

# IDEAL YOUNG GARDENERS

WE BELIEVE THAT LIVING IN AN URBAN AREA SHOULDN'T MEAN COMPROMISING ON YOUR DESIRE TO HAVE A LOVELY, GREEN OUTDOOR SPACE.



To champion that idea, and to show people just how much you can do with even the smallest urban spaces we once again teamed up with the Ideal Home Show and television gardener David Domoney to bring you the Ideal Young Gardeners of the year competition.

Six horticultural colleges from around the country competed for an array of medals at this year's Ideal Home Show, as they put their skill and creativity to the test to impress the judges.

David Domoney said: "It's really important to have this competition, it's effectively moulding these younger people towards more creative and sustainable gardening."

When it comes down to urban gardens, there are a lot of people doing nothing with them. People think the space that they have got isn't big enough to create a beautiful garden, but they're wrong. Any outdoor space is a great opportunity to make it greener and bring nature back into an urban space."

We provided the strict brief for the competition that specified the inclusion of an area for wildlife, as well as an emphasis on recycled, sustainable materials.

A host of highly qualified judges, including the legendary Alan Titchmarsh, toured these urban show gardens on opening day, vigorously writing on their scorecards and meticulously going over the details of each garden.

Paul Willets, from Bridgewater College, said: "I think particularly nowadays it's important for people

to use more sustainable materials than they have done, because we are running low on materials so we need to be more careful how and what we use.

This is my first show garden, and it's been really interesting and I've really enjoyed building it."

All the gardens proved unique in their approach to the brief, and each incorporated a variety of sustainable, and sometimes ingenious ways of making the most of a tight urban space.

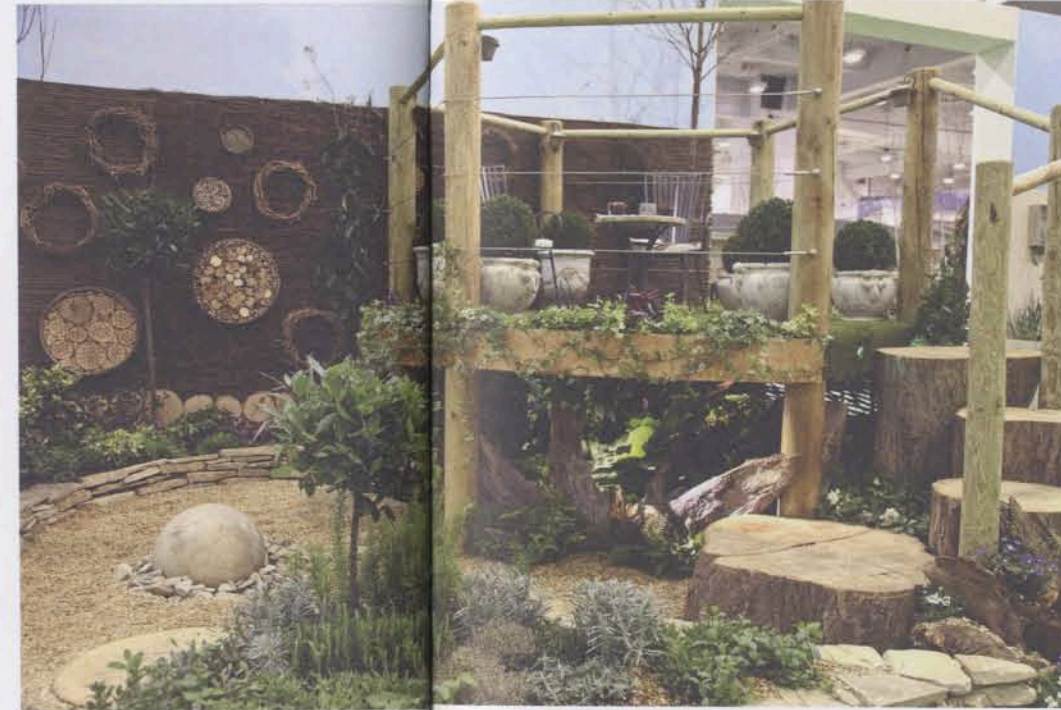
Writtle College made sure not to forget about the bees and insects in their garden by including a bee box for them, while Bridgewater College made the most of all those spare pennies you have always kicking around the house by using them to decorate the walls of their garden.

Promoting traditional craftsmanship was also an integral part of the brief given to the students, and they certainly lived up to the task. Traditional hedges, stonemasonry, metal work and many more crafts were featured in the gardens to create impressive urban retreats.

Michael Romero, our own judge on the panel, said: "It was great to see such an inspired variety of gardens at this year's show. We believe that you can make the most of even the smallest urban areas, and the students really brought that message across with their ideas and skills."

By working with these students, and getting them to think more about the issues around sustainability, the environment, traditional crafts, and urban

CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN THE CHICHESTER SHOW GARDEN WON 'BEST IN SHOW' AFTER THE LONG AND SCRUPULOUS JUDGING PROCESS; THE COLLEGES CAME UP WITH SOME VARIED IDEAS, ALL BASED ON SUSTAINABLE PRINCIPLES AND INCORPORATING SOME CRAFT SKILLS; DAVID DOMONEY HELPED THE YOUNG GARDENERS WITH THEIR DESIGNS AND THE BUILD. TO READ HIS TIPS FLICK TO PAGE 24; THE JUDGES HAD A LOT OF EXPERIENCE BETWEEN THEM, NOT MORE SO THAN ALAN TITCHMARSH; OUR AMBASSADOR ADAM HUNT ALSO SAT ON THE JUDGING PANEL TO MAKE SURE THE YOUNG GARDENERS ADHERED TO THE BRIEF WE SET THEM



spaces we hope to inspire them early on in their careers to do more around these issues as they progress over the years." *MI*

For a virtual tour of all the gardens, visit [www.idealhomeshow.co.uk/highlights/78-show-gardens](http://www.idealhomeshow.co.uk/highlights/78-show-gardens)

## FULL AWARDS LIST

Chichester College, **Sussex** GOLD, BEST IN SHOW

Capel Manor, **Middlesex** GOLD

Shuttleworth College, **Bedfordshire** BRONZE

Askham Bryant College, **North Yorkshire** SILVER

Bridgewater College, **Somerset** SILVER

Writtle College, **Essex** SILVER

