

Design

News, ideas and sourcebook

POOL OF LIGHT

A bold intervention at the heart of the public garden at 25 Cannon Street in the City of London has been granted planning permission. Tom Stuart-Smith, in collaboration with water designer Andrew Ewing, has designed a vast reflecting pool, 14.4m long by 6.8m at its widest, with two huge acrylic sheets inset into the base that allow natural light into a basement office below, but prevent artificial light from escaping into the garden. Sloping limestone edging doubles as seating. Construction is due to start this winter. tomstuartsmith.co.uk





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① CYCLING THROUGH THE TREES

An elevated section has been added to the Limburg cycle route at Hechtel-Eksel, Belgium, to provide cyclists with an immersive experience through the treetops in Pijnven forest. The two-tier bridge, which forms two circles, suggestive of tree rings, is 700m long and gradually rises to a height of 10m. It is supported on Corten steel columns that mimic the trunks of the surrounding pine trees. Designed by architects De Gregorio & Partners, with landscape architects BuroLandschap, for Visit Limburg, it won gold for Architecture in the International Design Awards 2019 in Los Angeles. burolandschap.net

② OAK CANCER CENTRE

A new treatment and research centre at Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, in Surrey, has been given the green light. Designed by BDP architects as a series of peaceful spaces with access to natural light, the six-storey building has a westerly orientation towards the landscaped gardens. A deep elliptical border, following the curve of the building, will be planted with drifts of trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials to provide year-round interest. Some of the plants used by Piet Oudolf in the garden he designed for the nearby Royal Marsden Maggie's Centre will be included in the mix. bdp.com

③ NEW HOUSE FOR HISTORIC SITE

Planning permission has been granted for a contemporary house, with gardens by Marian Boswall Landscape Architects on the site of the former home of Victorian horticulturist Lady Dorothy Nevill. Designed by Miranda Montagu architects with Invisible Studio, the house will overlook a valley in the South Downs National Park. The landscape design, which references the undulating landform of the Downs, will include miscanthus, pennisetum and wildflowers, with vertical accents from multi-stem trees to help ground the house in the landscape. marianboswall.com

④ KENGO KUMA PAVILION

A pavilion to mark the centenary of the birth of Sri Lankan architect Geoffrey Bawa has been created by Tokyo-based Kengo Kuma Associates. Installed at Bentota on Sri Lanka's southwest coast where Bawa created his famous tropical gardens on the site of a former rubber plantation, the design references a local palm tree known as *kithul*, often used in traditional Sri Lankan craft, to suggest the softness of Bawa's architecture and its roots in nature. A continuous ribbon of steel mesh provides the framework for the woven leaves, folded to create an amorphous form. kkaa.co.jp



⑤ NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Detailed plans have been revealed for re-designed gardens at London's Natural History Museum. Landscape architects J&L Gibbons and Feilden Fowles will transform the five-acre gardens, doubling the area of native habitats in the Wildlife Garden and adding a new Learning and Activity Centre. The gardens provide a journey through the history of life on earth with plants, such as tree ferns and cycads, and models dinosaurs, and will become the centrepiece of the Museum's Urban Nature Project that aims to encourage people to engage with the nature on their doorsteps. nhm.ac.uk

⑥ APL AWARDS

Garden designer Karen Chamberlain has won Designer of the Year in the APL 2020 awards for a recently refurbished house on the Essex Suffolk border. The T-shaped garden, with a swimming pool as its social hub, features a porcelain pathway, framed with steel-edged, lushly planted beds, and cloister-like side paths framed by a timber pergola on one side and a freestanding structure on the other. A line of *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' creates a restful backdrop to the pool and the large formal lawn beyond the pool is flanked with box-framed beds. aplwards.co.uk; karenchamberlain.co.uk

⑦ WISLEY GARDENS

Mark Gregory and his team at Landform Consultants has started on the construction of the three new gardens at RHS Garden Wisley. Starting with the Wellbeing Garden (shown) designed by Matt Keightley, with its serpentine rill and pool, the contractors will then move on to the Wildlife Garden and the World Food Garden, both designed by Ann-Marie Powell. All three gardens will surround the new National Centre for Horticultural Science and Learning that will house laboratories, a herbarium, learning studios and teaching garden and a library, which is due to open in spring 2021. rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

⑧ BRIGHTON PAVILION GARDEN

A project to improve the historic garden of the Royal Pavilion in Brighton has received development funding of £214,400 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund. The Grade II-listed garden, which was designed by architect John Nash in the early 19th century, has deteriorated in recent years. The plans, which are part of a wider project to re-establish Brighton's Royal Pavilion Estate as a key cultural destination, include restoring listed lamp posts and balustrade and creating a picturesque effect, in keeping with Regency gardens. brighton-hove.gov.uk