

HOMES & GARDENS

Fresh &
uplifting

Beautiful houses and
gardens to delight in

THE ALFRESCO
STYLE EDIT
LOUNGE CHAIRS
PORTABLE LIGHTS
OUTDOOR RUGS

STUDY CHIC
CREATE A SERIOUSLY
SMART SANCTUARY

READY TO
CELEBRATE
JOYFUL STYLING
AND EASY RECIPES
TO SPARK THE MOOD

DECOR
INSPIRATION
CLEVER CURTAIN
AND BLIND IDEAS
THE KITCHEN
BANQUETTE TREND
STRIKING BATHROOM
SURFACES



MAY 2021



"I WANTED A FABULOUS
ENTRANCE WITH GLIMPSES OF
THE GARDEN BEYOND THROUGH
ARCHES IN THE HEDGES AND
INTRIGUING DOORWAYS"

JO ALDERSON PHILLIPS, garden designer

Bold spheres of alliums
pop up around the soft
conical-shaped topiary

ROB JONES AND JO ALDERSON PHILLIPS INFUSE CLASSIC STYLE INTO A SECRET GARDEN

THIS classical Georgian-style country house needed a garden of equal stature. The property has several acres with far-reaching views and this secret garden was built on the site of a neglected tennis court. The gardens at Levens Hall have certainly been an influence; the anchors here are a succession of yew topiary domes leading through each colour coordinated garden with the owner's sculptures creating beautiful sight lines.

In the sunny central beds surrounding the topiary, alliums ('Mount Everest', 'Purple Sensation' and christophii) emerge from the carpet of *Salvia x sylvestris* 'Schneehügel', which flowers all summer. *Paeonia lactiflora* 'Duchesse de Nemours' blooms in early summer followed by *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Rosea', *Alchemilla mollis*, *Erysimum* 'Bowles' Mauve' and *Echinops ritro* 'Veitch's Blue'.

Thalictrum delavayi 'Splendide White', *Artemisia* 'Valerie Finnis' and white agapanthus sit at the base bespoke obelisks (woodengardenobelisk.co.uk), home to climbing roses, including the 'The Generous Gardener', and *Clematis* 'Miss Bateman' and *C. alpina* 'Helsingborg', while shrub roses planted en masse, including 'Felicia', and 'William and Catherine', smother the floor beneath. →

DESIGN IN DETAIL

■ **HEDGES AND UNUSUAL DOORWAYS** surround the secret garden – we planted *Ilex crenata* 'Dark Green' (Japanese box holly) around the entire garden and more structural evergreens are provided by umbrella-pruned *Pinus sylvestris* with *Osmanthus fragrans* providing scent later in the year.

■ **THE TOPIARY**, each weighing two tonnes, was bought from Solitair in Belgium (solitaire.be) – a nursery that specialises in these fantastic mature specimens. Choosing pieces for your future garden is a special part of the process for our clients.

■ **CRUSHED AGGREGATE** that was removed from the original tennis court was used to create the base of a landform sculpture beyond the secret garden where the client could enjoy the views across one of the highest points of the Chilterns.