

# URBAN GARDENERS

You won't have to dig deep to bring on board these specialist, green-fingered designers

## ANTONIA SCHOFIELD

(07870 192 397, antonia.schofield.com)

**BEST FOR: friendly flexibility**

A firm believer in the value of outdoor space in the city, Antonia helps people make the most of theirs, whether it's a roof terrace, a humble backyard or a front garden that could use some TLC. Operating on a flexible, pay-as-you-go basis, she makes it easy to stick to your budget - whatever that might be - and from the initial (free) consultation, works hard to translate your ideas into an inspired space you'll fall in love with.

## BELDERBOS LANDSCAPES

The Palm Centre, Ham Street, Ham, Surrey TW10 7HA (020 8940 2832, belderbos.co.uk)

**BEST FOR: landscaping skills**

Claire Belderbos' team of designers and landscapers has bags of experience turning gardens into very special spaces. The transformation of a classic Victorian 5 x 8m back garden starts at around £12,000-£15,000 for the design, decking

or paving, a lawn, some lighting, a tree or two, plus planting. Other highlights include built-in benches, water features and raised beds, as well as fire pits and barbecues and green walls.

## DANIEL BELL

(danielbell.se)

**BEST FOR: living walls**

Short of floor space in your outside area? Then make the most of your walls by turning them into a thriving garden in their own right. Daniel may be based in Sweden, where he introduced the concept of living walls, however, he does plenty of work here. His impressive portfolio includes numerous businesses, but he does his fair share of domestic projects too. Specialising in hardy plants, he can create something extraordinary, from around £300-£500 per sq m.

## GERMINATE DESIGN

Ground Floor Studio, 25 Lonsdale Road, NW6 (020 7624 0707, germinatedesign.com)

**BEST FOR: the complete package**

This practice focuses all of its attention



Minimal and neutral colours with seasonal accents - a chic and simple design by Modular

on creating a new vision for your outside space. There are three main packages available: simple planting projects, starting at £300; a site visit followed by a bespoke concept plan, priced at £600; and a complete redesign, from £2,000, which includes a site survey, drawings, a moodboard, planting plans and recommendations for a contractor. The end results speak volumes about its designers Ana Sanchez-Martin and Helen Taylor's appreciation of horticulture and their contemporary aesthetic.

## GINKGO GARDENS

9 Peabody Estate, Vauxhall Bridge Road, SW1 (020 7498 2021, ginkgo.gardens.co.uk)

**BEST FOR: extensive services**

With more than 80 staff, nearly 25 years experience, around 15,000 projects and a nursery that grows over 20,000 plants each year, Ginkgo Gardens is no cottage industry. As well as the maintenance contracts, tree surgery and landscaping it undertakes for corporate clients, the company also creates roof gardens, city spaces, exterior lighting schemes and low-maintenance domestic designs with stunning results. If you're reassured by experience, give Ginkgo a call.

## KAREN ROGERS

37 Priory Avenue, W4 (07788 871 609, krgardensdesign.com)

**BEST FOR: joined-up thinking**

The concept of bringing the outside in is not a new one, but it's one that Karen takes very seriously, often collaborating with architects and interior designers to make sure there's a genuine 'flow' between the spaces. As well as creating

comprehensive designs, she works closely with carefully chosen contractors and her award-winning skills lead to hugely impressive results.

## MODULAR

Unit 2 Angel Wharf, 166 Shepherdess Walk, N1 (020 7253 1222, modular.garden.com)

**BEST FOR: striking schemes**

On a mission to create outdoor spaces 'that exceed your expectations', Modular (co-founded by Joe Swift, star of BBC's *Gardeners' World*) has an eye for detail and the experience that comes with

completing more than 300

projects. Sculptural schemes are a strong point, with horticultural combinations such as alliums, ferns and topiary creating an architectural look. Modular sees the garden as an extension of a living area and often includes smart furniture and practical shelters in its designs.

*fyi*

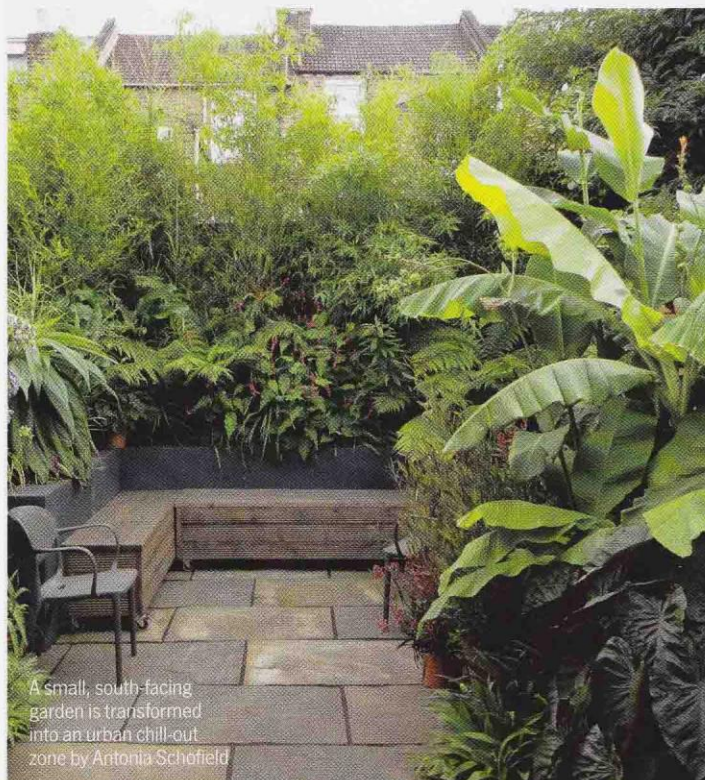
*Guerrilla gardening is the practice of cultivating neglected plots illicitly. Learn more at guerrilla.gardening.org*

## MYLANDSCAPES

4 Vallance Road, N22 (020 8245 9151, mylandscapes.co.uk)

**BEST FOR: roof gardens and terraces**

London is peppered with Amir Schlezinger's wonderful rooftop creations. Decking, lush, sculptural plants and built-in furniture all feature strongly, along with atmospheric lighting and smart, hi-tech solutions such as automatic irrigation systems. Amir also does plenty of ground-level work, from low-maintenance family gardens to outdoor spaces for corporate clients, all as part of a complete design-and-build service beginning with an on-site visit.



A small, south-facing garden is transformed into an urban chill-out zone by Antonia Schofield