

# Home

**A**mid the bustle of our 21st-century world, gardening resonates more than ever. Thomas Jefferson, the third US president, believed that horticulture could play a key role in shaping the new nation and its inhabitants.

I asked 100 contemporary garden designers to share their thoughts on key elements of garden design, from colour and light to the complex relationships between plants, humans and structures. Together they represent a comprehensive study of garden design. It is my hope that this book will inspire new generations of designers and garden enthusiasts.

*Garden Design Master Class: 100 Lessons from the World's Finest Designers on the Art of the Garden* is edited by Carl Dellatore (Rizzoli £45)

**The principle of informality** "Gardens are fundamentally about stimulating the senses," says Dan Pearson, a garden designer and TV presenter. "My gardens may appear to be loosely assembled, but they do depend upon a degree of structure to maintain coherence: a viewpoint, a calm place where a clean lawn might allow the play of shadows, a path that clearly beckons or leads somewhere, or the reflective quality of water to bring in the sky."



## PLANTING MASTERCLASS

Landscaping tips and inspiration from experts, collated by *Carl Dellatore*



**Innovation** Charlotte Harris and Hugo Bugg "draw inspiration from what has gone before in the quest to innovate". For their 2017 RHS Chelsea Flower Show entry, they were inspired by boreal forests in Canada.



**Small spaces** "When approaching a smaller space, think of it as architecture with walls, a floor and a ceiling," says Michael Trapp, a garden designer. Here, the spring brings an explosion of pinks and purples in his own garden, with pink wisteria on the trellis, 'Miss Kim' lilacs, and alliums galore flanking the cobbled paths.



**The cutting garden** There's probably no plant that gives the gardener a more spectacular reward than the dahlia. Charlie McCormick's top tip? Feed for bigger flowers and a bigger show next summer.

### SECRET GARDENING

Every week we'll go behind closed doors with a National Trust gardener. Up first it's *Rosie Fyles* — who is looking after Ham House in lockdown

About two months ago, every one of our 200-plus National Trust gardens closed. Talented staff and an army of volunteers were locked out. Now, as head gardener at Ham House, right, I am responsible for every gravel weed and every box moth caterpillar, as well as thousands of seedlings waiting impatiently to be potted on.

The garden, in one beautiful form or another — whether under 17th-century rigid control or 19th-century apparent neglect — has had a long lifespan. Punctuating

the public health crisis, the bulb display — including more than half a million of them flowering sequentially, naturalistically in grass — required none of my time, labour and indulgent anxiety to thrive. Neither did the formal tulip displays in their long, narrow border. The tulips that were grown to be cut flowers have been stunning in their plot this

year. I have been taking a handful home or delivering them to shielding neighbours. Pollinators approve, because there are more weeds. I have stopped noticing them as much. I no longer see the garden

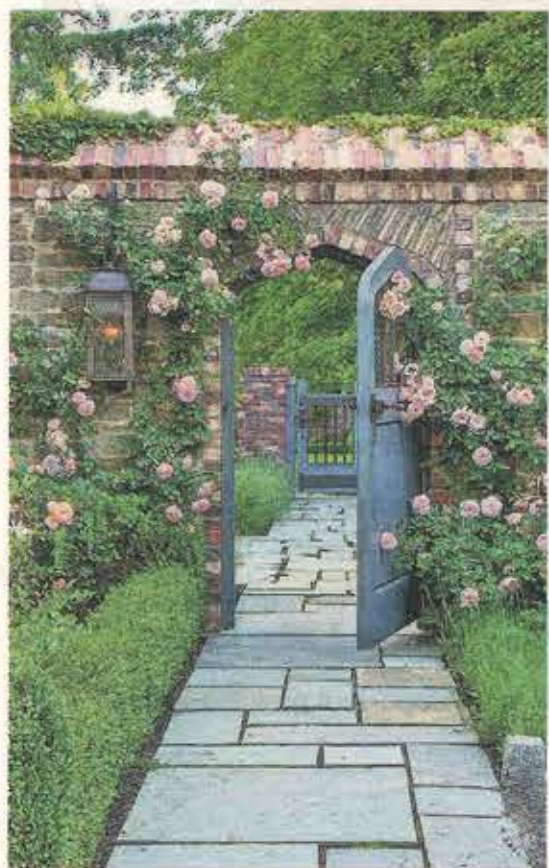
through the eyes of our visitors, our garden critics (loudest in the winter) and our historians. I see nature's loveliness, green shoots

of calm reassurance. Now our visitors are at the gates — quite literally. Many of them have been looking through when they go for their daily exercise, and we have moved tulip displays in pots so they can see them more easily. We have mown shapes and lines into the grass for their gaze.

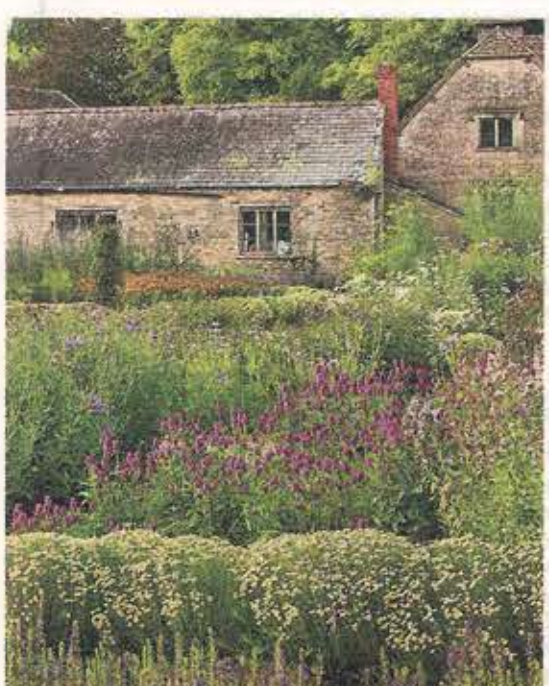
We share the garden with wildlife and, in normal times, notice this more before the garden opens to the public, but now there is not one quiet time of day. Nature isn't on our schedule. There have been some positive results in the

past weeks — fewer pigeons, the urban destroyers of tasty leaves, so we are saving time on protecting the crops. More green woodpeckers have been enjoying spaces they would otherwise shun. Fewer green parakeets, which may mean we finally have a few late-summer apples to enjoy. Our little owls have been providing a soundtrack as I work in the kitchen garden, and the blackbirds have been showing off incessantly.

*A longer version of this article can be found at [thetimes.co.uk](http://thetimes.co.uk)*



**Relationships** The landscape architect Mike Kaiser was inspired by Great Dixter, the East Sussex house designed by Edwin Lutyens, using blues and pastels, each intended to unite home and garden as one.



**Pattern** One is guided through this walled garden in Wiltshire, designed by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, by a snaking, harmonious rhythm of herbs clustered together to create patches of colour.



**Compost** The walled garden at Wardington Manor in Oxfordshire is home to the Land Gardeners company. It conducts compost trials and the grounds are planted with vegetables, herbs and flowers.

## TIME AND SPACE



### JO MALONE

The fragrance queen on her lockdown heroes and her Chelsea beach house

**I** grew up in a two-up, two-down council house near Bexleyheath, southeast London. I can still smell the roses in the garden, the greengage tree, the coal in the cellar and my dad's shed, which always smelt of Cuprinol. It was a happy house, but there wasn't a lot of money. We had an electricity and gas meter underneath the stairs. My dad worked for a double-glazing company where they made toy money for children from the leftover metal. I put it into the meter and it worked — until the man came to empty it.

**Where do you live now?**

In a two-bedroom Victorian flat in Chelsea with my husband, Gary, and 20-year-old son, Josh, who is back from university. The property has a little outside terrace, big rooms and light that floods through. I've lived here for 20 years and never not felt lucky. The interior was all dark cherry wood, greys and browns when we bought it. I loved the space but hated the colour. We replaced it with white shutters, white sofas and whitewashed wooden floors. We can't have curtains, carpets or feathers because of my husband's allergies. It's like a little beach house in the city.

**What does your day look like?** I suffer from anxiety that is heightened by a lack of control, so having a routine is vital. I make lists that include things such as bleaching the sink, and I tick them off. I make my bed as soon as I get up, really tuck in the sheets and pile up the pillows so it's ready for sleeping, not for sitting in. I have breakfast then work until lunch.

**What does home mean to you?**

Safety, love, acceptance, fun and laughter. I love my city and my community. I'm seeing the best of it at the moment. Our pharmacist, Shilpa at Walden Chemists on Elizabeth Street, is so self-sacrificing, and Mauro, who runs the Olivo restaurant group, is delivering pizzas to NHS staff.

**How are you handling the lockdown?**

I was in isolation for four months many years ago when I had cancer, so I've done this once already. Treasure the moments where you laugh and forget the real world for a second, because you'll remember those. Lockdown has brought the three of us back together. When are you going to get that time again? We laugh, eat and sing a lot in this house. I could hear Josh singing along to Vera Lynn the other day and I had a little cry.

**Are you handy with a hammer?**

No. I opened a cupboard in the kitchen yesterday and it came off its hinges. Gary and Josh said: "What are we going to do?" I said: "One of you is going to have to get on a ladder and screw it in." It's still hanging off its hinges.



**Sweet smell of success** Jo Malone lives in Chelsea; her border terrier's poo bags are kept in a vintage letter rack

I walk Teri, my border terrier, and do Pilates for at least 45 minutes every day. I also find cooking and serving a meal to the people I love really cathartic. Today I'm searing tuna steaks for a niçoise salad with wasabi roast potatoes.

**Do you grow vegetables?**

When lockdown is over I'm going to treat myself to a couple of tubs and grow tomatoes and basil for homemade sauce.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Gogglebox. My son and I crease up with laughter; my husband is less amused.

**Do you collect anything?**

Vintage perfume bottles, and I love storm lanterns. In the better weather we light all the lanterns on the terrace. We've got a little hammock out there.

**Any treasured possessions?**

A beautiful brass letter rack from my mum. I think of her every time I go up to it, which is three or four times a day because it holds all the dog poo bags! When I got married my dad hand-painted a collection of glass bottles. They're priceless. Both of those things mean so much to me because they remind me of my [late] parents.

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**Interview by Helen Gilbert**

*Jo Malone CBE is the founder of Jo Loves; [joloVES.com](http://joloVES.com)*