

NURTURE



Hydrangea annabelle



Eryngium and Allium sphaerocephalon



Equisetum hyemale



Polystichum and Primula



Plant list

Trees

- Acer palmatum 'Sango-kaku'
- Amelanchier lamarckii 'Robin Hill'
- Carpinus betulus – Pleached
- Cornus kousa var. chinensis – Multi stem
- Magnolia grandiflora – Pleached
- Pyrus communis 'Conference' – Espalier

Shrubs, roses and hedging

- Buxus sempervirens
- Camellia Japonica 'Auguste Delfosse'
- Carpinus betulus
- Cistus × corbariensis
- Elaeagnus × ebbingei
- Hebe parviflora
- Hebe pinguifolia 'Pagei'
- Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'
- Hydrangea aspera sargentiana
- Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'
- Lavandula angustifolia 'Munstead'
- Mahonia eurybracteata 'Soft caress'
- Pittosporum tenuifolium
- Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Silver Queen'
- Pittosporum tobira 'Nanum'
- Rosa 'Madame Isaac Péreire'
- Sarcococca confusa
- Taxus baccata
- Viburnum tinus 'Eve Price'

Perennials, bulbs and ferns

- Acanthus spinosus
- Agapanthus Headbourne hybrids
- Alchemilla mollis
- Allium 'Mont Blanc'
- Allium schubertii
- Allium sphaerocephalon
- Aquilegia vulgaris 'Stellata ruby port'
- Artemisia 'Powis Castle'
- Astelia chathamica 'Silver Spear'
- Astilbe 'Hennie Graafland'
- Camassia leichtlinii caerulea
- Dryopteris filix-mas
- Echinacea purpurea 'White Swan'
- Equisetum hyemale
- Eremurus himalaicus
- Eryngium planum 'Blaukappe'
- Euphorbia × martini 'Baby Charm'
- Helleborus niger 'Praecox'
- Hosta 'Sum and Substance'
- Hosta Halcyon
- Sedum herbstfreude 'Autumn joy'
- Iris pallida subsp. pallida
- Paeonia lactiflora 'Duchesse de Nemours'
- Paeonia lactiflora 'Sarah Bernhardt'
- Papaver orientale 'Patty's Plum'
- Persicaria amplexicaulis 'Blackfields'
- Primula vialii
- Tulbaghia violacea 'Variegata'
- Zantedeschia aethiopica

Climbers

- Clematis cirrhosa 'Wisley Cream'
- Rosa Gertrude Jekyll

Aquatics

- Nymphaea odorata

Designer PLANTS

Rae Wilkinson creates a timeless scheme where structural planting provides a formal feel in a rural location

The existing sloping lawn of this family home presented a blank canvas on a moist, sandy soil. The client's brief included a level lawn, a cut flower and vegetable garden and a pond, within a soft yet formal and usable garden that they could all enjoy.

Rae Wilkinson decided to keep the planting emphasis on structure and texture, to complement the landscaping around a new level lawn. The most notable structural planting took the form of two lines of pleached hornbeam. These were planted to run either side of a new rill pond, diverting the focus from a dark and imposing existing boundary hedge, and creating a vista and destination corner that

was visible yet secluded. The base of the pleachers was filled with light evergreen foliage on the dark side of the hedge, with a run of Iris, Astelia and Camassia on the lawn edge. This was balanced with a bank of Hydrangea 'Annabelle' at the head of the vista, lifting the whole dark corner and drawing the eye away from hedge and towards the new planting.

Predominantly indigenous yew and Buxus hedging was utilised to divide up the garden areas, and to form a clipped table around the rill pond. The pathways and steps were softened by blocks of Hebe, Euphorbia and Alchemilla, providing texture and foliage colour.

The garden benefits from natural water runoff percolating through from the hillside: perfect for the ferns used in the shady end of the garden and the Iris along the lawn edge. The client also wanted Hostas close to the main terrace, so these were planted in large

terracotta pots to limit potential slug damage and enable repositioning for the best light conditions. Taller pots on the terrace were filled with Equisetum hyemale, providing some strong vertical evergreen against a beautiful existing wall.

To the rear of the house, a sunny Yorkstone terrace benefits from an elevated position. Not wanting to enclose this with balustrade or walling which would separate it visually from the garden, Rae created a planting strip to the patio edge as a low, soft barrier; this utilised Buxus cubes and lavender, with Allium schubertii running



Hosta Halcyon

through to provide a seamless link to the borders beyond.

Cutting flowers were planted within the evergreen structure of hedging and topiary, in a vista leading from the main terrace to the vegetable garden and greenhouse. Rae chose spires of Eremurus and Delphinium with roses, peonies and Eryngium in a sea of Artemisia, creating a visual sensory feast.

Acer 'Sango-kaku' and Amelanchier lamarckii trees were planted in threes to provide plenty of seasonal colour, while drifts of white and burgundy perennials run through the borders from spring to autumn, alongside the silvery blues of the Iris border. Rae mirrored the spherical forms of the two water feature sculptures with clipped Buxus balls and plenty of Allium schubertii, Allium 'Mont Blanc' and Allium sphaerocephalon.

The restrained colour and varying textures,

combined with the predominantly structural planting, have created a balanced and timeless scheme that sits well within its location and is enjoyed by the entire family.

Plants were supplied by Palmstead, Griffin and Orchard Dene Nurseries, all of whom Rae has worked with for many years. The landscape contractor for this project was Outdoor Options.

ABOUT RAE WILKINSON

Rae Wilkinson came into horticulture from an artistic background. After many years of soft landscaping with designers and maintaining designed gardens, she trained with Andrew Wilson and has now been designing gardens for over 10 years. A deep knowledge of plants combines with Rae's creativity, and it is her firm belief that the right plant choices are the key element to making a garden work.

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