



DOMESTIC GARDEN SCHEME CONSTRUCTION - COST OVER £10,000 Principal Award

Contractor: Brookhill Landscapes, Nottingham
Designer: Kevin Straw, Brookhill Landscapes
Scheme: Private garden at Southwell, Nottingham

A Southwell resident instructed Kevin Straw to construct this garden as a surprise gift for his wife while they were away on a three week holiday.

It was carefully designed to blend in with the Victorian house. Old York stone was used near the house, and the planting contains soft colours. The focus is a garbo, made of textured timber to stand out. The judges commented on the use of *Scelus lupinus* as a ground cover as being especially in tune with its surroundings.

"To get the work done in time, we made sure that all the materials were on tap, and to get on quickly we had different projects in the garden going on at the same time," said Straw.

National Award

Contractor: Brophy Landscapes, St. Albans
Designer: Ronnie Scott, International Landscapes, London

Scheme: Private garden, Bergh Apton, Norwich
The client wanted to have uninterrupted views of the surrounding countryside from the front of the house and asked Brophy to construct a ha-ha.

given balance and structure, explained Peter Dowle. It has a rose garden, an orchard, a mat walk, herbaceous walk and a croquet lawn, with vistas out to surrounding parkland.

It might all sound a bit reminiscent of the famous gardens nearby at Hidcote and Kiftgate. But what makes this one different is the construction of a new Japanese garden, complete with a tea house, backed by a bamboo fence imported from Japan, Japanese maples and stone lanterns hand-carved in Japan.

DOMESTIC GARDEN SCHEME CONSTRUCTION - COST LESS THAN £10,000

Principal Award

Contractor: Mill House Landscapes, Rusley Manor Garden Centre, Sidcup
Designer: Robin Temple Williams
Scheme: Private garden at Kew

The success of this scheme was partly due to 'having a good client who trusted us', says contractor Tim Williams. The design, by Robin Temple Williams, cleverly utilised all of the 400 by 150 London garden to create three 'rooms'.

There is a dining area, a quiet reflective area and a paved area for barbecues. The first two rooms are divided by a heavy-duty pergola, with a *Crataegus 'Pendula'* trained along its length. Other divisions are made with trellis work and a rose

Britain's BEST LANDSCAPES

Rosemary Izat looks at the landscape schemes that took the prizes in this year's BALI awards

After a vintage year of landscape awards last year, you might expect the judges to find the following year's entries not quite up to the mark. But that wasn't the case with this year's BALI awards, however. The quality remained impressively high, according to Bill Gillespie, chairman of the judges. The panel was presented with some very unusual and well planned schemes.

While, design was a consideration in the judging, the main criteria were the quality of the workmanship and the materials used.

Thirty-three awards were made this year, out of 102 entries, 11 more than last year. The geography of entrants was different this year, with only four from the south west of England, but a record 30 submissions from Scotland. This inspired the Scottish Landscape Industry Group (SLIG) to

make its own landscape award for the first time. It went to Minchell and Struthers, who also scooped the Land Renewal Scheme Award.

The winner of this year's Grand Award, given when a contractor is faced with a series of problems that he solves well, according to Gillespie - went to Phoenix Landscapes for its scheme at Castle Mall.

Most winning contractors said they thought they had won because of their attention to detail. A common thread between many of the principal award winners is the employment of their own full-time labour, with no sub-contracting or agency workers.

Assisting Gillespie with the judging were: landscape architect Ian MacKenzie; Alan Barber, consultant; and former BALI chairman Nigel North.



Brookhill had three weeks to construct its principal award winning garden (top)

Brophy had to construct a 45-metre long ha-ha as part of its private garden scheme in Norwich

Among other refurbishment, a courtyard was paved using brindle-coloured concrete setts, with the client's initials in marble.

National Award

Contractor: A G M Landscaping, Farnham
Designer: Robin Williams (Senior)

Scheme: Private Garden, Echchimow, Newbury
The judges praised the use of paving, stone and brickwork in this country garden.

Richard Moya of A G M Landscaping said clay pavements were used to blend with the house, and the garden walls were built of flint with brick coping. An upper garden has a lawn with seating and plenty of colourful herbaceous planting. A complicated drainage system was installed to cope with a patio and pond below the water table.

National Award

Contractor: The Julian Dowle Partnership
Designer: Jacqui Gordon and Koji Ninomaya

Scheme: Private Garden, Worcestershire
This four-acre garden was compartmentalised and

arch. Access was a problem - as everything had to be taken through the newly redecorated house.

National Award

Contractor: Graduate Gardeners, Gloucestershire
Designer: David Scott, Graduate Gardeners

Scheme: Flag House, Minsham-on-Severn
A small courtyard adjoining a listed building near Stroud was designed on two levels, with the client's collection of pots arranged on a raised terrace. Although the courtyard has no lawn, planting within the paving creates a softening effect. As Scott was able to reuse materials already on site, the cost was well under £10,000.

National Award

Contractor: Creative Landscape, Berry Brook Garden Centre, Plymouth, Reading

Designer: Glenn George and Mark Gillard, Creative Landscape
Scheme: Private garden, Caversham, Reading
Mark Gillard, who trained in graphic design and photography, conceives designs around shapes D