

1 Roundabout

The repetition of circles helps to generate unity in this urban garden designed by del Buono Gazerwitz Landscape Architecture. The rounded lawn is echoed by several groups of *Buxus sempervirens*. The different sized balls of box add a playful message and it looks as good in winter as summer.



1

MARIANNE MAUERUS DESIGN, DEL BUONO GAZERWITZ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



Cohesion in the garden

Annie Guilfoyle is Director of Garden Design at KLC School of Design. She is also Garden Course Co-ordinator at West Dean College and runs her own garden design studio.

In the last of her Design Ideas series, Annie Guilfoyle looks at how best to bring all the elements of design together

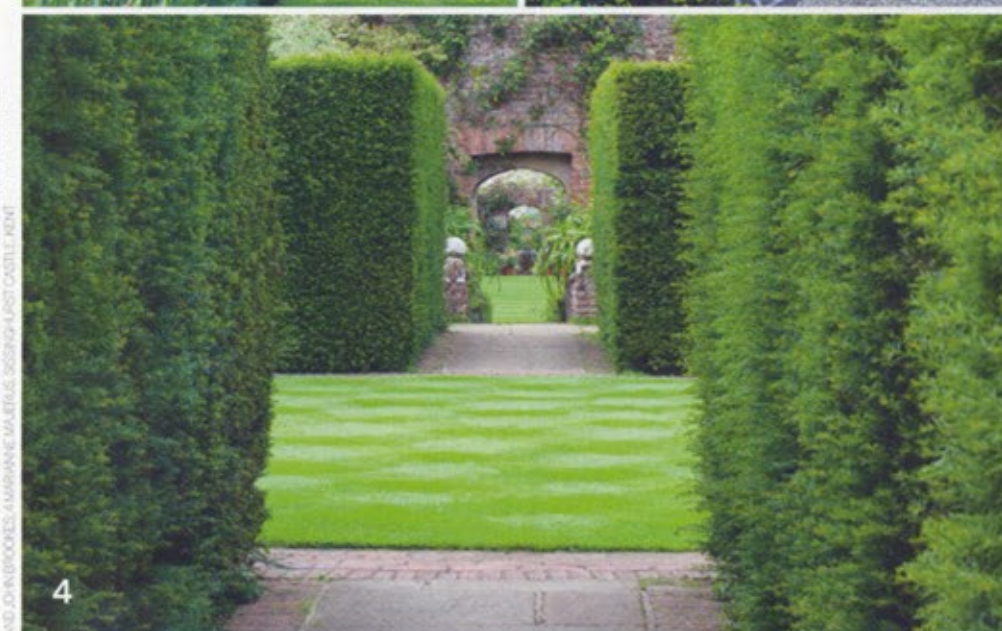
WORDS ANNIE GUILFOYLE



2



3



4

2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/100

2 Border control

It can sometimes be a challenge to successfully pull together the design of a lengthy herbaceous border. These white-painted, wooden obelisks have been positioned in a straight line and each one planted with clematis. This creates a rhythm, as well as providing some height and interest along the border.

3 Hard choices

Combining different types of paving in a garden needs to be carried out with care; or it can end up looking fussy. Triangular brick sections have been used at the Manor House, Ayot St Lawrence (see page 38), to break up areas of gravel. They also tie in well with the brick paving that surrounds the central feature.

4 Room with a view

Taxus baccata hedging divides the garden rooms at Sissinghurst Castle, in Kent. When designing different areas or zones, take a lesson from this iconic garden and try to use the same hedging throughout. That way you will maintain a sense of unity in the garden.

As this is my final article for the Design Ideas series, I'd like to think about how a garden can be made to work as a whole, and in doing so reflect on some of the subjects covered over the past two years.

It will come as no surprise that the most successful gardens are those that have a strong sense of connection or cohesiveness, where individual elements work together to create and underscore a sense of place. As you walk through, there is something that ties the garden together, even if it is divided into a series of rooms or separate spaces. Compare this notion to the way a musical symphony is divided into four movements;

each may have a change of tempo or direction yet there remains an underlying dialogue unifying the piece. So how do we accomplish this in a garden?

One way of achieving cohesion is to repeat certain aspects of the design, for example the actual shapes that create the garden layout. A series of circular or square areas may contain different plants or features, but if they share a common outline it will help to unite the garden. Another approach is to use the same hedging around each section or the entire garden. Take Sissinghurst Castle in Kent as an example, the garden was designed as a series of interconnecting outdoor rooms, most of which are linked by the



5 Gravel garden

The drought-tolerant planting scheme designed by Beth Chatto for her garden in Essex perfectly demonstrates how effective it can be to repeat plant groupings in a large, open area. As you look across the garden your eye automatically connects the groups together, making the whole appear more cohesive.

6 Repetition

This long path draws the eye towards the distant opening in the hedge. Intersected by Corten steel steps, it links the different levels together. Because these steps also stretch out laterally they forms a connection with the various garden areas.

7 Limited palette

It is little wonder that leading garden designer Andy Sturgeon won a Gold Medal and the coveted Best in Show award at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2010 with this stunning design. Demonstrating a perfect example of cohesion, with a restricted colour palette of plants and materials.



▷ impeccably clipped *Taxus baccata* hedging. This hedging not only delineates each area, but also creates a wonderful evergreen backdrop to the garden. The choice of hard-landscape materials could be another element that ties the garden together. Using a limited number of paving materials, repeated throughout, will help to add a sense of continuity. The paving could be laid in a different direction or pattern to change the rhythm but try to ensure the materials remain the same.

Planting design can be an excellent way of creating unity. Repeating certain plants, colours or plant combinations is an extremely effective device. The glorious gravel garden designed by

Beth Chatto at her home in Essex demonstrates this idea perfectly. Beth has used simple, evergreen plant groupings that are repeated in gentle waves as you move through the space. These provide definition and punctuation, especially effective as the grasses and perennials come and go.

I have really enjoyed writing this series and hope that the ideas that we have explored have been interesting and informative. Gardens are very personal spaces and at the end of the day they need to work for you, so don't be afraid to occasionally throw the rule book away. □

NEW SERIES starts in the June issue.