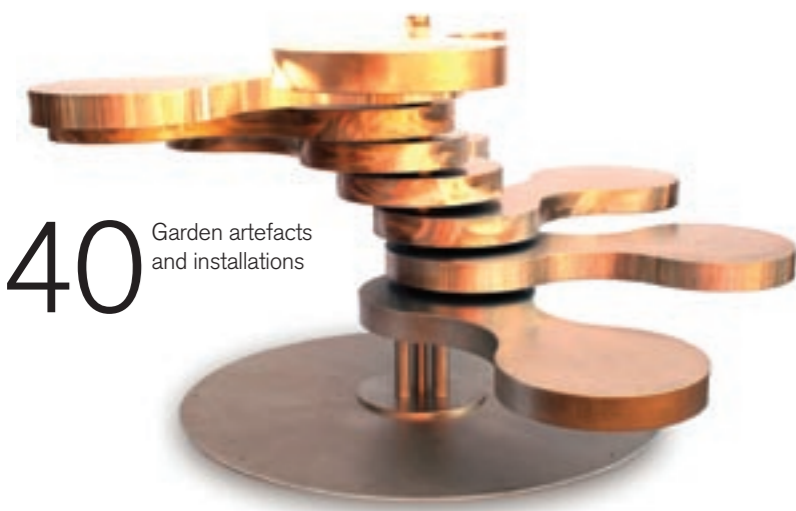




Sue Townsend's contemporary courtyard, Suffolk

Garden artefacts and installations



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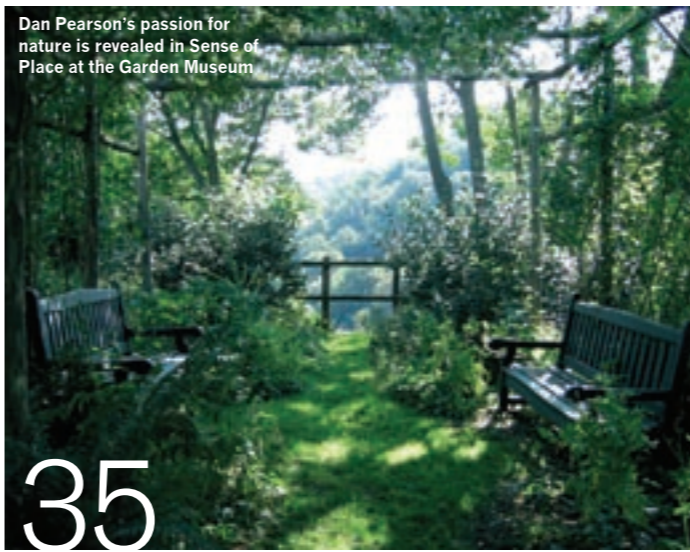
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Dan Pearson's passion for nature is revealed in Sense of Place at the Garden Museum



welcome



I HAD MIXED emotions watching the Stirling Prize results on TV a few weeks ago. It was brilliant to see the Hammersmith Maggies' Centre run off with the award, not least because Dan Pearson was landscape designer on the project. The judges admired the way the building featured a 'cheerful orange masonry wall that also serves as a backdrop for carefully planted tree groves and gardens. Its positive spirit is signalled with a roof canopy that oversails its many intimate internal gardens and courtyards'.

It was distressing, however, that at no time in the programme was there a mention of Dan Pearson Studio. Who do they think designed and planted those intimate gardens that made this centre for cancer patients more welcoming? Further digging revealed that Dan and team were invited to the award ceremony, so at least they got the champagne – if not the bouquets.

To be fair this was, after all, a prize for architecture. If they mentioned every person involved they'd be there all night. Dan believes that things are changing, that clients – often architects – are beginning to recognise the strong symbiosis between the architecture and what surrounds it. Something most garden designers would take as read.

So let's just celebrate the fact that a hugely prestigious, glittering, high-profile architecture award went to a building that – we all know – would have looked very different without the hand of a master garden designer.

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GARDEN DESIGN JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2009/ISSUE 89/£6
ISSN: 1356-6458

Editor: Jackie Bennett
Art Editors: Will Slater, Gary Milne
Senior Project Manager: Diana Smith
Publisher: James Pembroke
Published by: James Pembroke Publishing, 90 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BG Tel: 01225 337777
Ad Sales Manager: Jolyon Bird Tel: 0207 306 0300 ext 234 joeb@jppublishing.co.uk

Editorial Panel: Helen Billetop, Catherine Heatherington, John Wyr, Declan Buckley & Tommaso del Buono
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A quiet, contemplative college garden at this year's Chelsea, inspired by Scandinavian-style purity and eco-awareness

A green roof helped reduce the effect of rain run-off as well as increasing biodiversity and insulating the lodge

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