

APL Avenue: Inspiring real gardeners with real gardens

Inspirational and achievable is the ethos behind the APL Avenue Show Garden competition at BBC Gardeners' World Live. It is this relatable content that has made the Show a much-loved fixture in the keen gardener's calendar for over 25 years.

The APL Avenue enters its third year at the 2018 event, giving the opportunity for five Association of Professional Landscapers landscaping companies to display their skills at the Show, with 100,000 visitors expected over four days. The five gardens within APL Avenue give visitors the opportunity to witness first-hand what variety, quality, creativity and interpretation of a brief can be achieved in a small space when engaging the skills of a professional landscaper. The winning garden will be awarded Best APL Avenue Show Garden by the Show Garden Assessment Panel, plus a public vote will crown the visitors' favourite.

"APL Avenue Show Gardens at BBC Gardeners' World Live have a real achievable feel and will provide great take-home ideas and lots of inspiration. I can't wait to see them in the flesh" says Adam Frost (Gardeners' World presenter and award-winning garden designer)

The contractors and designers going forward to build their Show Gardens at BBC Gardeners' World Live 2018 are:

A to Z Gardening Landscaping Services, designed by Levente Papp and Alina Ciobotaru, A to Z Gardening Landscaping Services

Designed for a professional couple in Birmingham, this garden is inspired by the client's passion for travel to Asia and a love of the relaxing atmosphere of Japanese gardens. The space features a central sunken area with outdoor kitchen, relaxing corner sofa and glow in the dark fish tank. The flooring is a combination of paving, artificial grass and Western Red Cedar decking, the decking continues into the relaxing rear level of the garden. This back level includes a spherical water feature, Japanese plants and rockery and a hanging seat.

Conquest Creative Spaces, designed by Ross Conquest, Conquest Creative Spaces

This garden is ideally suited to a professional couple who've embarked upon early retirement with grown up children that have fledged the family nest. As newly retired, the garden is now the focal point of their time and investment. The design offers a multi-functional, low maintenance garden with fire pit, outdoor kitchen, boardwalk and lawn. Walking through the lawn area over granite stepping stones within reflection pool to the sunken seated fire pit corner, the garden offers elements for all seasons.

Keyscape Gardens, designed by Martyn Wilson, Wilson Associates Garden Design

With a young professional, creative, couple in mind this garden transforms the garden of a Victorian terraced property. The design creates privacy with areas to relax and get 'a bit of fresh air' after a busy day. Terraces break up the space, framed by a series of arbours which add drama and sculpture. The terraces provide areas for socialising and include a wood burner and log store.

Living Gardens, designed by Peter Cowell, Living Gardens

This design is intended for well-travelled cosmopolitan clients, with a flair for simple classy design. The garden caters for young children, socialising, relaxing and entertaining and focuses on natural materials to create a peaceful area. The garden is divided by sliding barn doors. At the rear there is a

dedicated play area with rope swing and play house, meanwhile parents can entertain in the free form concrete seating and dining area or relax in a quiet corner.

Timotay Landscapes, designed by Robyn Brookes, Timotay Landscapes

Designed for a young family, this is perfect for a family home. It's contemporary style and look is enticing and extends the living space through the garden. The garden will provide the family with an entertainment space with screening to one side, areas for family time, and for children's play, outdoor cooking and dining. The garden features a sunken lounge, outdoor cinema, raised play platform with canopy and outdoor kitchen and dining area with a pizza oven.

To ensure top-quality design and construction, each garden will receive a contribution towards the build. Marshalls and Rolawn are both garden product suppliers, with Marshalls supplying products from their domestic range and Rolawn supplying their turf and topsoil.