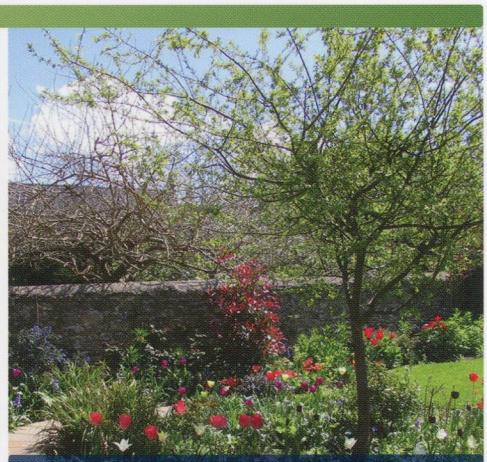
LANDSCAPE & URBAN DESIGN

23
Jan/Feb 2017
Price £3.95
landud.co.uk

A SENSE OF PLACE AND SPACE MARK LANE DESIGNS

Mark Lane Asked To Design A Large Private Garden For Someone With Access Needs



SPERING AND CO.

Designing Small Town Gardens Can Be Challenging

VIRIDIAN LANDSCAPE SHOW

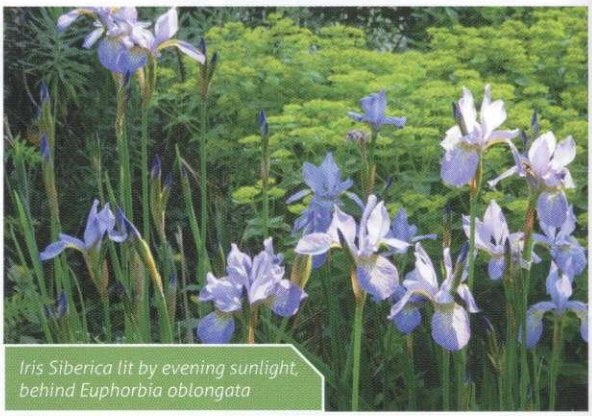
Offering A Wide Range Of Professional Services

PLUS...

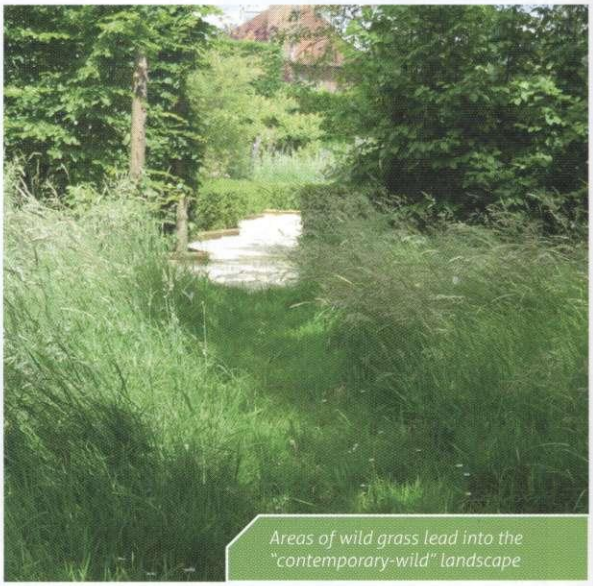
Chart Hills Golf Club: Minimising maintenance and perfecting performance / N16 Into the Woodland Garden - Sarah Kay Garden Design

Designing Your Outdoor Environment

Agastache Black Adder unites the bottlebrush seed heads of Pennisetum and Calamagrostis brachytricha



Iris Siberica lit by evening sunlight, behind Euphorbia oblongata



Areas of wild grass lead into the "contemporary-wild" landscape

A Sense of Place and Space

Even among the wild borders, an area of formality with a simple slatted bench and repeated low-level white pots draw the eye towards the orchard

Every landscape is different, but when garden designer Mark Lane was asked to design a large private garden for someone with access needs Mark's personal circumstances made Mark Lane Designs the perfect choice.

Mark is the UK's first recognised garden designer in a wheelchair and has been published in numerous journals and magazines and has gone on to be the first BBC gardening presenter in a wheelchair.

Mark's practice Mark Lane Designs collaborates closely with architects, designers, artists, sculptors and craftsmen on a wide range of projects, to provide an individual, friendly and professional service offering high-quality, bespoke garden, planting and landscape design for small private or large-scale public projects, an intimate little garden or a landmark outdoor facility.

Mark's ethos is to create a garden or landscape that is a direct response to the architecture, topography and character of the landscape – a sense of place and space. His designs are functional, in-keeping with the surrounding environment, the wild space and its natural flora and fauna; building on integrated structures and the spaces between, in and around them.

Mark Lane Designs

TEXT Mark Lane Designs **PHOTO** Mark Lane Designs

Bold swathes of blue and yellow, with Rudbeckia Goldsturm, yellow Heleniums, Pervoskia Blue Spire and Aster x frikartii 'Monch'

The central stepped granite water feature surrounded by a simple yet elegant planting combination of Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Hameln' and Eryngium agavifolium

The hidden white LED lighting illuminates the pathways without blinding the Client who is in a wheelchair

Mark's personal experiences, knowledge of and expertise for fully accessible gardens, whether for a private dwelling or for a public building, such as hospitals, disability charities, specialist units or rehabilitation centres, were brought together to create a "contemporary wild" garden.

The design focuses on access needs with full wheelchair turning circles, wide paths and views across borders, sometimes obscured, sometimes fully open, but creating a landscape that is fully inclusive.

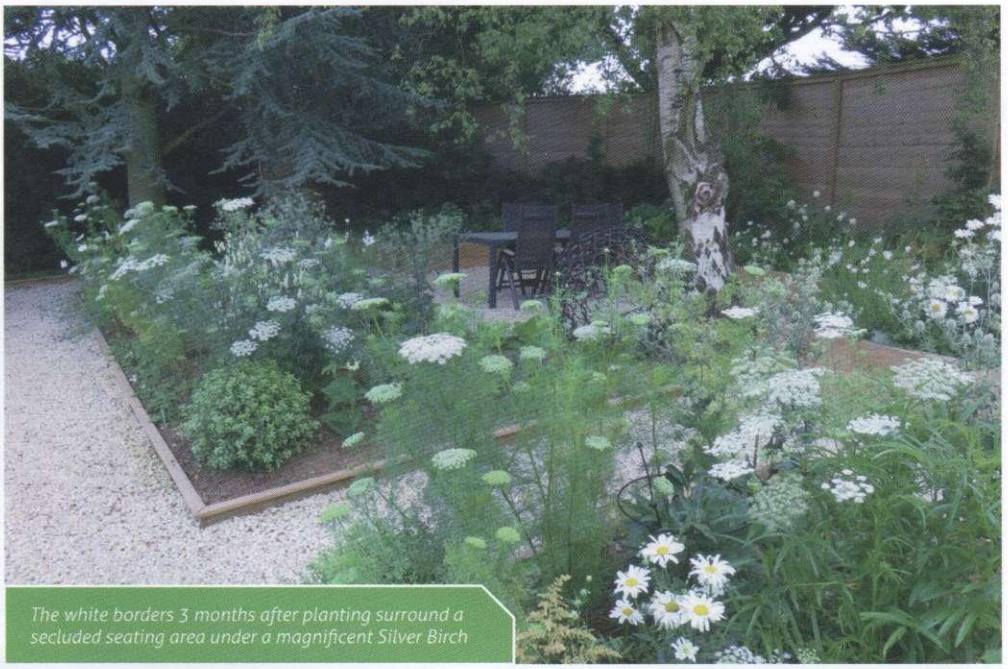
A large stepped granite water feature is the centrepiece of the garden, influenced by the incredible water feature outside the Louis Vuitton Gallery in Paris.

Each angle has been measured to suit the incline of the site and designed by Mark to reflect the sun as the water cascades down. Small flecks of silver in the granite sparkle enhancing the clarity of the water.

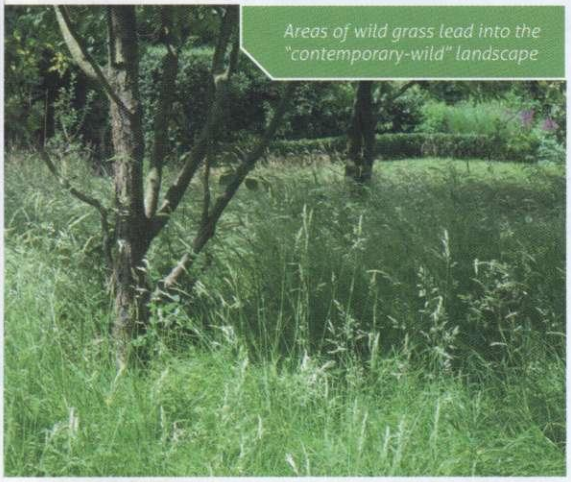
A contemporary piece of sculpture sits comfortably among the white borders

The planting is full and abundant. Over 5,000 plants and 3,000 bulbs have been planted to create colour, texture, form and scent for 12 months of the year. Planting is loose and informal, but the planting plans have been carefully put together by Mark to give an almost wild experience – as if the plants have self-seeded across the garden.

Large bold blocks of colour have also been introduced, but following the Client's aspirations the borders have been divided into: herb garden, blue and yellow garden, white garden, pink garden and a grasses garden. Mark is a plantsman and wherever possible chooses plants that are as close to the species type as possible.



The white borders 3 months after planting surround a secluded seating area under a magnificent Silver Birch



Areas of wild grass lead into the "contemporary-wild" landscape

Digitalis parviflora stand upright like sentinels among the newly formed seed heads of Deschampsia cespitosa

The silken tassels of Miscanthus sinensis Gracillimus, Pennisetum alopecuroides and Deschampsia cespitosa

He looks at the surrounding plants and the local environment and creates a landscape specific for an individual site.

Building in layers Mark's landscapes comprise shrubs and trees, herbaceous perennials and grasses, climbers, bulbs, corms and rhizomes that work together.

Hidden white LED lighting illuminates the landscape at night making the garden appear to float.

Influenced by the colours and flora of the Kent countryside for this project Mark has created an enticing and exciting landscape, and although designed for access needs it is foremost a garden with a sense of place and space.

www.marklanedesigns.com
mark@marklanedesigns.com
01227 207 013