

SALT
MASSH
Garden
Design





ORCHARD GARDEN

Before

A recently renovated and extended house was left with a large open rear garden and a high terrace with a stark pale brick retaining wall.



To utilize the large open space between the house and woods the client wished to create an orchard and meadow. At the same time we were asked to devise a method of blending the house with its high walled terrace to the lower lawn area.

ORCHARD GARDEN

After

The terrace wall was softened and minimised by building new wooden raised beds. The existing olive trees were relocated to make full use of the south facing elevation, complementing the Mediterranean planting of lavender, rosemary and *Cistus*.





The field was planted with a mix of flowering trees, including apples, pears and quince. This orchard gives all year round interest from spring flowers to fruit and autumn colour. To

lead the eye down to the steps at the bottom of the garden, the meandering curves of the long meadow grass were defined from the lawn using locally made twisted steel hoops.

Subsequently, the studio was added to the garden where we used raised beds again to soften the bold contemporary design, providing a link to its environment.



ORCHARD GARDEN



FRIARS CLIFF

Before - Back Garden

This client wished to landscape the garden around their newly extended contemporary coastal property. The plot, just under a quarter of an acre, included an aged orchard, overgrown shrubberies, tall red brick dividing walls and a Purbeck stone rockery. Along the east facing border ivy, *Wisteria* and other climbers had been allowed to grow unchecked for years over the old wooden trellis.



Before - Front Garden

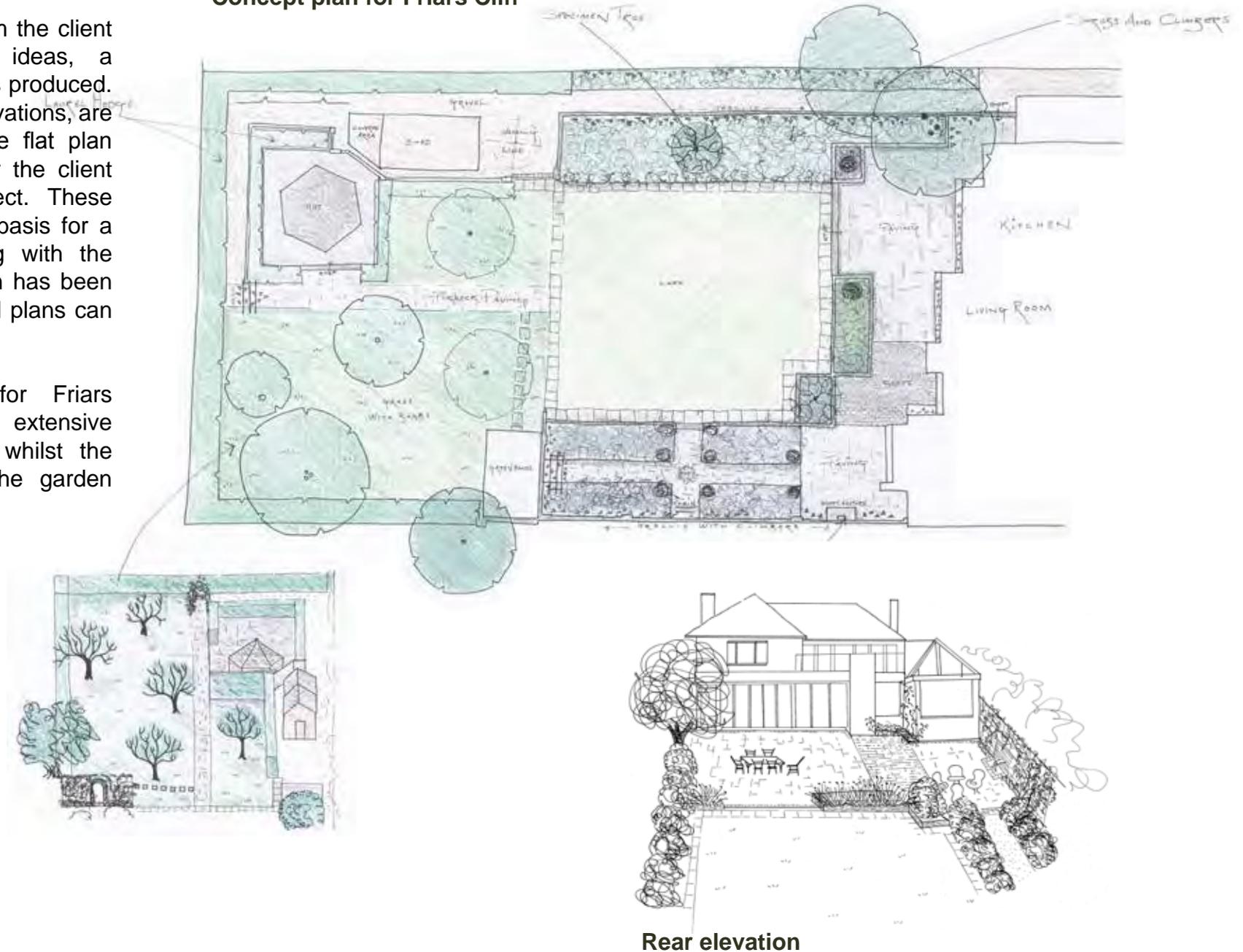
The large front garden had been dug up during the works to the house. The narrow drive entrance and exit were difficult for cars to negotiate. A rockery that was difficult to maintain dominated the area and conflicted with the clean lines of the renovated property.

Concept plan

After taking a brief from the client to understand their ideas, a working concept plan is produced. Sketches, including elevations, are prepared alongside the flat plan so that it is easier for the client to visualise the project. These are then used as the basis for a brain-storming meeting with the client. Once the design has been agreed, detailed scaled plans can be prepared.

The concept plan for Friars Cliff included a new extensive contemporary terrace whilst the original structure of the garden was retained.

Concept plan for Friars Cliff



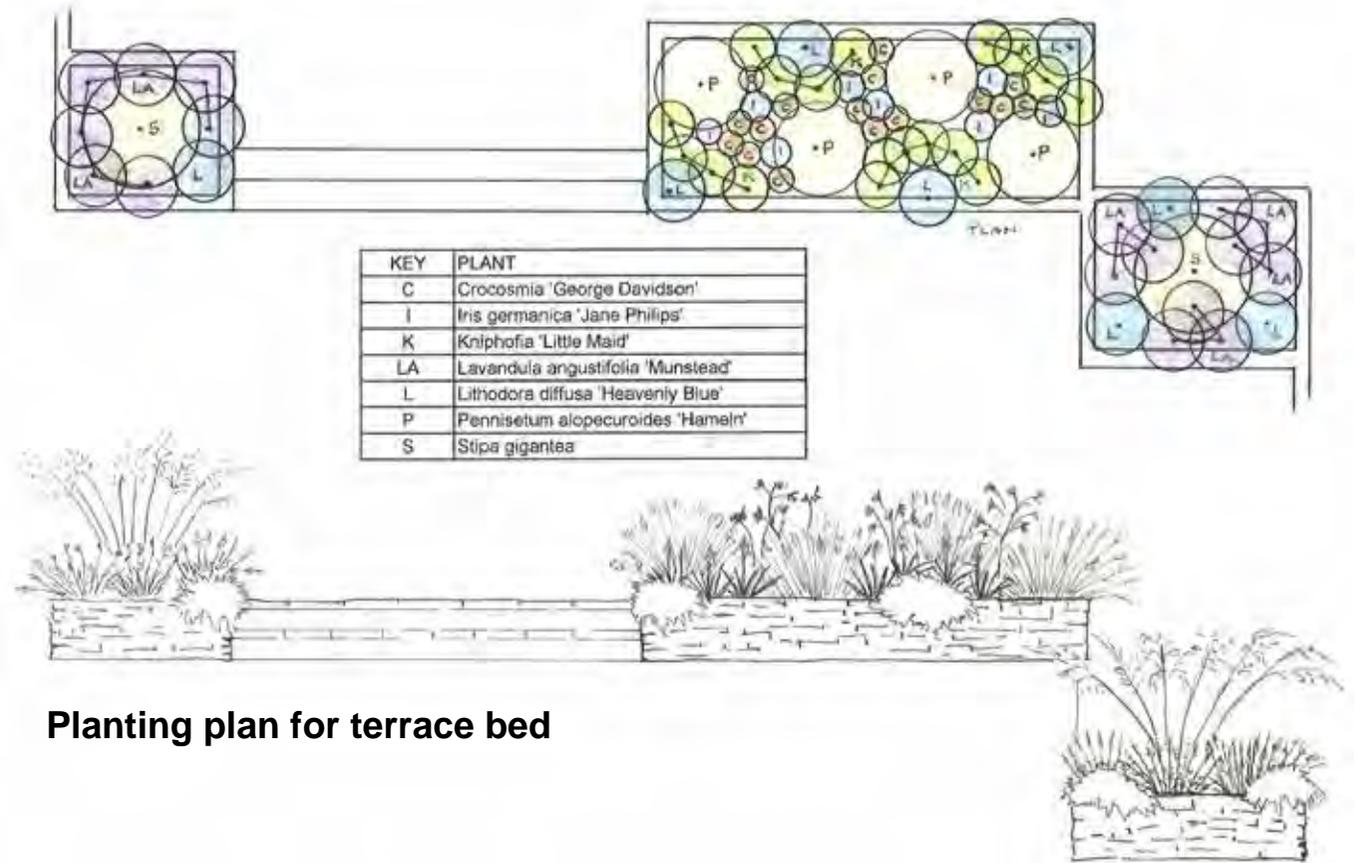
Rear elevation

FRIARS CLIFF

Planting plans

Once the concept plans for the front and back gardens had been agreed with the client we produced 4 separate planting plans for each of the areas: terrace bed, east-facing border, rose garden and the front garden. The overall colour scheme for the garden was blue, white and pink but the raised beds on the terrace also included burnt orange to reflect the interior furnishings of the living area. Grasses, *Iris germanica* 'Jane Philips' and spiky *Kniphofia* 'Little Maid' were added for a more contemporary feel.

In the east-facing border the goal was for a low-maintenance shrubbery but while the shrubs establish they have been interplanted with *Gauria*, *Agapanthus* and *Nepeta*.



Planting plan for terrace bed



Stipa



Lithodora



Lavandula



Pennisetum



Crocosmia



Iris

After

Where ever possible the existing hard landscape materials were adapted and reused. To open up the vistas in the rose garden the brick work was reduced to form pillars and existing walls clad with painted trellis. New raised beds built from reclaimed Purbeck stone edge the terrace.





After - Back Garden

The brief for an 'English Country Garden' with a contemporary twist to link with the new modern living area was met by creating an extensive sandstone terrace at the same level as the kitchen and careful plant selection.



After - Front Garden

To make the drive easier to negotiate it was realigned and both the entrance and exit were widened. Locally sourced gravel was retained with sandstone setts. *Griselinia littoralis* and *Camellia sasanqua* 'Plantation Pink' were planted along the boundaries.

FRIARS CLIFF



COASTAL GARDEN

After - Back Garden

The client wished to bring together the different features of the garden. A meandering Breedon gravel path, edged with setts, linked the main terrace, which was relaid with grey sandstone, to a seating circle and on to the gazebo. The beds were replanted to give year-round interest.



COASTAL GARDEN



MILL HOUSE

Before - Back Garden

The part of the garden surrounding the house suffered from an excess of paving that had fallen into disrepair. The teak deck that overhung the pond was not large enough for dining in the evening sun and did not give sufficient access to other parts of the garden. The unattractive red brick walls were crumbling and not in keeping with the style of the architecture. Vehicular access was undefined and this meant that cars parked too close to the south terrace rather than using the parking area by the front entrance.



Before - Front Garden

An overgrown and difficult to maintain mixed rockery border edged the drive. The main parking area was obscured by a high hedge. In addition the gravelled access was steep and did not guide cars to correct place.





Concept plan - Front

A tree-lined gravel drive leads to the extended main car park. Planting was used to screen the unsightly tennis court and draw the eye to the main entrance.



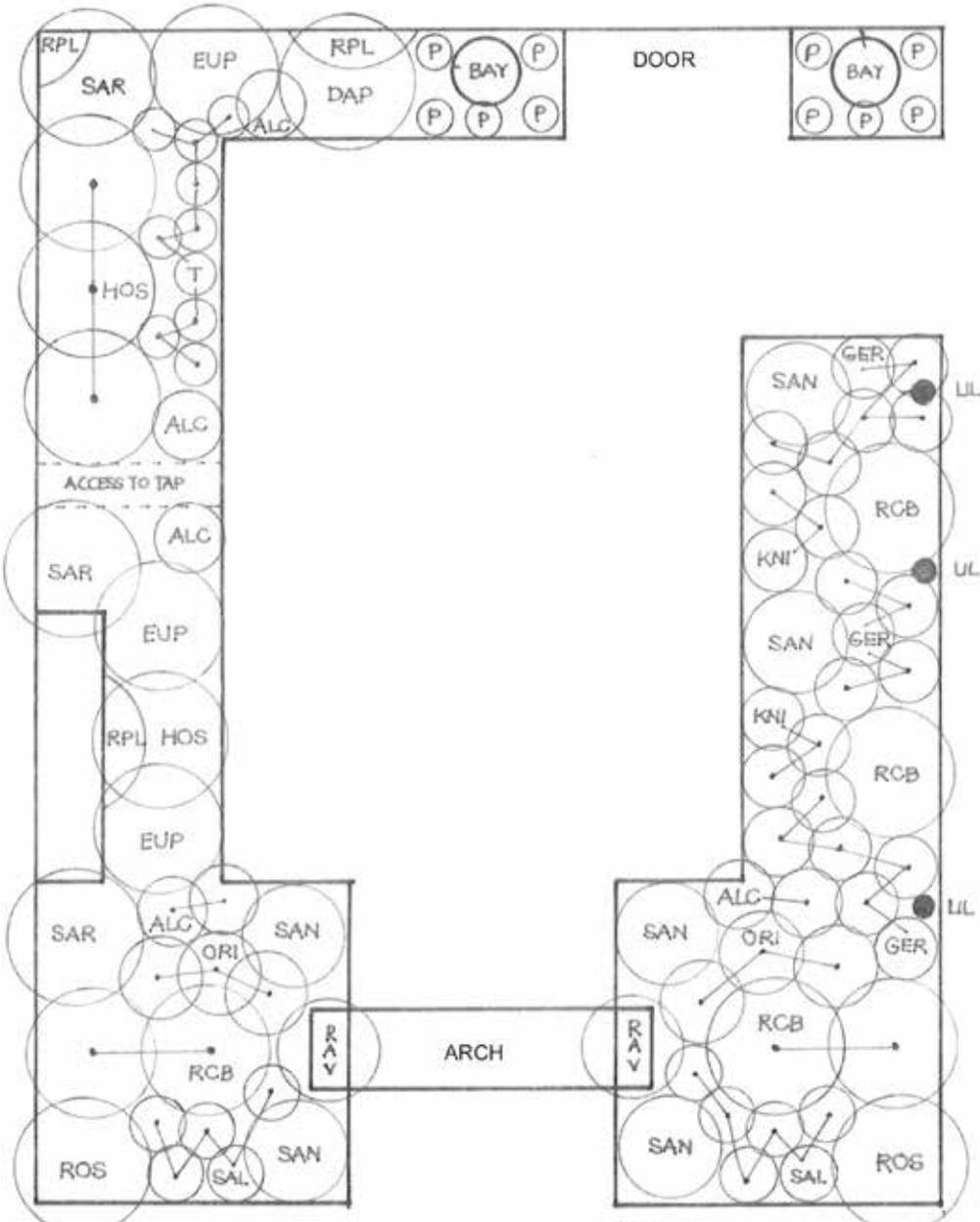
Concept plan for the back garden

Our client wanted a Mediterranean style garden that would compliment the substantial mill house. This influenced our choice of materials and planting. Landscaping and new gates restrict vehicles to the main car park. A vista using a hydrangea walkway opens the garden

to the orchard and swimming pool. The plan also had to solve the issue of flood prevention. The existing measures were insufficient and unattractive. New retaining walls and grass earthed mounds were included to disguise the flood barrier and raise it to the required level.

MILL HOUSE

Planting plan



Rosa 'Chandos Beauty'



Salvia officinalis 'Icterina'



Lilium longiflorum



Euphorbia palustris



Rosa 'Penny Lane'



Hosta 'Royal Standard'

Key	Plant	Common Name
ALC	Alchemilla mollis	Lady's Mantle
BAY	Laurus nobilis - Standard	Bay
DAP	Daphne bholua 'Jacqueline Postl'	Daphne
EUP	Euphorbia palustris	Spurge
GER	Geranium sylvaticum 'Album'	Geranium
HOS	Hosta 'Royal Standard'	Hosta
KNI	Kniphofia 'Little Maid'	Yellow Red Hot Poker
LIL	Lilium longiflorum	Lily
ORI	Origanum vulgare 'Aureum'	Golden Marjoram
P	Pachysandra terminalis 'Variegata'	
RAV	Rosa 'Aimee Vibert'	Climbing Rose
RCB	Rosa 'Chandos Beauty'	Hybrid Tea Rose
ROS	Rosemarinus officinalis 'Benenden Blue'	Rosemary
RPL	Rosa 'Penny Lane'	Climbing Rose
SAL	Salvia officinalis 'Icterina'	Sage
SAN	Sanbina pinnata 'Edward Bowles'	Cotton Lavender
SAR	Sarcococca confusa	Christmas Box
T	Tellima grandiflora	

The courtyard, sited to the side of the house, was designed to be a quiet, sheltered retreat. A metal rose-covered arch links the two planting beds and also echoes the style of the pergola on the terrace. A romantic touch is created using herbs and sweet-smelling roses.

After

Reclaimed iron gates separate the garden from the car park. A path with widely-spaced steps and bordered with Mediterranean plants, leads down to the terrace. Raised beds planted with evergreen topiary provide winter impact, while paeonies, roses, and catmint give summer interest.





The drive was realigned and edged with ornamental pear trees planted in wide grass banks. Stepped raised beds constructed from Purbeck stone link the front entrance to the car park, which is surrounded by pleached hornbeam. A yew hedge screens the tennis court from the drive.

MILL HOUSE



COUNTRY HOUSE

Before - Back Garden

A new conservatory was added to the east elevation of this south facing country house. To provide access to this, the existing terrace needed to be renovated and extended. The terrace lacked a shady retreat and the planting was untidy and difficult to maintain.

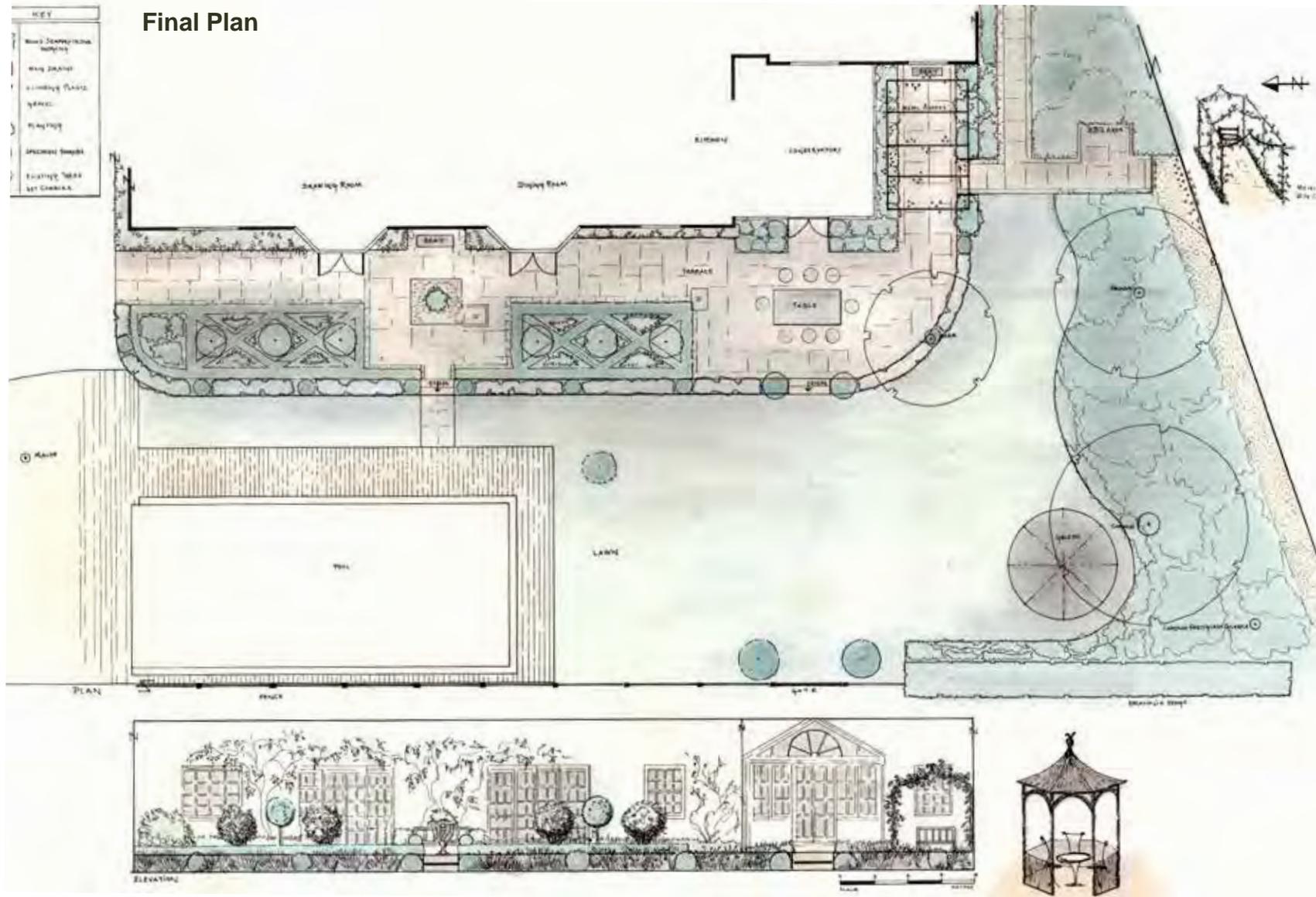
The landscaping needed to be designed around the new swimming pool and sympathetic to the beautiful water meadows at the end of the garden.



Before - Orchard

The view from the garden and car park was spoiled by a large electricity pylon. Access was required for both pedestrians and horses across the orchard area to the newly-built stables. The boundary shrubs were overgrown and needed replanting.

COUNTRY HOUSE



The client already had a good idea of how she wanted the garden to look so concept drawings were not required.

The final plan was prepared to scale, along with a setting out plan including construction notes, to put out to tender.

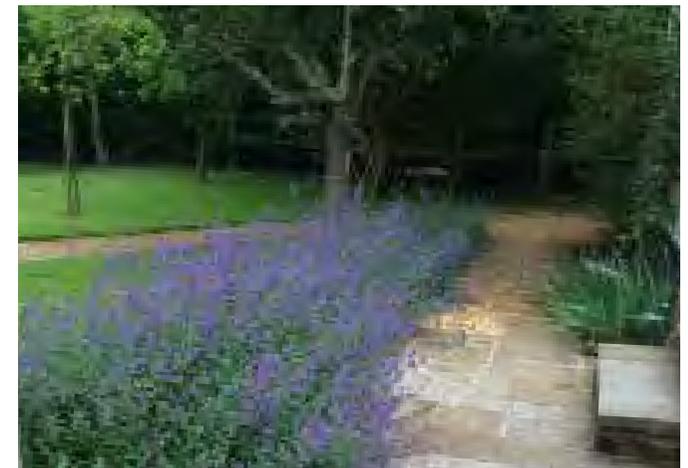
COUNTRY HOUSE

After - Back Garden

Reclaimed York stone was used for the new terrace. The expanse was broken up by leaving gaps to create parterres, which were planted with *Buxus* hedging and standard bay balls. Olive trees in terracotta pots, under-planted with thyme, punctuate the area.



COUNTRY HOUSE



After - Orchard

Ornamental pear trees were planted to create a low maintenance alternative to fruit trees and to obscure the pylon. Bold planting of cat mint edged the paths and existing shrubs were re-situated to help screen the boundaries.

COUNTRY HOUSE



CONTEMPORARY GARDEN

Before

This client presented us with a blank canvas. The garden was surrounded by a high red brick wall and there was a significant drop in level from one corner to the opposite corner of the garden



Our brief was to create a garden that would complement the client's horticultural interests as well as providing wheelbarrow access throughout. She was also keen to include a water feature in the design.



After

The design provided strong clean lines and a central lawn optimised the feeling of space. The challenge of the difficult levels was solved with steps on one side and a slope on the other. The rill follows the path and the steps, making a gentle sound of falling water, while the top rill has reflective qualities. Plants were selected to give a cottage garden style of planting.

CONTEMPORARY GARDEN



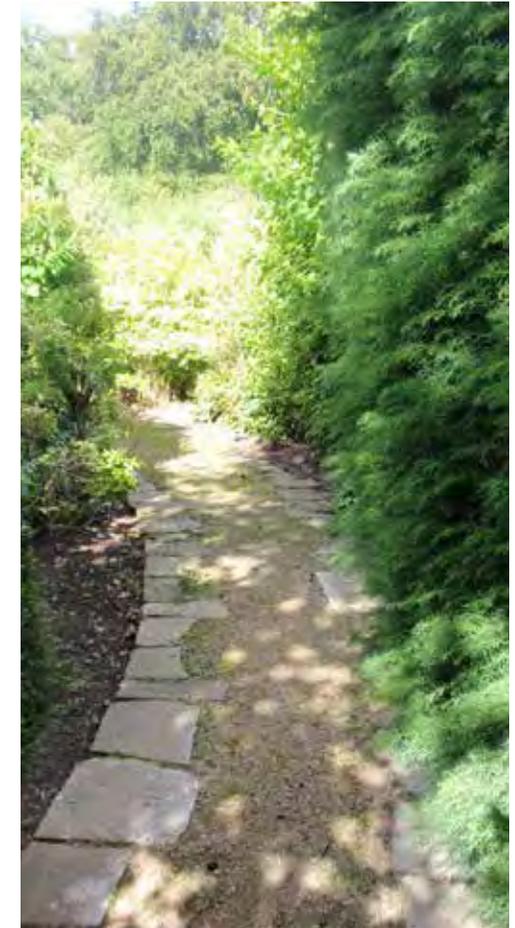
PLANTING RENOVATION

Planting Renovation

This very large garden project included a winter walk, walled garden, drive area and a golden garden. Planted over 20 years ago, each area was very neglected and required a fresh look.

Before - Walled Garden

This old walled vegetable garden was too much for the client to maintain. As his approach to vegetable growing anyway was "Waitrose do it better" we were asked to redesign the planting with the minimal use of vegetables.



Winter Walk

The planting was overgrown and many of the perennials needed dividing. Some of the winter interest trees needed to be replaced and the ivy along the old brick wall needed to be removed.

RENOVATION

After - Walled Garden

The parterres were repeat planted with box edging, *Nepeta racemosa* 'Walkers Low', *Allium* 'Purple Emperor' and *Epilobium angustifolium* 'Album', while the top terrace is a gravelled thyme bed.



RENOVATION



After

The lower south-facing borders give colour for summer through to autumn with striking blue *Aconitum napellus* 'Newry Blue'. The winter walk was revamped by adding *Hamamelis* and *Cornus* for winter drama. A raised, damp north-facing border was used for a spring flush of white flowering herbaceous perennials.

RENOVATION

Golden Garden

In the golden garden all of the shrubs had been left to grow unchecked. With work the maple and monkey puzzle tree were salvaged but the remainder of the shrubs were dug up. The borders were replanted following the original theme of gold with accents of purple.



Rhododendron luteum, *Cotinus coggygia* 'Golden Spirit', *Lonicera nitida* 'Baggesen's Gold' and ornamental grasses for gold with *Sambucus nigra* 'Black Lace' and *Sedum* 'Matrona' for the purple contrast. Specially selected Portland stone boulders were added to the borders as focal points and to set off the golden foliage of *Libertia ixioides*.



PLANTING RENOVATION



COTTAGE GARDEN

Brief

Our brief was to link the new studio with the house, create an area for entertaining and improve the off-road parking, The design had to harmonise with the existing planting.

Visitors to the house enjoy a secluded, almost secret, winding path under steel arches intertwined with rambling roses and vines to discover the front door.



After

The new seating area by the kitchen links the indoor and outdoor space and is positioned to catch the evening sun. The choice of hard landscaping materials is sympathetic to the Victorian house. To give all-year-round interest the borders are planted with a mosaic of shrubs, herbaceous perennials and bulbs, anchored by a mature mulberry tree and holly topiary.

COTTAGE GARDEN



SMALL GARDENS

These two small gardens show the various use of different materials such as corrugated iron and decking. The planting compliments the hard landscaping softening the angular hard lines. The Roman urn, filled with pink water lilies, makes a simple water feature and creates a feeling of tranquility in the small courtyard.



Newly planted courtyard



Front garden before landscaping

The client wanted a simple contemporary design for this small front garden. A non-invasive bamboo *Fargesia muriela* 'Simba' and the grass *Calamagrostis x acutiflora* 'Karl Forster' grow in raised corrugated planters. These screen the front garden, which includes a decked seating area, from the neighbours.

SMALL GARDENS