

Designed by landscape architects Sallis Chandler, this garden accompanies a modern, glass-fronted house designed by Terry Farrell. A tightly-knit framework of clipped box, bay trees and silver birch reflects the grid of the interior, with a simple wood-framed loggia at one end



Enclosed order

At this house in Surrey, boundaries are blurred between inside and out, with an enclosed garden – its ground plan resembling that of a cloister – that acts as an extension of the living area

TEXT JACKY HOBBS | PHOTOGRAPHS CLIVE NICHOLS

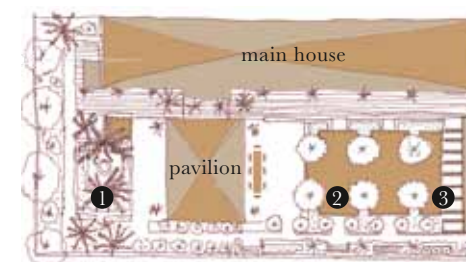


In the historic Thames-side village of Petersham, Surrey, between the ancient meadows and grand red-brick mansions of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, lies a stunning, modern dwelling built of glass. The aptly named Glasshouse is an intelligent fusion of architecture and garden, creating one seamless, extended living space – although the house, designed in 2006, precedes the garden by two years. The architect Terry Farrell designed the building within a totally enclosed, private enclave. Glass is intrinsic to the grid design; the south-facing, sliding glazed walls of each room, together with a transparent pavilion set at a right angle to the main house, are designed to blur the boundaries between inside and out.

New owner Judy Gibbons entrusted local landscape designer John Sallis Chandler to create a garden which would be open to, or viewed from, all rooms, during all seasons, at all hours of the day. They had collaborated on the garden of Judy's former Victorian house and John, an experienced designer, passionate plantsman and tutor in landscape design at Kew, was well equipped to interpret Judy's brief. His design was based on extending the living quarters into the garden, making it an additional, harmonious space for entertaining, dining and relaxing, with planting to articulate the architecture and create attractive and dynamic structure throughout the year.

The garden design required an introspective approach, as it is enclosed within the walls of the house to the south and the tall, white perimeter walls on the north side. Reminiscent of a classical cloister garden, it has a central, open lawn encompassed by a circular walkway, punctuated by seating in shaded areas and a dining area at the sunnier pavilion end. An easy transition is afforded from indoors to out, with the cream stone flooring of the interior continuing out on to the terrace, and walkways of smooth wooden decking.

The garden design reflects the symmetrical, constructional grid design of the architecture. Standard Himalayan birch trees, *Betula utilis jacquemontii*, are planted 4.5 metres apart, mimicking the rigid steel framework of the house and creating framed vistas through the garden from each room. This formal structure is accentuated by geometric planting of yew buttresses, palms, and box-edged beds that flank the lawn and appear to form plinths to the white-stemmed birch. The garden partitions are further reinforced by a symmetrical planting of clipped standard bay trees, *Laurus nobilis*, against the far perimeter wall, also corresponding to the linear axes of the house.



- 1 Fernery with circular pool
- 2 Lawn with birch trees
- 3 Loggia with vines and figs

Within this strong framework, a restful palette of green and white underpins the planting, with *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' featuring prominently. The monastic theme is carried further with fragrant herbs, trained figs, vines and morello cherries, which clothe the imposing white walls and cedar pergola with bold foliage and delicious summer fruits.

Viewed from a different perspective, the garden travels from the vine-clad pergola, through the open lawn to the deep-set terrace fronting the glass pavilion; and the eye travels on through to investigate the hint of another garden space in the shadows beyond. On the other side of the pavilion lies a shadier and more intimate garden space, overhung with indigenous trees, which create a microclimate

OPPOSITE Looking towards the glass pavilion (top), banks of *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' spill out of box-edged beds. The walkway along the back wall of the garden (bottom left) is lined with *Trachycarpus* set in yew bays. From the interior (bottom right), views of the garden are unbroken through glass walls. **THIS PAGE** A smaller enclosed space lies beyond the pavilion (left), with tree ferns and other shade-loving plants creating a different atmosphere (below)

Sallis Chandler (020-8549 5103; www.sallisandler.co.uk) will be designing the Marks & Spencer and Finlay's Plan A Sustainability Garden at the Great Pavilion at this year's Chelsea Flower Show