

Announcing the Gardens at BBC Gardeners' World Live

The Show Gardens at BBC Gardeners' World Live are known for their inspirational design and planting whilst being relatable and packed with practical ideas that visitors can recreate in their own gardens. In 2018 the Show is dedicated to helping visitors to make the most of every inch of garden, even the problem areas and the Show Gardens embody the theme. Visitors will enjoy the feature gardens, APL Avenue, Show Gardens, Small Gardens Beautiful Borders in a garden party atmosphere with picnics, bandstand entertainment from Warner Leisure Hotels and magic moments around every corner.

MADE IN BIRMINGHAM, designed by Paul Stone

Celebrating the industry of Birmingham, this show-stopping design includes, for the first time ever in a Show Garden, a working steam engine and Pullman dining carriage – representing Birmingham at the heart of the national railway network. The 'Eagle' is part of the beautifully restored fleet at Vintage Railways, coming to The NEC from their Tyseley works.

Recognising Birmingham's contribution to agriculture and horticulture throughout the Black Country, the scene features a typical railway embankment allotment plot packed with the finest produce together with a stunning cut flower garden alongside the station platform. All flowers will be grown by volunteers from the MIND group in Knowle supported by Flowers from the Farm.

A field of barley surrounds the station signal box with hops growing along the railway siding fences to acknowledge Birmingham's beer brewing industry from microbreweries to major brewers such as Davenports, and visitors will be able to view memorabilia from Davenports brewing past. "We want to celebrate the vigor and energy of the Birmingham powerhouse, from the past to the current day" says Paul.

WYEVALE GARDEN CENTRES SOLUTIONS GARDEN, designed by Professor David Stevens

Showcasing many solutions to everyday problems, the Wyevale Garden Centres Solutions Garden is brilliantly designed to give visitors beautiful yet effective solutions and the know-how to tackle the issues head on. This garden follows on from Wyevale Garden Centres' success at the 2017 Show where they received a Gold Award and Best In Show for their Romance in the Ruins garden.

Many gardening questions revolve around soil, be it acid or chalky, heavy or light, shady or soaked in sun for much of the day. This garden offers up answers with richly planted beds, set within an elegant and architectural framework of walling, hedging and crisp paving. Visitors will see planting that thrives in tricky situations such as dry shade, areas that highlight good soil preparation, ways to cope with variable UK climate including drought tolerant planting, beds showing species that thrive alternately in acid and alkaline soils, an area dedicated to weed control and one to lawn care. The design also focuses on accessories including non-wasteful use of water, productive working areas including compost bins and the increasingly important use of permeable surfaces in terms of run off and flooding.

TESCO EVERY LITTLE HELPS GARDEN, designed by Owen Morgan, Mosaic Landscape Design

Tesco return to BBC Gardeners' World Live with a Show Garden for the second year running. For 2018, the design focuses on a family garden which provides spaces and activities for all ages without compromising on luxury and design.

The garden is a space designed to engage visitors with ideas and inspiration for their own gardens. The multi-faceted design includes an informal lounge area, raised pond, Mediterranean inspired border, artificial lawn play area, den-making and secret garden within a wildlife area, outdoor dining area, outdoor kitchen/bar room and edible beds.

The main focus of planting within garden will be a strong structural form of hedging, trees and shrubs, which give the space year-round usability. This will be supported with a profusion of seasonal planting in pots and containers.

REFLECTIONS ON BELVOIR, designed by Andy Tudbury, Halcyon Days

Inspired by the splendour of Belvoir Castle and the rolling landscape created by Capability Brown, this garden condenses and simplifies that splendour into a space to reflect upon life and absorb the beauty of nature.

A MERMAIDS TALE, designed by Julie Haylock with Sandhurst Garden Designs

The garden tells the story of an isolated smuggler's cottage near to a secret cove on the Cornish coast. When there is no-one about, a beautiful mermaid visits the garden to enjoy the peace and tranquillity where she stays for a while before she returns to her watery home. The willow mermaid sits in the centre of the garden on a circle of pebbles which suggest the beach. There is a bench made from driftwood set in front of a semi-circle of painted vertical posts which represent the breakwater. The pastel colours of the wildlife friendly planting mirror the colours of the sea using blue, white and violet tones which create a feeling of calm and contemplation. The treasure chest and hurricane lamp represent the smuggler's tools of the trade and the connection to the Cornish coast.

DIARMUID GAVIN FOR THE YOUNG LANDSCAPERS AWARD

Two stunningly designed Show Gardens have been crafted by Diarmuid Gavin to challenge a diverse range of landscaping skills from the four contestants in this new competition, in partnership with the APL. Visitors to the Show will be able to see an array of practical landscaping options in a variety of materials, in a relatively small garden setting of around 30m². Diarmuid will present the award to the winning pair of Young Landscapers on Wednesday 13 June and will take to the stage sharing gardening tips and expertise with visitors on Thursday 14 June.