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was given to the main front entrance of the property, while existing trees were retained alongside new additions in the form of deciduous and evergreen specimens to create screening while allowing light in. Naturalist woodland planting schemes, including *Ilex* 'Dragon Lady', *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* and *sarcococca* were used throughout the space, bringing texture, movement and year-round interest and softening the approach to the house.

24 CHRISTIAN SWEET MSGD **VILLA BALBIANO, LAKE COMO**

Villa Balbiano is a historically important 16th-century mansion on the shores of Lake Como. The brief was to build on the surviving formal framework from the last major redesign in the 1960s, and to breathe new life into the gardens. The designer created a series of distinct rooms, including an ornamental vegetable garden, a shaded vine walk, a garden of mixed shrub borders, a rose garden and a terrace garden, complete with pergola festooned with wisteria and jasmine. Over 6,500 plants have been



added to the gardens, including trees, topiary, shrubs and bulbs. The project also included the repair and renovation of the central fountains and cascade for which the villa is well known.

25 MARIAN BOSWALL MSGD **BREDE PLACE**

The original building at Brede Place was erected in 1350, so there is a rich history to both the house and its gardens, which have fallen into disrepair. The plan for this new garden is to provide a setting for the historic manor house, with both open and enclosed spaces, and to integrate it with the countryside beyond. A sweeping new drive will build a sense of place, a family arrival courtyard will offer a rural aesthetic, and a new walled garden kitchen leads to a pool and entertaining space with fireplace and loggia. A pleached lime walk will lead from the family parking area to the entrance courtyard, from which a series of shallow terraces with a central infinity edge rill widen and frame the view and provide the focal link to the house. A new moon

garden is planned to the north of the rill terraces; plus renovation of topiary from the 1900s and lakes, dells and woodlands in the wider estate.

26 CAROLYN WILLITTS **HALE GARDEN**

This design was created for a new house in Cheshire, where the client wanted a formal, family garden. The brief included a request to screen views into neighbouring properties, so the designer included box-pleached trees and hedges to create a sense of enclosure. The formal garden blends into more informal landscape towards the boundaries, aided by naturalistic ornamental, meadow and woodland planting with birch grove. Other elements include cloud-pruned topiary spheres and artworks sited across the landscape. The hardscaping is drawn from a palette of limestone and sandstone, used as paving slabs, setts and gravel. Two feature benches in granite have illustrations etched onto the surface in layers traced from photos of vegetation from the first site visit. →