

Outside designs

Leigh Clapp meets garden designer Jane Jordan to learn more about the beautiful, contextual spaces she creates



Garden designer Jane Jordan in her home garden

January is a great time to plan ahead for the coming year. Maybe you are thinking of revamping an area, refreshing planting or having a totally new design created this year. Calling in a local garden designer may be just what you need to clarify your thoughts and to get the most out of the garden, with their honed ability to create a cohesive whole. Garden designer Jane Jordan has a refreshing take on how a resulting garden should look.

“It might sound odd, but I really dislike overly designed gardens, full of features where you can tell someone has been in and imposed a plan. Not only can these be expensive to implement but ironically they often lack character. Gardens need to suit the setting they’re in and the style and

budget of the client so I wouldn’t say I have a particular style although you will probably always find generous planting in my designs,” she comments.

At her own garden, The Coach House in Sheffield on Loddon which she opens through the National Gardens Scheme, the scene is one of wafting textures in naturalistic groupings, designed and planted as a personal haven and also with wildlife in mind.

“I love being in my own garden and so want to help others get maximum benefit and enjoyment from their outside space. You see so many uninspiring gardens full of lawn and narrow borders around the edge; it’s like having a room of your house with all the furniture pushed against the walls. It’s fantastic helping people to see the

Jane's design ELEMENTS

Follow a simple design with a strong geometric ground pattern

Limit the choice of materials to create a sense of unity

Ensure hard landscaping doesn't fight for attention with the planting

Plant for the winter months as much as for the summer

Recycle materials on site as much as possible

Hampshire red brick is a favourite



Be instinctively wildlife-friendly

Use a minimal amount of chemicals

Try interwoven grasses and perennials

Favourite plants include

erigeron for its ability to grow cheerfully in the most unlikely places, architectural euphorbias and long-flowering centaurea



2014 trends

With signs of improvement in the economy people will feel more confident about investing in their property and their gardens

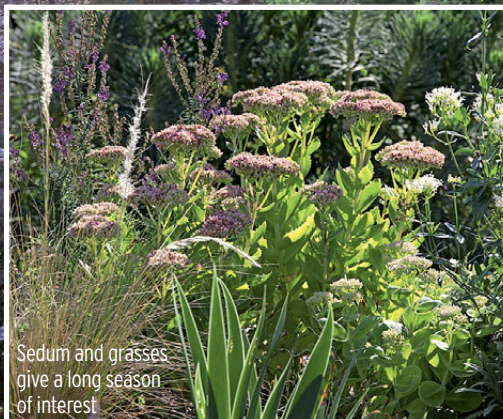
Turn your garden in to a retreat that you can enjoy all year round

With the well-publicised threats to our bees, focus on planting bee-friendly plants, such as agastache, borage, sage, ivy and lavender



Contact Jane

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Sedum and grasses give a long season of interest



Jane's textural solution to a client's front entrance



The mellow bricks of the patio were carefully sourced to look as if they had always been there

possibilities of their gardens and sharing their excitement as they finally get a garden they can love," she explains.

Jane's main interest is in grasses and perennials, many unusual, with shrubs and trees used as anchor points and to provide structure. Gardens are designed for year-round interest and she enjoys experimenting with colour and textures in combinations. Inspiration has come from some of the greats.

"Christopher Lloyd for his refusal to conform and instinct for plants, Sarah Raven for her combinations and sensitivity to wildlife, Piet Oudolf for his use of grasses and perennials. Great Dixter and Sissinghurst for planting, Rousham for its rill and simplicity, Le Prieure d'Orsan in France for its fruit and hedges and Mien

Ruys' 1950s garden in Holland for showing how design and materials can showcase plants brilliantly."

Getting to know clients, their likes and aims for the garden, allows Jane to work co-operatively to the completion of a design.

"The ideas are discussed and explored together so that the end result is owned by the client as well as me. I use computer 3D modelling so clients can walk through the new garden, fly over it or look out of their bedroom window and see what the new view would look like. Re-designing a garden can also be a big investment and so it is really important to take the time to get the plan right so that expensive mistakes can be avoided and mind-changing kept to a minimum." 🐸