

PRESS RELEASE

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Meeting the challenge of urban planting

Chelsea Flower Show 2008

The challenges of urban planting are sometimes overlooked by those eager to take advantage of the more obvious pleasures it can bring. At this year's Chelsea Flower Show one garden has been specifically designed to embrace these challenges, creating a planting scheme that can thrive in any urban backyard.

Designed by Paul Hensey with Knoll Gardens' Neil Lucas, the Pemberton Greenish Recess Garden will be a perfect example of a real, working urban garden.

Intricate detail

"The way we experience plants in an urban setting is very different to any other space," said Paul. "Inevitably the garden is smaller, and this has the benefit of bringing the plants closer, allowing you to see the intricate detail and subtlety easily lost in larger spaces. For Chelsea this year we are also playing with perspective. Our garden forces you to enter, sit and relax. It is a bit like getting into a bath, your eye level is lowered and plants that were at ground level take on a completely different character. The foaming, almost frothy nature of the ornamental grasses used within the planting simply enhances the bath-like feel."

Surviving in an urban jungle

Grasses score very highly in urban conditions. Combining durability with practicality and beauty they are ideally suited for survival in an urban jungle fraught with potential hazards. Whilst the generally milder climate found in our towns and cities might tempt many to think that life is easier for urban plants, they frequently have to cope with soaring summer temperatures amplified by confined spaces and hard landscaping as well as suffering poor, dry soil.

"Within this year's garden three grasses deserve a special mention," said Neil. "Anemanthele lessoniana will thrive in dry shady corners, and with its evergreen foliage tinted orange, red and yellow in autumn through to spring, it is a welcome addition to any small space. The fabulous bamboo muhly, *Muhlenbergia dumosa* should also do well. Of course plants are frequently required to do a variety of jobs within the garden, including providing screening or softening of hard surfaces. *Miscanthus* can be an ideal choice for these situations, and the biggest grass of all, *Miscanthus sacchariflorus*, with its tall, quick growing mounds of bright green stems and cascading foliage is a perfect foil for any hard surface."

In general terms urban planting is frequently a matter of discipline. In any restricted area individual plants can quickly become oversized. It is important to ensure that only great plants are allowed to occupy space, and that even these are replaced when the effect starts to descend into confusion.

Benefits of urban gardens

Garden sponsor Pemberton Greenish is only too aware of the many benefits that urban gardens can bring to the city environment. The specialist property law firm is retained by The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to advise the committees that run 46 of the garden squares across the borough.

“In a similar way to individual gardens, these squares provide a natural haven for city dwellers,” said Senior Partner Damian Greenish. “Sponsoring an Urban Garden at Chelsea is a natural extension of our work with these local garden committees, helping to both maintain the distinctive characteristic of the local area and develop new ways of thinking about creating smaller, individual sanctuaries amongst an increasingly dense city landscape. Our offices are literally a stone’s throw away from the Flower Show and I know we are all looking forward to watching this new garden come to life.”

570 words
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High resolution images available including:

Overview of the Pemberton Greenish Recess Garden, *Anemanthele lessoniana*, *Muhlenbergia dumosa* and *Miscanthus sacchariflorous*

Notes to Editors:

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

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

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

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