

HOMES & GARDENS[®]

OCTOBER 2018
£4.60

OUR FAVOURITE THINGS

INSPIRING NEW COLLECTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

RECALL: 3/10/18



**CONSIDERED
DESIGN**

FROM A LIGHT-FILLED
LONDON TERRACE TO AN
ART LOVER'S RETREAT

PLUS
CREATE A
WOODLAND GARDEN
RECIPES FOR AN
ALFRESCO BANQUET

HOW TO CREATE

A WOODLAND GARDEN SCHEME

Take inspiration from the plants and design ideas in this elegant garden by Gillespies in Holland Park, London, to make your own tranquil, leafy retreat



△ SURFACE MATERIALS

The designers of this garden have used a variety of landscaping materials for different purposes and effects. Stone setts were chosen for the paths and terraces in areas that are used most, creating a tapestry of textures to offset the planting. The main paths and open spaces have been laid in porphyry setts (similar setts are available from CED, cedstone.co.uk), while stepping stones create informal routes over mossy areas between plants, and secondary bark mulch paths weave through the trees.

△ ADD WATER

Bounce spangles of sunlight into your woodland with a water feature positioned just beyond the tree canopy. This beautiful, contemporary-style reflection pool is made from Corten steel and mirrors the leaves and the sky above, with water lilies floating on the surface. To keep the pool clear, a pump hidden beneath the surface circulates and filters the water. In autumn, the pool will need to be covered with netting or cleaned regularly to prevent it from becoming clogged with fallen leaves and debris.



CREATE A JOURNEY

Make a walkway that takes you past areas of interest, such as statuary, seating and eye-catching plants or trees. A sinuous or circular path will enhance the experience and make the garden feel larger, while varying the materials will add another dimension to the design. This naturalistic bark mulch path contrasts with stone and is reminiscent of a forest floor.

▽ LIGHT YOUR WAY

Extend your time in the garden with a few strategically placed lights. Set LED uplights at the base of trees with decorative trunks and angle them into the canopy, or fix lights to branches with the beam shining down through the leaves to create a moonlit effect on the patio or planting below. You can hide small LEDs in the planting beds to highlight leaf shapes and textures, while placing lights under seats will make them easy to find after dark and create a subtle ambience.

▷ LAYERED PLANTING

Take a look at a native woodland to recreate the way the plants grow in layers in your scheme. In the dry shade beneath the trees, include drought-tolerant ferns, tough-flowerers such as epimediums and Japanese anemones (*Anemone x hybrida*), and grasses such as snow rush (*Luzula nivea*). Add spring interest by planting crocus and daffodil bulbs in the dappled light at the edge of the tree canopies, and include a few hellebores to brighten up the garden with their winter blooms.





◁ SMART SCREENING

For perimeters and internal screens, opt for timber trelliswork that allows sun to filter through, augmenting the dappled light produced by trees. It also provides a scaffold for climbing plants, such as star jasmine or clematis, to scramble up and soften the hard lines of the garden's boundaries. The horizontal slats of this bespoke trellis (for a similar design, try The Garden Trellis Co, gardentrellis.co.uk) contrast with the vertical tree trunks, too, creating an exciting visual effect.

▽ ARTISTIC TOUCHES

Choose sculptures and weatherproof artworks to add a personal touch to your space. Simple etched stone pieces, such as this one by Lida Lopes Cardozo Kindersley of The Cardozo Kindersley Workshop, kindersleyworkshop.co.uk, mimic stony outcrops. Alternatively, sculptures such as this bronze bird by Susie Bacon, susie@raveningham.com, make a fitting addition to a garden filled with wildlife. If your woodland is used by children, a few simple wooden blocks set into the ground will create a natural installation and stepping stones for them to enjoy.



EXPERT ADVICE MAKING A WOODLAND IN A CITY GARDEN



OLIVER DUGUID,
associate at Gillespies,
gillespies.co.uk,
and designer of
the project at
Holland Park Villas.

What tips do you have for planting trees in a paved courtyard?

Plant small trees with year-round interest in large containers that hold plenty of compost and water to sustain them, and install a watering system to prevent them from drying out. Set out smaller pots around the trees and fill with ferns and grasses such as *Hakonechloa macra* (Japanese forest grass) and carex, to soften the hard surfaces and maximise interest.

How would you bring movement into the garden?

Introducing still or moving water into a small woodland has a magical impact, animating the space while reflecting the light and tree canopies. You can also achieve movement with taller, filigree grasses, such as hair grass (*deschampsia*). These will catch the lightest of breezes and add a flowing wave through the underplanting even on calm days.

Which plant colours convey a naturalistic woodland look?

Plants for shade are predominantly green, but their foliage is hugely varied and textural. At Holland Park Villas, we used the contrasting leaf textures of *Hakonechloa macra* and *rodgersia* to soften the edges of the path and included white flowering plants, such as *Helleborus niger* and *Astrantia major* 'Shaggy', to complement the richness of the green foliage and to create a contemporary look.

“If you haven't much space for trees, create the dappled light that woodland plants love with a timber pergola, or plant them along the base of a shady north-facing wall or fence.”

JAMES SCOTT MSGD, managing director and principal designer, The Garden Company, thegardenco.co.uk.