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The House & Garden guide to the LEADING GARDEN DESIGNERS OF TODAY

Completing her three-part guide to the UK's most talented garden designers, Clare Foster meets 10 rising stars

PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW MONTGOMERY



Our up-and-coming garden designers include (from left) Alice Blowe, James Aldridge, Flora Gathorne-Hardy, Jane Brockbank and Marcus Darnett, who were photographed at the Thames Barrier Park in east London



Continuing the line-up of top new garden designers are (from left) Angus Thompson, Philip Nixon, Jo Thompson, Richard Miers and Sarah Price



ANGUS THOMPSON

Calling himself 'a modernist at heart', Oxford-based Angus Thompson designs crisp, asymmetric gardens. His love of nature goes back to his childhood in Yorkshire, where he grew up with beautiful countryside on his doorstep and a large garden in which to run wild. After completing a degree in history, he spent several years as a jobbing musician, but in 2004 nostalgia got the better of him and he enrolled on a garden-design course at the Inchbald School of Design, and graduated with the Principal's Award. The thread that runs through all his work is biodiversity and the desire to inject a sense of wildness into a modern framework. 'Wildlife gardening doesn't have to be all hemp and sandals,' he says. 'Bird houses can be incorporated as structural features or you can introduce meadow planting in a grid.'

In 2009 he designed an award-winning Chelsea garden with Jane Brockbank (see previous page) that epitomised his philosophy. 'Nature Ascending' combined raised timber boardwalks with multilayered planting that aimed to demonstrate the range of biodiversity that can be encouraged in even the smallest of spaces. With several private gardens in progress, Angus is also involved in a project to create a transient, reconstructable roof terrace for an F1 motor home. 'It's a huge pleasure seeing things going from the drawing board to reality,' he says. Design ethos: 'Simplicity and clarity drive my desire to create sleek, modern gardens that are also wildlife friendly.'

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