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THE ENGLISH GARDEN

MAY
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SPRING SENSATIONS

Six gorgeous gardens from formal MAPPERTON
to eclectic HUNTING BROOK

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Best in Show

These six gardens, recognised at the SGLD awards ceremony, show the value of enlisting a garden designer to transform an uninspiring blank canvas into a prize-winning outdoor space

Adolfo Harrison has created a sense of leafy seclusion in this tricky, heavily shaded and previously barely used London garden.

Each year, the Society of Garden + Landscape Designers celebrates the best work of its members with its much-anticipated awards ceremony. If you need to be convinced of the value a garden designer can bring to a project, it couldn't be more clearly illustrated than by the transformations this year's winning designers have effected for their clients. We look at six award-winning entries and discover how their designers turned uninspiring blank canvases into gardens worthy of the industry's highest accolade.

ovilla

In a Green Shade

Adolfo Harrison is no stranger to winning SGLD Awards, adding another for his design for this tiny garden in Westbourne Park, London

Reached by the narrowest of pathways that runs between buildings and surrounded on all sides by tall properties, which make it feel as though it is at the bottom of a vast canyon, this tiny plot needed ingenuity to make the most of its tricky, and heavily shaded, space.

It won the Judges' Award, the award chosen specially by the judges from all winning entries, and Garden Jewel, the category for gardens under 150sqm. Besides the shade, the biggest issue Adolfo had to solve was the huge, protected lime tree in one corner, which drips honeydew from its leaves leaving the garden and everything in it sticky and un-usable. Planning restrictions prevented any building work in its root zone so, rather than install a pergola to protect the new seating area from the sticky honeydew, Adolfo devised 'temporary' furniture that didn't need foundations, with a lightweight polycarbonate roof to keep the honeydew at bay.

The client had installed new floor-to-ceiling ground floor windows, so planting areas were designed to make the garden appear to flow right up to the house and to give a cinematic view of the greenery from within. Shade-loving plants now tumble down

the ziggurat-shaped walls, designed to lessen the visual impact of the garden's significant change of level.

Ferns such as *blechnum*, *asplenium*, *polystichum* and *dryopteris* thrive in this newly green, shady 'canyon' bottom, along with *sarcococca*, *Hydrangea aspera*, *Persicaria affinis* 'Superba', *Disporum* 'Night Heron', and *epimediums*.



Above The protected lime overshadowed the garden and restricted the usable space.

This image The house now has a cinematic view of the seating area and shade-loving plants.

