

More from our **new section**, packed with useful information, inspiration and insights

## Diary dates

**22 November**

### Unusual Woodland Perennials

Nigel Rowland from Long Acre Plants introduces woodland plants that can be incorporated into shadier parts of the garden. RHS event at Pershore College, Worcs. Members £8 Non-members £9.50. Call 01386 554609 for bookings.

**29 November**

### Colour in the Garden

Val Bourne explains how to create exciting contrasts or harmonious blends by combining plants to create mood. Pershore College, Worcs. Members £8 Non-members £9.50. Call 01386 554609 for bookings.

**1 December**

### Designing and Building Outdoor Kitchens and Eating Areas

The Lapa Company, Borough Green, Kent. Cost £30. Contact [simon@thelapacompany.co.uk](mailto:simon@thelapacompany.co.uk)

**5 and 6 December**

### Comprehensive Introduction to SketchUp

Advance from basic principles to advanced digital techniques. KLC School of Design, Chelsea Harbour. Suitable for those with an understanding of design principles and good everyday computer skills. Visit [www.klc.co.uk/GardenDesign/Courses/Short](http://www.klc.co.uk/GardenDesign/Courses/Short)

**8 December**

### An Introduction to Freehand Drawing

Gain an understanding of how to approach freehand sketching and build confidence in your skill. Suitable for complete beginners. Visit [www.klc.co.uk/GardenDesign/Courses/Short](http://www.klc.co.uk/GardenDesign/Courses/Short)

**13 December**

### KLC Exhibition of Students' Work

Open to all members of the public. 10am – 5pm. KLC School of Design, Chelsea Harbour, London

**Until 8 Jan**

### Claude Lorrain – The Enchanted Landscape

Exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum rediscovering the 17th-century father of European landscape painting. [www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions](http://www.ashmolean.org/exhibitions)

## 5 minutes with...



# Sara Jane Rothwell

*Sara Jane has run her successful garden design practice in North London for eight years*

### What do you wish you'd known when you started out as a designer?

That design would account for less than 20 percent of running a design business. The rest is spent on emailing, client communication, problem-solving, site visits, and keeping people happy.

### What has surprised you most in your career?

How transferable my skills as a film art director have been to garden design. The client is like the film director, the landscape team like the set construction team, the budget is tight, and the deadlines are the same.

### Your favourite styles of architecture?

Zaha Hadid for creating architecture that expresses freedom and strength of spirit; Frank Gehry for his sensuous giant sculptures brought to life; Tadao Ando for his breathtaking use of space and light; and, finally, Gaudi for his sheer originality.

### What are your favourite materials to work with in the garden?

Natural stone and wood – they breathe life into a garden.

### What part of the design process do you like best?

Brainstorming the initial concept – especially that 'eureka' moment when it all falls into place on paper.

### And what is the part you like least?

Dealing with difficult neighbours.

### Do you prefer hand-drawn or CAD designs?

CAD designs for their speed and versatility, hand-drawn for their personality.

### Do you prefer Autocad or Vectorworks?

I find Vectorworks more user (and Mac) friendly.

[www.londongardendesigner.com](http://www.londongardendesigner.com)

## Welcome

The Zone is designed to inform, entertain and to invite comment and interactive debate. Please contact us with your views on anything we feature here so that we can share your experiences and thoughts with other SGD members on these pages. In this issue, freelance writer and garden designer Emma Reuss looks at the launch of new landscape contracts and top tips for plant sourcing. Is there anyone you'd like us to spend 5 minutes with...? Suggestions are welcome, so drop us a line.

### 38 True colours

Your appearance can play a big part in creating rapport, and winning business



### 38 Design forum

How Southport Flower Show is proving to be a launchpad for success for young designers



### 39 Signed & sealed

New landscape contracts will be launched to foster good relations



### 40 Plant finder

Andrew Fisher Tomlin advises on where to source plants for your next project

