



Best In Show, Chelsea 2009: Ulf Nordfjell's Daily Telegraph Garden

SGD members were in the medals at this year's Chelsea as the Society's stand, just off Main Avenue, attracted much interest

47 This month's must-have garden accessories



UPFRONT

**07 Tim Richardson**  
It's time we started celebrating originality over conformity in garden design and stopped listening to the self-appointed arbiters of taste

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Period gardens open their gates, Métis festival marks its 10th anniversary and London's Athenaeum gets a living wall

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Appreciating Mediterranean gardens, plus dates for your diary as the summer season reaches its peak

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Green roof guru, Ed Snodgrass

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Where would our profession be without archives of historical plans and records?

"In gardens, beauty is a byproduct. The main business is sex and death" Sam Llewelyn



welcome



**HOW WAS CHELSEA** for you? Had it been a wrestling match, the commentator would have probably been saying "in the blue (cold) corner is Mister Ulf Nordfjell from Sweden... and in the red (hot) corner from Italy we have Mister Luciano Giubbilei! This year the honours went to the King of Cool himself – see why on page (18) – and it was almost a two-horse race. I saw high quality and craftsmanship, if not huge amounts of technological innovation in the Show

Gardens and, like it or not, a definite lurch back to nostalgia in the Courtyard Gardens.

As the razzmatazz subsides, we all go back to our day jobs. I would argue that the design world is as much about cooperation as competition, and the SGD's conferences echo that – designers and experts coming together to share their knowledge. Over the years, the conferences have garnered the support of some big players on the international and British design scene (Ulf Nordfjell included) and we wanted to make space in the *Journal* to keep in touch with them. To get the ball rolling, this month Ed Snodgrass (Mr Green Roof himself) talks about the worries and challenges that are facing his business right now (page 43).

Green issues continue to be uppermost in most people's minds along with the economy. Gardens are now looked upon as sanctuaries – places in which people can relax and entertain. This month, part two of our Materials series addresses the increased desire for hard surfaces, the modern materials available and how best to source locally (page 39). Here's to a good summer.  
**Jackie Bennett, Editor** [gdj@jppublishing.co.uk](mailto:gdj@jppublishing.co.uk)

**GARDEN DESIGN JOURNAL**  
JULY 2009 / ISSUE 84 / £6  
ISSN: 1356-6458

**Editor:** Jackie Bennett  
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**Publisher:** James Pembroke  
**Published by:** James Pembroke Publishing, 90 Walcot Street, Bath BA1 5BG Tel: 01225 337777  
**Ad Sales Manager:** Emma Swoboda Tel: 0207 306 0300 [emmas@jppublishing.co.uk](mailto:emmas@jppublishing.co.uk)

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**"I would always advise looking for a local source of natural stone. Problems can be avoided by building a good working relationship with your local quarry"**

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'Nurture, not Nature' was the theme of this year's SGD Spring Conference



Front cover: The Fenchurch Garden, Chelsea 2009; Designer: Paul Hensey; Photo: Richard Hanson