK measuring more than 100m² and less than 400m². The category is open to FSGD, MSGD and Partially Registered Members of the SGD.



RIGHT A child-friendly lawn sits between the two terrace areas



ABOVE Mirror-lined recesses in the walls help to make the space appear wider
LEFT Pebble-lined water bowls sit on a Purbeck Stone Shelf



MEDIUM RESIDENTIAL AWARD

WINNER: Andy Sturgeon FSGD for Sussex House
SPONSOR: Capital Garden Products
SIZE: 2,500m² BUDGET: £120,000
CONTRACTOR: The Outdoor Room

WHEN ASKED TO DESIGN a garden to complement this striking contemporary house, Andy Sturgeon worked in tandem with architect and client to develop a geometric design that directly responded to the architecture of the building.

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable process and I think the scheme has worked because it takes a holistic approach to design and setting," he says. The landscape rolls right up to the front of the house, in the Modernist tradition, facilitating spectacular and uninterrupted views of the Sussex Downs. In addition, a variety of seating areas have been incorporated outside the building, which enable the panoramic views to be appreciated in comfort.

In contrast to the bands of wildflowers which lap against the front terrace of the house, a more formal courtyard garden has been tucked away behind the building, in a sheltered area where linear forms control views within the garden, and emphasise the importance of the connection between the minimalist interior of the house and its wider natural setting.

What the judges said:

"Beautiful swathes of wildflowers and uninhibited views of the surrounding landscape combine in a very impressive garden. Not only has this design answered the brief and really engaged the clients, but it makes clever use of sightlines, an imaginative planting palette and well-judged scale of planting."

About the award

Presented to a UK domestic project more than 400m² and less than 3,000m², the Medium Residential Award is open to FSGD, MSGD and Partially Registered Members of the SGD.



BELOW Wildflower planting runs right up to the contemporary house



ABOVE The more formal courtyard behind the building
LEFT Views of the surrounding Sussex Downs can be enjoyed from several different seating areas

