

WONDER WALLS

PROJECT DETAILS

Project value
£85k

Build time
**Design: December
2014 to January 2015
Build: March to
June 2015**

Size of project
364m²

PETER READER LANDSCAPES AND BELDERBOS LANDSCAPES

Peter Reader and Belderbos Landscapes transformed this walled London garden from overgrown yard to a relaxed, grown-up space



This north London house had a walled garden laid largely to grass with inward leaning overgrown shrubs around the edge, making it appear smaller and dark. It also contained a dilapidated wildlife pond, a sunken trampoline and some damp areas at the southern end where the grass struggled to grow. As their children were now older, the owners wanted to have the garden redesigned to create a relaxed but grown-up space in keeping with the house. They were keen to retain some fruit trees and to redo the pond so it was more attractive but still used by wildlife. They liked the modern use of perennials and grasses in planting, but other than that were open to design suggestions.

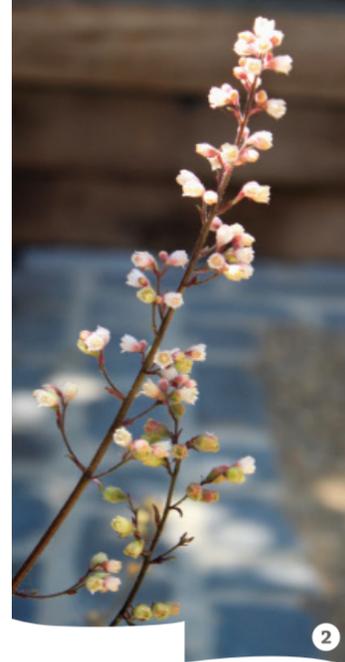
Design and build

The garden was in need of a radical restructure to inject some interest and beauty and a solution was required to make the damp, shady end of the garden attractive and usable.

Being bold and clearing the boundary of the old vegetation was a vital first step to opening the garden up and revealing the lovely surrounding walls. The cleared walls gave the garden strong boundaries and made for a perfect backdrop to a new, more formal structure within it. Large trellis squares at regular intervals covered with evergreen flowering climbers, alongside box cubes and shade tolerant perennial planting at the wall base, completed the picture. →



1



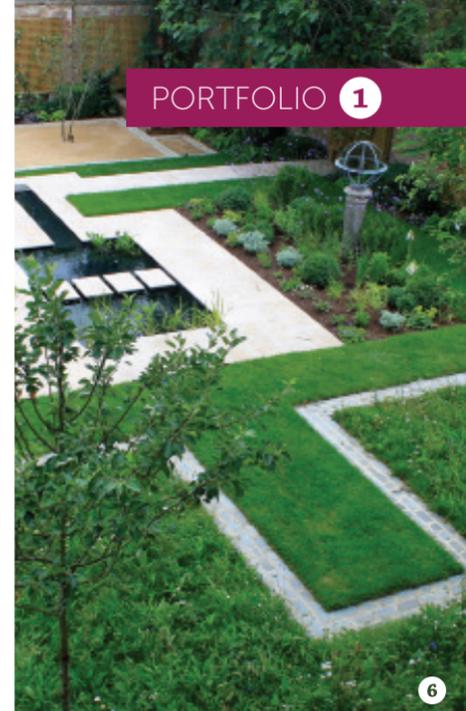
2



3



5



6

ABOUT PETER READER LANDSCAPES

Peter Reader Landscapes provides an award winning garden design service based in north London and the south east. Previously a doctor, Peter retrained at KLC Design School three years ago. He has a versatility of design styles as demonstrated by his two RHS show gardens; from the crisp modern outdoor garden room of 'Al Fresco' to the ephemeral naturalistic perennial style of 'Four Corners'.
www.readerlandscapes.com



the glass walled kitchen and was the space most prone to being muddy. A self-binding gravel surface was laid across this area, providing formal beauty and all-weather usability. Two multi-stemmed amelanchiers were planted, with a bench for seating and the space was edged with cobblestone detailing, echoed throughout the garden. The existing patio by the kitchen was extended to bring it properly into the garden.

Second section

The second area contains the re-sited pond centre stage, with accompanying paving, stepping stones, rectangular flowerbeds and a rill, which highlights the longitudinal axis in the design. This formality was softened by lush naturalistic planting using a mixture of box spheres, grasses and perennials. This area is overlooked from the living room and an enlarged patio immediately outside. An armillary sundial in the far bed draws the eye across the stepping stones into the garden.



4

Challenges

Construction of the garden proceeded smoothly in the able hands of Belderbos Landscapes. One of the major challenges of the project occurred early in the build, when the foundations of a number of old buildings were discovered under the lawn. This required significant unforeseen digging to remove, not unlike removing several old air-raid shelters! This delayed matters by nearly two weeks.



7



8



9

ABOUT BELDERBOS LANDSCAPES

Belderbos Landscapes has built more than 600 gardens in and around London since 2004, varying in budget from £5,000 to more than £750,000. One of the many benefits of using Belderbos is that it also offers a regular maintenance service that ensures the garden develops as the designer intended it to.
www.belderbos.co.uk



The new design divides the garden into three areas corresponding to views across from the house. The change in levels was formalised using paving and steps. This greatly improved the appearance of the garden and gave an opportunity to include a blade water feature.

First section

The first section of the garden lies opposite

Third section

The third and final area contains five fruit trees that were under-planted with a wildflower meadow and naturalising bulbs. This more informal area is furthest from the house and the trees help to soften the high walls of the church that abuts the garden. The meadow has an incursion of normal turf,

- 1 XXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 2 XXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 3 XXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 4 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 5 XXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXX
- 6 XXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 7 XXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX
- 8 XXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXX
- 9 XXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXX

REFERENCES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Designer
Peter Reader
24 Bisham Gardens,
Highgate, London N6 6DD
Tel 020 8348 4730 / 07941 829 162
Email preader@readerlandscapes.com
Web www.readerlandscapes.com</p> | <p>Lawn turf
Tillers Turf
Tel 01522 704 949
Email sales@tillerturf.co.uk
Web www.tillerturf.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Contractor
Belderbos Landscapes
The Palm Centre, Ham Street,
Ham, Surrey TW10 7HA
Tel 020 8940 2832
Email info@belderbos.co.uk
Web www.belderbos.co.uk</p> | <p>Wildflower turf
Wildflower Turf Ltd
Tel 01256 771 222
Web www.wildflowerturf.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Patio and pathway stone
Artisans of Dezives
Tel 01380 720 007
Web http://artisansofdezives.com</p> | <p>Fruit trees
Majestic Trees Ltd
Tel 01582 843 881
Web www.majestictrees.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Temple basalt setts/Cedec gravel
CED ltd
Tel 01708 867 237
Web www.ced.ltd.uk</p> | <p>Amelanchier trees
New Wood Trees
Tel 01803 782 666
Web www.newwoodtrees.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Sawn York Stone steps to shed
Whitehall Stone
Tel 01274 684 440
Web www.whitehallstonesales.co.uk</p> | <p>Shrubs, climbers and perennials
Provender Nurseries Ltd
Tel 01322 662 315
Web www.provendernurseries.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Trellis
Jacksons Fencing
Tel 01233 750 393
Web www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk</p> | <p>Perennials
Northhill Nurseries
Tel 01276 858 800
Web www.northhillnurseries.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Pumps and lights
Landscape plus
Tel 01666 577 577
Web www.landscapeplus.com</p> | <p>Box cubes
Best for Hedging
Tel 01257 261 243
Web www.best4hedging.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Building materials
Travis Perkins
Web www.travisperkins.co.uk</p> | <p>Aquatics plants
Anglo Aquatic Plant Co Ltd
Tel 020 8363 8548
Web www.angloaquatic.co.uk</p> |