

Sustainable Garden Design Course

The Sustainable Garden Design Course is aimed at people who would like to produce a garden design with a professional quality for their own garden or the garden of a friend or relative. This course guides the students through the entire design process. On booking you will be sent a pack which will explain how to do a basic survey of the garden that you will be designing. You will also bring a soil sample which you will then analyse during the course enabling you to select suitable plants for your garden. You will learn how to produce a design that will both be aesthetically pleasing and sustainable. You will learn which plants compliment each other to produce a garden that works for you by allowing nature to work for itself.

The course is run over five days and includes accommodation and home cooked organic meals. This course is also offered as non-residential. The course will take place from 10am until 4pm with an hour for a delicious lunch. The third day will be spent exploring local gardens. The evenings are free for you to explore the local countryside and coast, socialise with the other guests or visit the towns of Fishguard or St David's. An evening meal is provided. You are welcome to arrive on Sunday afternoon and to stay until Saturday morning. We would be happy to pick you up from Fishguard or Haverfordwest train stations should you wish to use public transport. An evening meal and breakfast can be provided on the day of arrival / departure for your convenience.

Itinerary 24th- 28th September 2007

Day One

We will begin the course with a brief introduction to garden design and design history. We will explore concepts such as edible, productive gardens and sustainable, wildlife friendly design. This will be followed by an analysis of your garden site. We will look at aspect, soil, proportions, gradient and microclimate; so discovering the assets and limitations of your chosen area. We will also establish what you would like to achieve and change by your design.

Day Two

The second day will be a practical day where you will start to draft out layout plans of your garden site under the direct supervision of Shani. We will explore use of shape, style, functionality and sustainable product choices during this process. All drawing equipment is provided.

Day Three

We will then have a day out to explore gardens in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire. We will gain inspiration from historic gardens such as Aberglasney and new experimental gardens such as the National Botanic Gardens of Wales and possibly visit local smaller gardens. The choice of gardens will depend on opening times of individual attractions and may be subject to change.

Day Four

We will spend the morning working on the final design layouts and in the afternoon we will discuss organic planting, wildlife encouragement as well as colour, texture, scent and structure options.

Day Five

Our final day will be devoted to creating planting plans for your garden site.

Course Costs - The basic cost for the course is £825. The costs are based on one person to a room, if you wish to bring a partner or friend to share the room please call Dot or Brian on 01348 891286 to discuss this. The course is fully catered, please call to discuss any dietary requirements. We can provide vegetarian, non-vegetarian and vegan meals. We also offer this course as non-residential, please call for course costs and availability.

A Little Bit About Your Course Leader Shani Lawrence

Shani studied Garden Design at Merrist Wood Agricultural College while joining Woodcote Green Nurseries Ltd in the outdoor plant department. Woodcote Green Nurseries is one of the UK's most successful and progressive nurseries, obtaining awards such as 'Retail Nursery of the Year 1999'. Shani now runs a full time independent design consultancy undertaking domestic, community and school grounds designs for a wide range of customers. Shani also works for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority leading nature walks and undertaking design work and planting for school wildlife gardens.

Shani Lawrence Garden Designs was originally established undertaking contracts in London & the South East and has now expanded to include projects throughout Southern England & Wales after relocating to Pembrokeshire in 2002. As the main designer Shani currently divides her time between Wales and London with much of the creative design work undertaken at the Pembrokeshire office.

Shani Lawrence Garden Designs was established in 1997. Shani read Environmental Science at University and worked for two Environmental Consultancies before deciding to combine her interests in ecology, horticulture and the outdoors with a love of creativity and drawing.

In 2000 Shani designed an award winning garden court 'Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder' at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show for Woodcote Green Nurseries. In 2001 Shani designed 'The Princess and the Frog' garden court. It was awarded 'Best small garden in show' and the RHS Gold medal.

Shani Lawrence Garden Designs likes to promote gardening to encourage wildlife by habitat creation and good plant choice. The use of organic principles in maintaining gardens is also recommended and where possible sustainable product sourcing is encouraged for the creation of the garden.

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