

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show 2023

Border Garden – planting design for small space gardens

Presented by the London College of Garden Design Melbourne at the 2023 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

Call for entries

The London College of Garden Design Melbourne is delighted to support this exciting garden show with a competition to help budding new garden designers and experts to show what they can achieve with plants in a tiny space.

The competition is open to anyone involved in garden design and landscaping.

The lucky winners will receive:

- Recognition and coverage for all the exhibitors involved.
- The opportunity to meet potential new customers.
- The opportunity to be creative, do something a little different and start your show garden career.

There are 12 places available and you will be given a raised bed ready to go.

Your brief

Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show takes place from 29th March – 2nd April 2023 and is located in the grounds of the beautiful Royal Exhibition Building & Carlton Gardens.

We want you to design a great planting scheme that shows off your skills of planting design, plant arrangement and horticulture for this planting design for a small space garden. Show us your perfect border. You might decide to create a wildlife friendly design, a waterwise planting for summer droughts, or a party planting for an urban garden space. Whatever your chosen story it should work within the overall space of 2400mm x 2400mm.

You will be given a 2.4m x 2.4m raised border (minimum 0.2m high) made from timber/corten and the rest is up to you to design, plant and finish to a show standard. The show will also supply a display board alongside the garden so that people will know who has designed each garden. You will not be able to excavate the ground but the border will be raised above ground and mulch will be supplied.

The Show will procure partnerships with selected local independent nurseries to assist with the provision of plants. Selected finalists will be able to visit the nurseries to strengthen their ties within the industry and capture relevant information on available plant types, deepen their horticultural understanding and work to elevate the quality of their display.

The build

You have just 2 days before the show to put your border together. Please note, this is aimed at the use of plantlife. This is not a construction competition. There will be no hard landscaping allowed in the border gardens. If you get really excited, a bird bath or sculpture is fine but not heavy hard landscaping for these border gardens. Further information will be sent to all successful applicants.

How to enter

Your submission should be no more than 1 x A3 page and include:

- An outline drawing of your idea including an elevation of the planting design.
- A mood board showing an idea of some of the plants you will use.
- A plant list if you have a strong idea of the species you want to use.

Entries should be submitted by Friday 2nd December 2022.

Remember that we are only looking for a concept design at this stage and the selected winners will be provided further information via LCGD regarding all additional required details. While the Show and LCGD will be able to provide potential contacts for the provision of plants required to fill the space, the onus will be on the entrant to answer their own design brief.

Please email your submission as a pdf digital copy to:

info@lcmd.com.au

The successful designs will be selected by leading UK designer's **Andrew Fisher Tomlin**, course leader of LCGD's Planting Design Diploma in the UK and Brent Reid, Director of London College of Garden Design Melbourne.

Some show display tips

Here are some top tips for designing your space.

- Focus on one big idea that fits within your theme.
- Think about what idea might appeal to visitors or promote an idea that you are interested in such as a hobby, activity or charitable cause.
- Borders with unusual and interesting plants might attract more attention.
- Think about how your design reflects your image and the work you do.
- When thinking about your plants remember that the show is the end of March and Autumn can be in effect at that time of the year.
- You may even be able to grow some of the plants yourself.
- Don't be too restrictive in varieties chosen. You may find that you'll need to substitute plants and flowers nearer to the time.
- Remember that getting top quality vegetables in a show garden is hard but not impossible.

If you have any questions please email Brent at info@lcmd.com.au