

URBAN GARDEN DESIGN

Consult a green-fingered visionary and make your outside space shine

ANTONIA SCHOFIELD GARDEN DESIGN

(07870 192 397, antonia.schofield.com)

BEST FOR: rejuvenation

Antonia Schofield has a great record of transforming awkward city gardens into somewhere really special. As well as advocating the importance of outdoor space, she combines a great eye for design with a sympathetic ear for her clients' requirements. The results are uplifting areas for unwinding, entertaining and enjoying the beauty of flowers and plants. The initial consultation is free and followed by a simple pay-as-you-go design and consultation process, so it's easy to stick to your budget.

BAMBOO LANDSCAPING

50 Haynt Walk, SW20
(020 8454 7118, bamboo.landscaping.co.uk)

BEST FOR: pleasing practicality

A specialist in the creation of urban gardens, Bamboo Landscaping works across London and the South East. Its roof terraces, courtyards and lush lawns are designed for year-round enjoyment. The in-house team will take care of all the construction and planting, including fencing, drainage and lighting, so you can soon be soaking up the dreamy

atmosphere in your very own bespoke outdoor haven.

THE BOMA GARDEN CENTRE

51-53 Islip Street, NW5
(020 7284 4999, boma.gardencentre.co.uk)

BEST FOR: a quick fix

A garden centre, yes, but also a garden service company that's ready to swoop in and give your outside space an overhaul. Regular or one-off maintenance is available, or you could treat your garden to a 30-minute consultation that covers planting, pruning or problematic lawns. A makeover is another option, as is the design of window boxes. Or how about some perfectly planted pots for your patio to ensure a year-round display of colour? These guys really dig gardening.

GARDEN CLUB LONDON

Studio 3.21, Chester House, 1-3 Brixton Road, SW9 (020 3735 5138, gardenclublondon.co.uk)

BEST FOR: all sorts of spaces

Looking for an inspired way to transform your basement, balcony, rooftop or front or back garden? Call in this qualified, experienced and insured outfit. Winner of both an RHS gold medal and a Young Garden Designer of the Year award, it can suggest and execute planting schemes



Bamboo Landscaping's back-yard take on a Japanese-style garden

fyi

Get on-trend garden inspiration at Grow London on Hampstead Heath from 19-21 June (growlondon.com).

for colour, shade and privacy, alongside practicalities such as child-friendliness and constructing storage solutions. Beyond designing and landscaping, it offers one-off or regular maintenance services. And there's a free initial consultation if you live within 5 miles of its south London HQ.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN DESIGN

18 Dorchester Gardens, NW11
(07838 250 793, hampstead.gardendesign.com)

BEST FOR: design tricks

Want to make your garden seem larger, lighter and brighter? Green-fingered genius Sarah Oxby uses clever techniques to do just that. So whether you're after a total overhaul or a quick freshen-up, you're equally in luck. Sarah is able to oversee projects and liaise with planning authorities where necessary, plus she can provide a maintenance manual to keep all those plants she's suggested looking at their most lush.

MODULAR

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

BEST FOR: high-impact, low-maintenance

Used to working with clients who want a stylish outdoor space but don't necessarily have the time for extended gardening sessions, Modular is experienced in creating a schemes where both the plants and materials used need

minimal attention. Blurring the lines between outside and in and introducing a range of textured or colourful plants are some of the key ingredients in its award-winning gardens.

STUDIO LASSO

22A Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3 (020 8333 0197, studio.lasso.co.uk)

BEST FOR: perfect poise

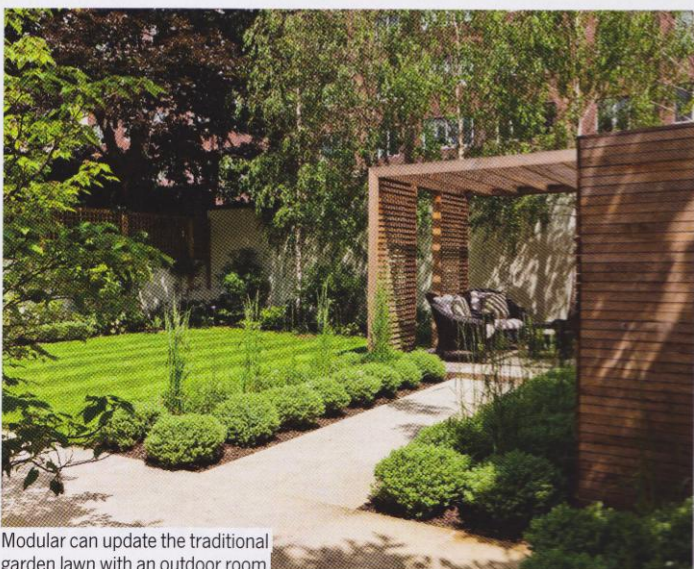
If you think of your garden as something of a sanctuary, this British/Japanese firm will be able to create something that suits. Working with the natural features of your garden to enhance the spirit of the space, its designs promote a sense of beauty, using the elements of water, light, wind and earth. It will supervise construction right through to the completion of your walk-through work of art.

URBAN TROPICS

Rock House, 6 Pond Square, N6 (07710 330 874, urban.tropics.co.uk)

BEST FOR: exotic elements

Creating tranquil spaces (from concept to completion), Urban Tropics transforms small areas, roof gardens and larger, family-sized affairs. As the name suggests, there's an emphasis on tropical looks. The contemporary, minimalist schemes promote peace and privacy, making them ideal for relaxation or entertaining. Best of all, your 'outside room' can be as low-maintenance as you like, even featuring a computerised automatic irrigation system, should you suffer from a watering-can aversion.



Modular can update the traditional garden lawn with an outdoor room