



One of Boswall's recent garden projects



Marian Boswall

# INDUSTRY ZONE

Compiled by Jane Perrone

Education & career advice plus the latest on SGD members and projects

## MEMBER PROFILE

# MARIAN BOSWALL MSGD

We talk to the designer about the challenges and joys of running her own practice

### How many people do you employ?

We are five landscape architects and two horticulturists plus an office manager and freelance staff.

### Is there a practice style?

I trained in horticulture first and bring that aesthetic to all our work. The end look is very soft with abundant planting, but this effect is grounded in the rigour of a landscape architect's understanding of space, form and construction principles.

### What projects do you work on?

I am historic gardens advisor for several private estates, so we are often asked to work on estate plans for listed buildings in sensitive settings, such as Charleston and the Watts Gallery. We also work on modern developments, and have recently built a two-acre lake with cascades and lake cabin, and a contemporary sculpture garden for a modern art collector.

### Which projects are you most proud of?

Some projects make me feel proud because we achieved a difficult

planning and heritage application, such as an ambitious plan to develop a parkland setting of new houses in the grounds of a derelict Victorian hall. Others I'm proud of push planting boundaries – for instance, a healing garden for the Blackthorn Trust.

### What are some of the challenges?

The administration side can be overwhelming, and if you ignore it, it can break the practice. It's important to schedule and budget projects to make sure you are creating beautiful spaces and still making a profit.

### What are you working on now?

We have around 20 projects at different stages. We are designing a landform and landscape setting for a sculpture of Watts' 'Physical Energy' to go beside the A3 in Surrey, plus estate masterplans and three listed walled gardens.

### What software do you use?

We use Vectorworks, Rhino, SketchUp, CAD, Adobe suite and Microsoft Office.

### What do you look for when you are recruiting?

With a lot of exposure to high-expectation clients, people skills are as important as creativity; from manners to the ability to listen. All of the design team are qualified landscape architects with a strong horticultural training, and we look for people who are CMLI or looking to go through the Pathway.

### How do you envisage the practice growing in the next five years?

We are looking to recruit another Associate and Senior to assist on the larger projects. We are accepting fewer but larger projects with complex programming and design needs.

### What's the best part of working at Marian Boswall Landscape Architects?

We are a small practice with highly prestigious work. I worked in large multinationals before and was keen to set up a flexible organisation, which is very creative and fleet of foot.

[www.marianboswall.com](http://www.marianboswall.com)

## INFO

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