



PRESS RELEASE

Future Gardens unveils exclusive designs to be showcased at inaugural summer event

– 12 innovative designs will feature at 1st UK showcase for contemporary sustainable garden event –

Future Gardens, the launch-pad of the ground-breaking Butterfly World Project near St Albans, has unveiled the 12 outstanding designs that will feature at its much anticipated inaugural designer garden event opening on 5th June 2009.

Each garden has an inventive and individual theme, with many inspired by nature's offering. Some of the designs are highly conceptual creations such as Tony Heywood's **Anthroscape 3** which will question the definition of landscape by incorporating an extraordinary diverse range of garden styles. Many have a distinct intention to attract butterflies such as Marcus Green's **For Cosmo**, which aims to attract over 40 native different species.

All the garden designs demonstrate that sustainability and innovative, contemporary design can co-exist and be mutually beneficial. Jane Hudson & Erik De Maeijer's garden is a strong reflection of this and their design, **Nest**, based around the creation of a place to nurture, includes Coppiced Willow which grows over a very short period of time and can be used as an efficient renewable energy source.

Therese Lang, director of TJM Associates and creative director of Future Gardens said:

"This is a very exciting stage in the development of Future Gardens and we are delighted to be sharing such imaginative designs with the public within this exciting landscape. The 12 designer gardens will all be sustainably constructed as intentionally thought-provoking gardens. The selection panel was hugely impressed by how each designer interpreted the creative brief.

"Future Gardens will provide visitors with the inspiration and enthusiasm to think about how they can develop their own garden space with real imagination while at the same time keeping the environment in mind. We are very much looking forward to illustrating how the gardens will change and develop over the four summer months – a luxury that is not available at any other UK garden event."

Award-winning landscape designer Andy Sturgeon, whose **Urban Greening** design is one of the 12 that will feature in Future Gardens said said:

"Future Gardens is a rare opportunity to make a statement with a garden and provides an international stage on which designers can flex their conceptual muscles. It feels like a breath of fresh air. '**Urban Greening**' is a response to the loss of green spaces in our cities and highlights the way that good quality landscape design can improve the environment. Huge oxidized steel monoliths sitting amongst native trees represent the cityscape and its encroachment on the surrounding green belt and countryside."

Almost 100 designers from across the world responded to this exciting brief asking for pioneering garden designs that would acknowledge the fragility of the environment and fire the imagination of all generations visiting the event.



A selection panel including James Alexander Sinclair, Andrew Fisher Tomlin and Cleve West chose 12 outstanding designs which were submitted by a range of designers, from the award winning to new emerging talent in the design world. High profile designers, including Andy Sturgeon, Tony Heywood and Bruno Marmiroli are amongst those who will showcase their innovative gardens with a maximum budget of £25,000.

There is a 13th show garden – **Harry's Garden** which is being designed by landscape, garden and horticultural designer, Fern Alder. To date Fern has won two Silver and one Gold Medal for RHS Hampton Court Palace Show Gardens and has been the winner of two park design competitions in France.

Visitors will experience a fascinating journey through a variety of unique and thought-provoking contemporary landscapes which, as well as the evolving designer gardens, will include permanent gardens. Each of these permanent gardens is an acknowledgment of the fascinating anatomy of the butterfly, such as land art 'antennae' walk-ways and a spiral 'proboscis' walk.

An anticipated highlight among the permanent gardens will be the three leaf gardens; the Lilliput Leaf Garden will allow visitors to see the world from an insect's eye view, the Children's Leaf Garden will engage children in designing gardens which will sit in butterfly egg-shaped beds, and the Dry Leaf Garden will show how even the strangest of man-made objects can create an ecologically sensitive habitat for insects.

While all of these gardens are designed to captivate, enthrall and most importantly, attract native butterfly and insect species, the British Butterfly Garden in particular will display the most up-to-the-minute research into caterpillar food and nectar plants. There is also a garden dedicated to the late Dame Miriam Rothschild. This garden will be a tribute to her work as a scientific advisor to the project.

The Butterfly World Project will see its annual Future Gardens event showcase the highly creative and forward-thinking designs for four months every year. Visitors to the 26 acre site near St Albans will be able to see and appreciate how gardens mature and evolve through the season.

The creative brief for Future Gardens 2010 applicants will be released in March 2009 and those wishing to find out more information or submit a design should email Therese Lang, founder of Future Gardens on futuregardens@tjmassociates.com or call 01373 812223.

Future Gardens will be open to the public from 5th June to 4th October 2009 and will reopen in June 2010. The world's largest butterfly dome will be installed in 2011, completing the £25 million world-class visitor attraction, which will then be open twelve months of the year.

- ENDS -

For further information please contact:

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Designer Information and inspirations

Jane Hudson & Erik De Maeijer – Nest

Husband and wife team; awarded silver medals at the Chelsea Flower show four years in a row (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005). Jane is an RHS judge, Erik is a senior landscape architect.



The theme of their garden is based around the creation of a home, a place to nurture and keep their young safe. Having four children of our own, their inherent desire to protect them has been the main inspiration. Willows form a large part of their planting scheme which provides a beautiful range of stem colour, growth form and crown architecture. They have chosen to include Coppiced Willow in a bid to protect the children of the future as it grows over a short period of time and can be used as a renewable energy source.

Paul Dracott - The Exoskeleton

A writer for the Garden Design Journal, Paul has recently had one of his garden designs chosen to be constructed at RHS Wisely.

Inspired by one of nature's oldest and most successful bodily structures, his design combines modern and natural sustainable materials that blend with a collection of robust perennial plants such as reed grasses, smart weeds and select Asian herbs. Paul's design is a garden borne of the insect for the insect.

Fiona Heron - Nature's Artistry, Autumn's Edge

Fiona is a well known artist and landscape architect, regularly lecturing in art, urban design and landscape architecture. She often sits on the Nottingham Urban Design Review Panel and is a judge for the Lord Mayor's Urban Design.

Inspiration for her design is taken from poetry with the design concept based upon nature's shifting patterns, fragility and temporal artistry. Fiona's garden reflects the beauty of nature's seasonal flow seen through the way autumn hints at new beginnings. Her talent as a sculptor is evident in her nest and bulrush creations highlighting, that in nature, some elements have a lifespan of change and others are resilient.

Greenwave Design, Michelle Wake & Chloe Leaper - Release Garden

A visiting lecturer at the Inebald School of Design, Michelle won a silver medal at RHS Hampton Court in 2006. Chloe is an award winning sculptor and senior lecturer at the Inebald.

The theme of their design is based on the narrative and emotional structure of Richard Wagner's abstract musical 'Mild und Leise'. They are creating a journey through emotions which is split into three parts. Visitors begin their journey by experiencing tension as they pass through a tightly woven area with low and dense overhead branches. They will then enter the area of release - full of uplifting and colourful orange daylilies and yellow flag irises before progressing to a calm, tranquil area with a reflecting pool.



Hugo Bugg & Maren Hallenga - *Narratives of Nature*

Emerging young designers Hugo & Maren both studied garden design at University College Falmouth and have worked collaboratively on a £22M lottery funded project.

Their design is inspired by the richness of natural environments and their ability to provide food. The layout of their garden shows that a conventional kitchen garden is not required to achieve this and emphasises the need to look towards more sustainable and ecologically sound living. Hugo and Maren achieve this by using many edible plants such as brambles, wild ginger and wild strawberries that naturally occur in British woodlands and hedgerows.

Roger Phillips - *The Chalk Garden*

A renowned photographer and writer, Roger has written and presented gardening programmes on UK television and has had around 40 volumes of his books on plants published.

He has been inspired by his love of chalk hills and visits to the garden of the Silver Pavilion in Japan. Roger has used plants which are exclusive to chalk hills and that create a perfect environment for special kinds of butterfly such as Horseshoe Vetch and Lady's Bedstraw.

Tony Heywood - *Anthroscape 3*

Previously head gardener at Hyde Park Estate in London for 14 years, Tony has had his own successful design companies for almost 10 years.

Inspiration for his design is taken from his perception of the current vision of nature as rarely sourced first hand but as a piecemeal view from TV, films and magazines. Tony's design incorporates a diverse range of garden styles that question the definition of landscape - using plants such as Salad Burnet, Heart-of-the-earth and Ragged Robins.

Peter Thomas - *Metamorphosis*

Australian garden designer Peter is a visiting lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire and chairman of The Society of Garden Designers.

His design is inspired by Phillip Dick's novel 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep' and the Electric Sheep screensaver concept. Peter's garden highlights the process of natural selection as his garden is designed to evolve. In his garden, a wild flower meadow environment is juxtaposed against brightly coloured artificial flowers. Visitors are encouraged



to vote for their favourite flower and the most popular flowers will replace the least popular choice.

Andy Sturgeon - Urban Greening

A journalist, television presenter, best selling book author and garden designer - Andy has won gold medals at Chelsea Flower Show 4 years in a row (2005-08).

Andy's garden intends to highlight the need for better landscape design in cities to increase biodiversity and raise the quality of people's lives. His garden demonstrates that it is important to have an attractive balance between cityscape and nature and he uses a lot of native and perennial planting to achieve this.

Marcus Green - For Cosmo

Emerging designer, Marcus is a graduate of Inchtald School of Design and in 2007 built his first conceptual garden at Hampton Court.

Inspired by his dog Cosmo's physical movements and the contours and shapes of rural landscape, Marcus's design intends to highlight resilience and beauty of native species in the field margins and the diversity of wildlife they support. All plants are native to his local area of Northamptonshire and are designed to attract over 40 different species of butterflies and moths.

Rosita Castro, Isabelle Fordin and Anomiastudio Architetture - Welcome

Chilean-born garden designer Rosita Castro has come together with French/ Italian visual artist Isabelle Fordin and landscape architects Gianluca Nucci, Domenico Simone, Tiziano Testa of Italy and Eduardo Blanes of Spain.

Welcome is a garden that is inspired by the fragility of man's relationship with nature. Visitors will view their design from a metal cage in the centre of the garden which is intended to symbolise the freedom of nature. The design is a tribute to the inspirational world of the butterfly using a variety of lavenders, grasses and ivy to attract them.

Bruno Marmiroli - The H Garden

French landscape architect Bruno has previously been involved in garden festivals around the world including Chaumont Garden Festival and The International Festival of the Garden at Westonbirt UK

Inspired by the Greek gardens and mythology, Bruno's design reflects the links between myths, sacred areas and gardens throughout history. The garden urges visitors to re-



consider their relationship with nature by offering a perfect viewpoint where visitors can absorb the contrast between pink plantations and the golden heart of the garden known as the sacred area.

Notes to Editors:

Future Gardens press day will be on 4th June 2009, one day prior to the opening.

- Future Gardens selection panel:
 - James Alexander Sinclair
 - Andrew Fisher Tomlin
 - Cleve West
 - Ivan Hicks
 - Therese Lang
 - Clive Farrell
- TJM Associates Ltd, Founders, Future Gardens
- Butterfly World Project Ltd is the company responsible for developing and running the £25m visitor attraction
- Butterfly World Project Founders: Clive Farrell; Co-Founder John Calvert
- Project Trustees:
 - Professor David Bellamy (Chief Trustee)
 - The Dowager Lady Pamela Egremont
 - Doctor Jeremy Thomas
 - Malcolm Tucker
 - Stella Smith
- Project Patrons:
 - Sir David Attenborough CH FRS
 - The Marquess of Salisbury PC DL
 - Emilia Fox
 - The Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, The Countess Verulam
 - Baroness Helena Kennedy QC
 - Prof. John A Pickett CBE DSc FRS
 - Martin Lane Fox FRICS VMH
 - Allan Titchmarsh MBE VMH DL
 - Rosie Boycott
 - Priscilla Rattazzi-Whittle
 - Ian Worlock
- A percentage of Butterfly World Project Limited company shares will be donated to the Butterfly World Trust to invest into research, conservation and community projects.
- The Butterfly World biome will open spring 2011 and will be home to 10,000 tropical butterflies
- www.butterfly-world.org and www.futuregardens.org