



Sanctuary Gardens

Offering inspiration on a more achievable scale than Main Avenue's grand Show Gardens, Chelsea's Sanctuary Gardens capture the healing power of nature in their designs. This year seven gardens will highlight diverse design inspiration.

Catherine MacDonald's **The Boodles Garden** celebrates 200 years of The National Gallery and takes its cues from the gallery's most coveted and significant artworks. "The green in the garden was inspired by Monet's *The Water-Lily Pond*, while ideas behind the garden structures came from Canaletto's *London: Interior of the Rotunda at Ranelagh*, and the inspiration for the detailing in the arches and paving came from Klimt, Seurat and Pointillism," Catherine explains. "I'm also playing with perspective and there are a few paintings that have influenced me in that."

The Killik & Co: 'Money Doesn't Grow on Trees' Garden has been designed by Baz Grainger, who is no stranger to Chelsea having worked on a number of show gardens here before. For his first design with wealth management partnership Killik & Co, he'll create a garden designed to inspire conversations

Above The Boodles Garden, by Catherine MacDonald, inspired by The National Gallery.

Right Killik & Co: 'Money Doesn't Grow On Trees' Garden, by Baz Grainger.

Below Burma Skincare Initiative Spirit of Partnership Garden, by Helen Olney, tells the story of this small healthcare charity.





among the generations about money management. Money may not grow on it, but the tree that forms the centrepiece is special nonetheless: a beautiful elm tree. “This particular elm variety is resistant to Dutch elm disease, and was discovered by horticultural hero Roy Lancaster,” says Baz.

The **Burma Skincare Initiative Spirit of Partnership Garden** has been designed by Helen Olney for her Chelsea debut. Telling the story of a dermatological partnership that supports Burmese healthcare workers treating adults and children with skin conditions, it’s a naturalistic design that includes a traditional Burmese stilt house and cascading waterfall. “I had the idea, ‘would it be possible to use a palette of plants that are found in Burma, but will also grow here?’ It’s been fascinating to really dig into that,” says Helen.

Another Chelsea first-timer, Giulio Giorgi has designed the **World Child Cancer’s Nurturing Garden**. A scenic meadow, a circular raised bed made from perforated clay blocks and soft-touch plants provide joy, hope and tactile escapism through nature to support children undergoing cancer treatment. Sensory planting includes pelargoniums, for their scented, velvety leaves. “I’ve also used *Boronia crenulata*, a small perennial that exhales a really beautiful refreshing scent when you caress its stems. I like the idea of mixing touch and scent to experience the plant through both senses,” says Giulio, an Italian designer who is based in Paris. “World Child Cancer works in countries that are confronted with droughts and climate change much more than we are in the UK and Europe. It was important for us to explain the huge challenges they face,” he adds.

Naomi Slade and Ed Barsley have teamed up to build **Flood Re: The Flood Resilient Garden**, designed not only to reduce flood risk but also to recover quickly after periods of heavy rainfall. Dense planting slows the flow, while rainwater is also captured and stored for later use. An elevated deck and mound, linked by a bridge over the central swale, provide habitable places for people.

The **Freedom from Torture Garden: A Sanctuary for Survivors** has been designed by John Warland and Emma O’Connell. A place of peace, hope and horticultural therapy, it aims to calm, heal and restore survivors of torture on their journey to recovery. Naturalistic planting is based on that of an arid landscape, meant to stimulate happier memories of home using drought-resistant plants.

Chelsea regular, Japanese designer Kazuyuki Ishihara returns with one of his trademark gardens. **MOROTO no IE** features plants found in the natural landscape of Japan – vibrant acers, pine, *Farfugium japonicum* and iris – along with a tumbling waterfall. Moss-covered stones and wall greening are also incorporated into the design.

Top World Child Cancer’s Nurturing Garden by Giulio Giorgi.

Above Flood Re: The Flood Resilient Garden, designed by Naomi Slade and Ed Barsley.

Left The Freedom from Torture Garden: A Sanctuary for Survivors, by John Warland and Emma O’Connell.

Below MOROTO no IE, by Kazuyuki Ishihara.

