

DESIGN TRENDS

2020

More than any other year, this year the trend in garden design is unanimous. We asked ten leading designers to explain how they are responding to the need for more sustainable and thoughtful garden design, taking into account climate change, benefits to wildlife and our own well-being. It sounds complex but in fact it means a much more relaxed approach to how our gardens look, which is reflected both in what we are asking for and what designers are offering.

Marian Boswall

Landscape architect

Rising awareness of our ecological impact is making it easier for landscape architects to integrate sustainable principles in our designs as clients understand the need.

From managing woodlands with coppice for biomass, and lakes for water-source heat in estate masterplans, to solar power and rainwater harvesting in smaller gardens. We are using materials that are up-cycled or can be reused, or left to age gracefully *wabi-sabi* style.

We have seen a shift to recycling buildings as well and have worked on a farmstead converted to a biodynamic winery and boutique hotel, and a large waterfront arts centre with outdoor grass amphitheatre created from old boat warehouses.

We are designing labyrinths and mindful moments in our gardens and see a need for spiritual retreat sitting alongside a renewed hopefulness being expressed in forest gardens, and community health schemes.

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