

A beautifully manicured box parterre complements the Arts and Crafts house. The striking lacecap blooms of *Hydrangea macrophylla* (below) and the oversized flowers of *H. arborescens* 'Annabelle' (right) help to counteract the formal feel of the front garden.

ARTS AND CRAFTS INSPIRED

# Green peace

*From bright lime to chartreuse and emerald, the artful combination of verdant shades brings depth and character to this north London garden*

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Edged by *Hydrangea aspera* 'Villosa' and cottage garden favourite *Campanula lactiflora* 'Loddon Anna', this secluded seating area is a lovely spot from which to enjoy the garden.



**LEFT** Judy always has a good supply of succulents in the greenhouse ready to pot up. **RIGHT** In a corner of the terrace, a Windsor seat from Andrew Crace, [andrewcrace.com](http://andrewcrace.com), is flanked by potted dahlias and a lollipop bay. **BELOW RIGHT** This pretty French lavender makes a charming display in an old paint pot.



*Acer palmatum* 'Sango-kaku' offers a vibrant splash of pale yellow outside the greenhouse.



**W**hen you live in an Arts and Crafts property full of character, it makes sense to let the house influence the style of the garden. "Our home has a strong personality and I loved the idea of the planting, as well as the design, being sympathetic," says Judy Green, who moved to the house in London's leafy Hampstead 30 years ago with her husband David, chairman of Colefax and Fowler, and her two sons. "A lot of the previous owner's heart and soul had gone into the house, but little thought had been given to the garden," she says.

Judy, however, is a plant enthusiast who has a popular garden store under her own name in Hampstead's Flask Walk. With the help of the renowned landscape designer John Plummer, Judy transformed the front garden from a humdrum collection of ferns to a box parterre that synchronises perfectly with the Tudor-style arched front entrance, now flanked by two splendid orange-stemmed Japanese acers, with a *Magnolia grandiflora* on either side. The badly neglected back garden underwent an equally radical metamorphosis. There was little worth salvaging here, except for a philadelphus, hawthorn tree and a massively overgrown bay tree that took up too much space, cast too much shade and that somebody with a less keen eye than Judy's might have simply done away with. Now, there is a gently curving lawn that calmly

carpets much of the 120-foot-long garden. The main border that runs down one side is filled with three silvery eucalyptus, several thriving hydrangeas and two winter-flowering viburnums, as well as perennials that range from tall campanulas and agapanthus to ground-hugging heucheras. Best of all, the monster bay tree has been turned from eyesore to asset after being pruned into light, elegant clouds that are kept in check with twice-yearly shearing.

Judy loves to entertain so the large Yorkstone terrace was an essential; "I needed room for a decent-sized dining table," she says. A more recent addition is the generously proportioned Hartley Botanic greenhouse that David gave Judy for their 30th wedding anniversary and which, she thinks, gives the garden a focus. More importantly, it is a place where she can happily nurse ailing plants, pot up her favourite succulents and sow summer annuals such as cosmos and *Ammi majus* to use as border fillers.

Hydrangeas are another one of Judy's preferred plants and they suit the style of the house admirably. She has used several varieties throughout: luscious white *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' and lacecap *H. macrophylla* in the front garden, while in the back, as well as these two varieties, there is the conical-flowered *H. paniculata* next to the lime-green acer by the terrace, with the furry-leaved,





Outside the kitchen window, an acer shelters a pale gold heuchera and a pink achillea.



A previously overbearing bay tree has been cloud pruned to lend a lighter touch to the lawn border.

lilac-flowered *H. aspera* 'Villosa' in the long border. "The heavy clay soil here, which is so typical of London gardens, really suits them," says Judy. "I find hydrangeas architecturally pleasing," she adds. "I love the moment when the white flowers start to turn a pale green. I cut the flowers and dry them, and I always have plenty of blooms for the house."

Judy's speciality is planting seasonal containers, and she chooses the vessel – zinc tub, weathered terracotta pot, glazed stoneware – with as much care as the plant. She has adapted Beth Chatto's gardening mantra "right plant, right pot" and uses a subtle palette of blues, silvers, and whites, alongside lilacs and purples. Green, however, is her favourite plant colour, in all its foliage variants. "My family tell me I should use more colour, but what they don't realise is that green is a colour," she says. "When everything is in leaf and bathed in summer light, from the bright green of the acers and the silvery hostas to the chartreuse *Alchemilla mollis*, that is all the colour I need." □

#### GARDEN GUIDE

**Orientation** The front garden faces north-east; the back garden faces south-west.

**Soil type** Heavy clay with a neutral pH.

**Special features** A huge cloud-pruned bay tree and an interesting knot garden.

