

# URBAN EDEN

## London Garden Designer

Sara Jane Rothwell designed this bright, eye-catching, and plant-rich garden in Wimbledon, which included water, a garden lodge, and comfy outdoor seating area

**T**he brief was fairly open, although one specific request was for a garden lodge to be used as a gym and art room. This was something that would require planning permission so I set this in motion whilst I got on with designing the rest of the garden.

The ground floor of the house opened out onto a deck that was one metre from the lawn level, and felt quite exposed to the surrounding neighbours. The garden also sloped across its width by about 1.5m, so I needed to incorporate this into the design.

It was important that as you walked into the kitchen and lounge, there was an immediate focal point that distracted from the surrounding buildings. I designed a patio area with Cor-ten steel panels, and fire pit that led you across a small pool, and onto a long bench that transported you into a silver birch tree copse with an understorey of woodland plants. From here there were hidden stepping-

stones that led directly to the garden lodge.

We installed new bespoke boundary hardwood fencing to the whole garden, and planted pleached Hornbeams, with high panels of 1.5m above the fence height. This immediately framed the space and created privacy for the client.

We kept the deck, but removed the balustrade and built planting beds and long stone steps around its perimeter. This had the effect of anchoring the house to the garden, and opening up the space further. We also planted a 40m long mature hedge of *Taxus baccata* that led straight from the front garden through to the back garden.

The Landscaper Contractor – Ed Belderbos was key to the success of this garden, the workmanship and organisation of the project build was faultless, and the client, designer and contractor enjoyed a good working relationship. The only difficulties came with the planning permission for the garden lodge, which was a





## Project details

Size of project  
700m<sup>2</sup>

Timeline of development  
Dec 2011 to Dec 2012

Approximate Costings:  
Up to £200k



long, painful and drawn out process.

This was an exciting garden to design, as the clients had such great vision and were open to new materials and ideas. Apart from the lodge that suffered planning complications, it was completed in time for summer; and now the garden lodge has also been installed.

- 1 Silver Birch Tree copse with an understory of clipped Buxus, ferns and woodland planting.
- 2 Access path will newly planted yew hedging.
- 3 Seating area with Cor-Ten panels and fire pit.
- 4 A side view of the garden.
- 5 Water feature separate from the seating area.
- 6 View showing the transition from seating area, over the water, across the bench, and down into the mini woodland area. The stone steps and water feature line up exactly with the French doors of the kitchen.
- 7 Before shot of the side path linking front and back.
- 8 View of the same side path finished, with the garden lodge at the end.
- 9 Detail of the Cor-ten panel, with Acer atropurpureum. Photographs 1, 2 and 4 © Marianne Majerus



## REFERENCES

### Garden designer

#### London Garden Designer

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### Landscape contractor

#### Belderbos Landscapes

The Palm Centre,  
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Surrey TW10 7HA

**Tel:** 020 8940 2832

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**Web:** www.belderbos.co.uk

### Materials – Sawn Yorkstone

#### Bingley Stone

Cullingworth Mills,  
Cullingworth,  
West Yorkshire BD13 5AB

**Tel:** 01535 273 813

**Email:** sales@bingleystone.com

**Web:** www.bingleystone.com

### FSC Accredited Balau hardwood

#### Southgate Timber Company Ltd

Southgate House, Nether Hall  
Church Road, Moreton  
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**Tel:** 01277 890 783

**Email:** sales@southgatetimber.co.uk

**Web:** www.southgatetimber.co.uk

### RTF turf

#### Lindum Turf

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Thorganby,  
York YO19 6DJ

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**Web:** www.turf.co.uk

### Cor-Ten steel

#### Glen Metals

Rosehall Industrial Estate,  
14 Palacecraig Street, Coatbridge,  
Lanarkshire ML5 4RY

**Tel:** 01236 424 396

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### Plants

#### Folia

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Borehamwood,  
Hertfordshire WD6 5NZ

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### Readyhedge

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### The Palm Centre

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**Tel:** 020 8255 6191

**Email:** info@palmcentre.co.uk

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### Lodge

#### Garden Lodges

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## ABOUT LONDON GARDEN DESIGNER



London Garden Designer was established in 2003 by

Sara Jane Rothwell. Sara Jane trained in Horticulture and Garden Design and brings to her gardens a further 10 years' design experience from her work in film and theatre. The outdoor spaces she designs are characterised by her passion for plants and inventive use of hard landscape materials. In January 2013 – JoanMa Roig joined forces with Sara Jane and now designs alongside her.

**www.londongardendesigner.com**