

Courses... Colleges... Research... Competitions... Business ideas... and more

Welcome

The Zone is a peer-to-peer space, full of useful information for your career development. We want to hear about any initiatives you are involved with, whether you are still studying or already practising garden design. If you have an idea to share with other SGD members, or anything you think we should be covering, please email gdj@jppublishing.co.uk



Five minutes with...

Adam Hunt & Lulu Urquhart

Lulu and Adam are landscape designers who specialise in sustainable, restorative and biodynamic design work

What do you wish you'd known when you started out?

How important it is to be clear and direct with clients; telling them the things they don't want to hear as well as those they do.

What has surprised you most?

The extent to which clients are 'up for' the journey; often with a deep commitment to their land.

Do you have a mentor or idol?

AH: My first mentor was my godfather, the Rev George Moule, a life-long amateur botanist. My design idols are Bill Mollison, Rudolf Steiner and Piet Oudolf.
LU: Gertrude Jekyll, Norah Lindsay, Margery Fish, Vita Sackville-West.

What is your favourite material to work with in the garden?

AH: Anything as long as it's of local provenance.
LU: The plants, but I love studying how water works in the land, and the pure magic of natural springs.

What skill do you wish you had?

AH: Hedge-laying, strictly for therapeutic purposes.
LU: I wish I could dance Tango like Adam can.

What new initiatives are you involved with this year?

We are designing the gardens and landscape of a large estate in Gloucestershire. It's an exciting combination of the restoration of a Georgian landscape, conservation of the diverse nature on the land, and a contemporary-meets-Arts-and-Craft design for the gardens. The client has incredible vision.

Which part of the design process do you like best?

The moment when our designs weave seamlessly into the story of the place.

And which part do you like least?

The removal of any tree, regardless of how it looks.

And finally... is there an issue you'd like to rant about?

LU: Developers need to engage with landscape designers as a priority. There must be more trees planted where people are being housed.
AH: The lack of care for soil in our industry; it's a living, delicate ecosystem and careless ground-work can destroy something that has taken centuries to build up.
www.puandh.com

Diary dates

13 JUNE-11 OCTOBER ART, CITIES AND LANDSCAPE

The fifth edition of the Amiens festival features 23 gardens spread across the 'hortillonnages' of the city. Designers and artists from Belgium, France and Britain create garden and sculptural installations accessible on foot and by boat. Find more details at www.maisondelaculture-amiens.com

21 JUNE DEADLINE FOR SGD AWARDS

Don't forget to get your entry in for the 2015 SGD Awards. Categories include School Garden, Historic Garden Restoration and Domestic Roof Top, which is new for this year. Sunday 21 June is the final date for submissions to the main Awards – there are later dates for the Student and Community Spaces Awards. Go to www.sgdawards.com

UNTIL 21 JUNE EXHIBITION: THE EDUCATION OF A GARDENER

The Life & Work of Russell Page 1906-1985 – one of the greatest designers of the modern period. Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB. www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

30 JUNE-5 JULY RHS HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW

Joining the show's Conceptual and Summer gardens this year are new categories for World and Historic gardens. www.rhs.org.uk/shows

24-26 JULY NIDDFEST

A new wildlife and writing festival in Nidderdale, in the Yorkshire Dales, hosted by Carol Ann Duffy. Speakers include Jackie Bennett and Mark Cocker, and events will include garden, riverside and moorland walks. Details from www.niddfest.com

Inside:



50 Urban project
A shopping centre plaza was reimagined with benches, planters and climbing shrubs



51 Rising stars
The Writtle College team took Gold with their innovative sustainable garden