

Review of the year 2010

The quality and number of submissions for our annual *Garden Design Journal* review yet again surpassed all expectations. Here are the judges' selection of projects built by garden design professionals in 2010 ➡

City Garden, Queens Park, North West London

James Walsh

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www.livingcolourgardens.co.uk

Brief

The original garden had been badly planned with a deck that jutted out of the house on its own. The clients wanted somewhere where they could sit and relax near the house, and entertain in a snug style room at the back of the garden. The house itself had recently been renovated in a modern, contemporary style and they wanted to continue with a similar ethos in the garden.

Design

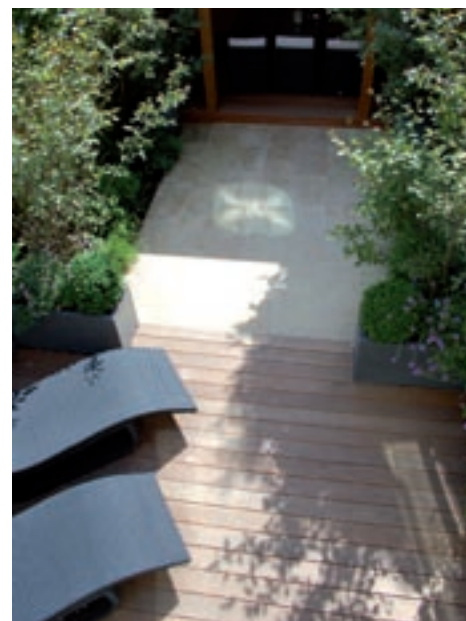
The idea was to split the garden down the middle, with the deck near the house reflecting the deck at the rear. The middle section of the garden is an area of contemplation, started at by both the front and rear of the garden. At night time the middle section becomes dramatically lit up, with light directed up four multi-stem *Amelanchier lamarckii* in curved glass-reinforced concrete planters, and fairy lights winding their way through bamboo hedging, screening both perimeter fence lines.

A simple room at the back was built using 2x1 hardwood battens for the walls, and

bamboo screening panels for the ceiling. The room has heating installed to facilitate warm outdoor dinners late into the season.

The main focus of the planting round the deck near the house was based around scent, so trachelospermums were mixed with Chocolate vines (*Akebia quinata*) and herbs were dotted round the planters.

The overall aim of this design was to create a relaxed, intimate and scented area at the end of the garden that is nearer the house, and a simple, yet stylish room in which to entertain at the other end.



Garden details

Size 13m x 5m **Aspect** South-facing **Soil** Typical London, clay-based soil **Started** Jan 2010 **Completed** Apr 2010 **Cost** approx £30K
Design fee 10% **Contractor** Living Colour Gardens www.livingcolourgardens.co.uk