

NURTURE

Nepeta 'Walker's Low'

Euphorbia robbiae

Brachyglottis 'Sunshine'

Hakonechloa macra

Stipa tenuissima

Stachys 'Silver Carpet'

Ilex crenata 'Dark Green'

Designer PLANTS

Robert Barker discusses the planting for a modern family garden in Chiswick

The brief was to create a family garden that worked in harmony with the client's modern, newly refurbished home in Chiswick. The clients asked for the large lawn, shed and trampoline to remain but desired a garden with symmetrical lines, soft colourful planting and areas to entertain and relax in.

The planting plan was created with a focus on cool colours such as purple, blue and white tones to soften the appearance of the large existing fence and sloped rear boundary. Silver leaved plants added texture and enhanced the cool tones.

In particular, large Brachyglottis 'Sunshine' were selected for their beautiful rounded form, which provides a soft silver structure that can



anchor a planting scheme. This plant is often frowned upon within the industry for being wrongly selected for car parks and roundabouts; however, I consider this to be a mistake, as it provides an excellent evergreen structure to a border which enhances the plants around it. The only negative point, in my opinion, is that it has very bright yellow flowers which I often remove.

Geranium, Nepeta, Salvia and Iris provided colour to the scheme while grasses such as Stipa tenuissima and Hakonechloa macra provided movement. Euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae gives a good contrast to the blue and purple colours and provides extra evergreen structure for the garden.

Elements of the planting scheme are repeated within three large corten steel planters, which were custom made by The Pot Company, to bring the garden closer to the house.

Plant list

- Brachyglottis 'Sunshine'
- Euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae
- Geranium phaeum 'Lily Lovell'
- Hakonechloa macra
- Ilex crenata 'Dark Green'
- Iris 'Black Swan'
- Nepeta 'Walker's Low'
- Stachys byzantina 'Silver Carpet'
- Stipa tenuissima

ABOUT ROBERT BARKER DESIGN

Robert Barker is an award-winning garden designer based just outside of Cambridge, creating gardens for clients nationwide. At the 2016 RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show Robert was awarded a Gold medal for his garden 'The Red Thread'.

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