



contents

UP FRONT

07 Tim Richardson

Are we still obsessed by colour and to what extent does it really matter?

09 Newsprint

The Chelsea Flower Show 2008 plus everything that's new in the world of garden design

13 Letters & Diary

More on the sustainable design debate plus events news

REGULARS

22 Best practice

How a cutting-edge website can be your most valuable marketing tool

26 Plants in design

Orchestrating the seasonal dynamic within a new planting

38 Footprints

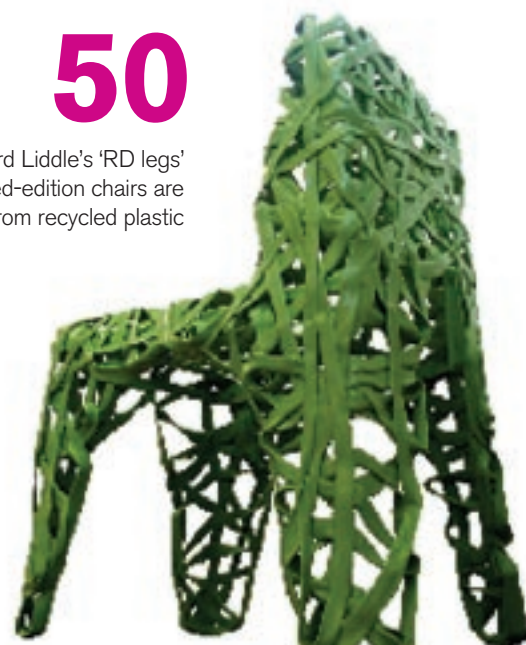
Recognising and utilising the wealth of materials that can be found on site

46 On course

New courses and news from the colleges and schools of design ➔

50

Richard Liddle's 'RD legs' limited-edition chairs are woven from recycled plastic



"Nature has undoubtedly mastered the art of winter gardening" Vincent A Simeone (from *Wonders of the Winter Landscape*)

welcome



WATER, AS WE ALL KNOW, is a key element in garden design, whether to create movement, to provide sound (soothing or energising), as a surface for reflections, an environment for aquatic plants and wildlife or simply as a resource for essential

watering of plants. In the poorest and most underdeveloped parts of the world however, water is, literally, a lifeline. It's sobering to realise that some 1.1 billion people still don't have access to safe water for drinking and 2.6 billion don't have enough water for washing and sanitation (www.wateraid.org.uk).

In the UK our water problems mainly affect the survival of the plants in our gardens, though the severe, surface-water floods of last summer hit thousands of homes, too. Both these concerns are covered in a day of talks and workshops held at Capel Manor College to mark World Water Day on 13 March. The *Journal* has been invited to be Media Partner for the day and we are delighted to support this event. It should provide information on the global aspect, on the level of threat to gardens in the UK and ideas on how to manage both shortages and floods, and how to use water sustainably. There's still time to get tickets for the event (see Newsprint p11 for details) so I hope to see some of you there. If you can't make it, you will be able to read Mark Laurence, who specialises in water gardens, exploring a range of sustainable water options in our next issue.

Sustainability, when it comes to choosing what, where and how you plant, is the theme of this year's SGD spring conference in London. If you're a regular attendee, you'll know that SGD conferences are well worth devoting a Saturday to. Guest speakers inform, share thoughts, inspire and challenge our ideas on gardens and garden design – Dan Pearson's ramble along the Gower peninsula, camera in hand, was a memorable example – and there's plenty of opportunity to network in the breaks between talks, which is especially useful for designers who work on their own. If you've never been before then you should definitely free yourself up for Saturday, 26 April and give it a go.

Annie Gatti, Editor

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22



26



40



16

“Sturdy well-branched plants with purple flower spikes stand well into winter”



38

GARDENS

16 Perfectly squared

Claire Mee used a combination of crisp, hard landscaping, strong vertical accents and low maintenance planting to transform this London garden

34 Iconic Trentham

Grand Italianate parterres and free perennial plantings made the gardens of the Trentham Estate some of the most innovative in the country

40 Off the wall

An ambitious community project has transformed the way in which pupils at an Essex School perceive their environment

REVIEWS

42 Fresh thinking

Going up to London to learn from the masters of sustainable development

49 Books

New titles for garden designers: *Norah Lindsay: The Life and Art of a Garden Designer* by Allyson Hayward and *A Gardener's Life* by The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury – plus 'By my bed', *A Breath From Elsewhere* by Mirabel Osler

50 Objects

Richard Liddle's RD legs; Wendy Freestone's House! and an Oriel planter by Christopher Masson

Front cover: Trentham Gardens, photo Allan Pollok-Morris