

PRESS RELEASE

April 8th 2008

## **Chelsea Flower Show's new environmental advocate**

**Chelsea Flower Show 2008**

Whilst rain has not been in short supply so far this year, climate change is still having an increasing effect on our gardening practices.

In urban situations a large percentage of rainwater is lost immediately, falling on a range of hard surfaces and running off to pipes and undergrounds culverts.

At the 2008 Chelsea Flower Show, the Pemberton Greenish Recess Garden aims to address this problem head-on. Designer Paul Hensey originally conceived the garden as a 'real' garden that could work effectively in any urban backyard. It is easy to see how his choice of steel and timber mixed with soft grasses and straight trees fit the urban mix. Yet, behind the scenes, the garden's eco credentials are just as worthy.

Paul is a strong advocate for the creation of environmentally friendly gardens. He sources his structural materials locally where at all possible. He chooses planting schemes that require little maintenance for maximum effect. It is logical that he also chooses to minimise his garden's use of natural resources.

For Chelsea, the Pemberton Greenish Recess Garden has been created with an integral water harvesting system, making it as close to water neutral as possible. In fact the design actually surpasses the Environment Agency's Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) Policy, by both capturing the rainwater that lands within its boundaries and then retaining and recycling it on the garden itself.

The Agency is keen to promote SUDS as "a technique to manage surface and groundwater regimes sustainably" and the benefits are potentially huge, including reducing flood risk and improving water resources.

"My only concession when building the Pemberton Greenish Recess Garden has been an inability to bury the water-collecting tanks beneath the water feature," said Paul. "This was due to the transient nature of this particular garden. The system is however 100% fully functional and could be used in any urban garden situation.

"In fact, a similar system, designed into a larger garden, should be able to extend the way the captured water is used beyond the needs of the garden – it could even be used to flush toilets."

Garden sponsor, Pemberton Greenish was originally attracted to the garden by both its striking design and strong urban credentials.

“We are currently working with a carbon consultant and are in the process of implementing a programme of carbon reducing measures,” said Senior Partner Damian Greenish. “We already operate a ‘green’ purchasing policy and are strongly committed to recycling, so when it came to sponsoring the Chelsea Flower Show it was natural for us to look for a garden who’s designer mirrored our own commitment. Whilst the firm may be called ‘Pemberton Greenish’ we would like to think we are actually more ‘green’ than most!”

431 words  
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**High resolution garden images available**

### **Notes to Editors:**

**The rainwater system used in the Pemberton Greenish Garden** is being supplied by Paxton Agricultural (a division of LINPAC Environmental) – [www.paxtonagricultural.com](http://www.paxtonagricultural.com).

**For further information on SUDS** go to:

[http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/business/444304/502508/464710/464767/?lang=\\_e](http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk/business/444304/502508/464710/464767/?lang=_e)

**When visiting Chelsea Flower Show** the Pemberton Greenish Recess Garden will be found on the corner of Royal Hospital Way, at RHW049.

**Pemberton Greenish** is a specialist firm renowned for its property and private client work. Its core business remains providing legal services to companies and individuals owning and dealing in property with a focus on family and charity owned estates. Pemberton Greenish also offers services to private clients in areas of UK and international tax planning, trusts, wills and the operation of UK and offshore investment vehicles.

**[www.pglaw.co.uk](http://www.pglaw.co.uk)**

**Elysium** was established in 2004 by Paul and Jane Hensey. They have undertaken many challenging garden design projects throughout the UK. The ethos of the company is not to apply a formula to work, but to realize a client’s dreams through design. Paul’s background in product design allows them to develop designs efficiently and with high attention to detail.

**[www.elysiumdesign.uk.com](http://www.elysiumdesign.uk.com)**

**Knoll Gardens** is the UK’s leading ornamental grass specialist. The company has a proven track record at Chelsea Flower Show with six consecutive Gold Medals to its name. Knoll’s four-acre Dorset show garden and nursery is at the forefront of ornamental grass cultivation and its owner, Neil Lucas is responsible for the introduction of many new plants to the UK.

**[www.knollgardens.co.uk](http://www.knollgardens.co.uk)**

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