

Launching BBC Gardeners' World Live's Young Landscapers Award

BBC Gardeners' World Live organisers are excited to announce the launch of the BBC Gardeners' World Live Young Landscapers Award, supported by the Association of Professional Landscapers (APL). This brand new competition at BBC Gardeners' World Live (14-17 June at The NEC) is a platform to promote excellence in the landscaping industry and support up and coming landscapers, encouraging them to engage with high profile projects.

Four of the very best young landscapers in the country, all aged under 28, will form two teams, to display their high calibre skills in this tough competition. Designed to champion skills amongst young people and nurture emerging talent, the competition will see the contenders working in pairs to build two challenging Show Gardens packed with an array of landscaping elements. The Show Gardens designs, each at over 30m², will require the landscapers to show off a variety of skills to the very best of their ability.

With both gardens completed within the demanding timeframe of a Show Garden build, they'll be assessed on Wednesday 13 June by the BBC Gardeners' World Live Show Garden Assessment Panel plus two dedicated judges from the WorldSkills Assessment Panel, assessing the gardens to WorldSkills UK standards and tolerances. One duo will be crowned the same day as BBC Gardeners' World Live Young Landscapers of 2018, before the Show opens to the public on Thursday 14 June. For an expected 100,000 visitors, the two Show Gardens will be packed with interest and a multitude of design ideas and space savvy solutions to take home.

The BBC Gardeners' World Live Young Landscapers Award is made possible through the support of top sponsors to present the competition – The APL, Marshalls, Landscape Skills Academy and JA Jones Nurseries.

Phil Tremayne, Manager of The APL, said "We are proud to be supporting these gardens at BBC Gardeners' World Live. There is a well-documented and growing skills shortage in the sector and it is great to be able to link the work we are already doing in the organising of WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening competition and delivering our very own APL apprenticeship. This will help to form a pipeline into what we hope will be a great competition. We look forward to seeing the results".

Chris Harrop, Group Marketing Director at Marshalls, said "We are thrilled to be supporting BBC Gardeners' World Live once again. The Young Landscapers Award is a fantastic opportunity for the landscapers of the future to showcase their skills, and BBC Gardeners' World Live is the perfect stage for them to do so. We believe it's vitally important to nurture the next generation of landscapers, and give them opportunities to explore their own creativity. Show Gardens are the perfect setting by which to show our product's full potential, and we look forward to seeing what ideas the competitors come up with."