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INSPIRATION FOR INTERIOR DESIGN PROFESSIONALS



Budding relationship

Designers working together inside and out

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Gardens are increasingly considered an extension of the interior space, often taking design cues from the colours and textures on the inside of a house. But for this to succeed both garden and interior designers need to find a way to work together to create projects that offer clients a holistic design that moves seamlessly from interior to exterior. And this collaboration needs to work not just on an artistic, but on a practical level, too.

'It makes a huge difference to be part of a whole for practical and aesthetic reasons,' agrees landscape architect Tommaso del Buono, who set up his own garden design practice in 2000. 'We need to understand what is happening on the

inside before coming up with ideas, be they complementary or contrasting.'

Establishing a sympathetic working relationship is fundamental to a successful project. 'It takes time to establish a good working relationship at first and if you can't relate to each other then it's almost not worth bothering,' says garden designer Andy Sturgeon. Garden designers are often introduced to clients through interior designers, though this is not always the case. 'Less than half of my work comes through introductions via interior designers, but these tend to be the important jobs,' says Sturgeon.

For the garden designer, contact with the interior designer is vital, but it is also

useful to make contact with the client in terms of establishing their requirements and budget, as well as obtaining approval for design ideas later on.

The interior designer often acts as the client themselves and obviously plays a key role in making sure the interior design is reflected in the exterior space. Ideally the garden designer and interior designer will work together to establish a plan for the layout, planting, systems (light, sound and water), materials and furniture, and then the garden designer should be left to create the finished space.

'We are now much more influenced by interior design trends than we were in the past,' says Luciano Giubbilei, a

MARCUS BARNETT AND PHILIP NIXON WON BEST CHIC GARDEN AT THIS YEAR'S CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW WITH THIS GARDEN. 'THE GALLERY OUTSIDE'