

NEWSPRINT

What's new in the world of garden design *Compiled by Zia Alloway*

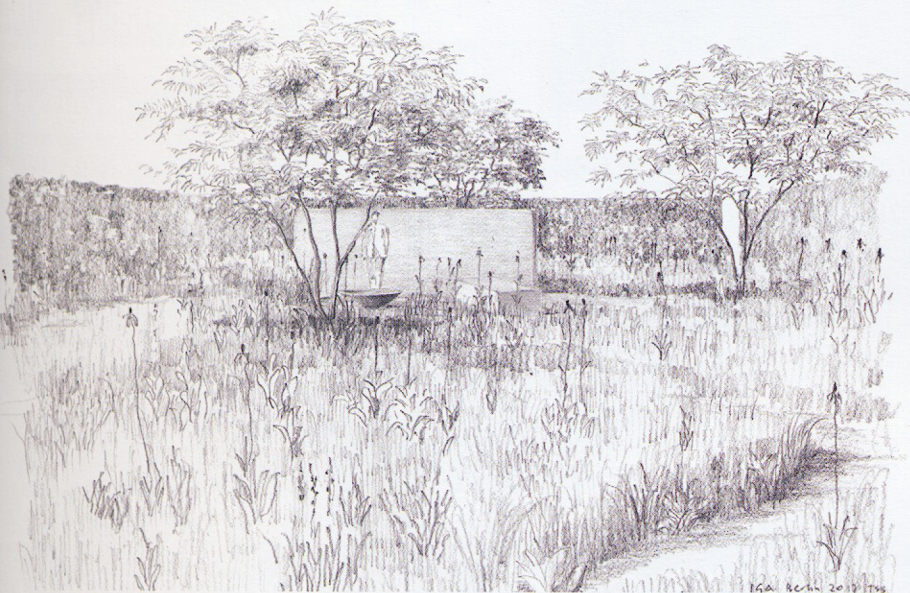


Photo: © Dominik Butzmann

LEFT & BELOW LEFT Tom Stuart-Smith's plans for the urban greenery-themed International Garden Exhibition Berlin **ABOVE** Tom sowing wild flowers for his meadow garden

TOM STUART-SMITH CREATES NEW LANDSCAPE FOR BERLIN EXHIBITION

SHOWCASING THE variety, beauty and transformative power of contemporary landscapes, The International Garden Exhibition Berlin 2017 will cover approximately 100 hectares of the eastern municipality Marzahn-Hellersdorf. The theme is the future of urban greenery, and it will present a range of energy efficient and sustainable ideas for city spaces by a cast of world-renowned landscape architects, garden designers, plant producers and artists.

Work has already begun on some of the gardens that

will make up the exhibition, including a design by Tom Stuart-Smith MSGD. Tom's garden, which is being created on what was an empty wasteland space next to Kienberg Park, is inspired by the notion of renewal and Giambattista Vico's writing on the development of society. In his major work, *The New Science* (1725), Vico described it as an organism growing out of the forest wilderness: "This was the order of human things: first the forests, after that the huts, thence the villages, next the cities and finally the academies."

The four stages that Vico describes will become apparent as the garden grows from chaos into structured order. The process started earlier this summer with the sowing of a wild, exotic meadow, using a seed mix developed by Professor James Hitchmough. In spring 2016, a few *Rhus typhina* trees will be planted amidst the grasses and flowers, after which a network of paths will be cut into the meadow. Later next year, a section will be cleared to create a place for people in the garden. A concrete wall symbolising the hut/house will enclose a low rectangular concrete bed and a shallow iron fire bowl, while the ground will be laid with fine gravel, with a paved area of stone setts.

For more details of Tom's design, visit his blog at www.tomstuartsmith.co.uk. Information on the IGA Berlin can be found at www.iga-berlin-2017.de

Design teams reveal vision for new Maggie's Centre

MARIE-LOUISE AGIUS MSGD and her design partner Michael Balston have joined forces with Heatherwick Studio to design a new Maggie's Centre at St James's University Hospital in Leeds. Heatherwick's plans for the cancer charity's drop-in centre, which is due to open next year, resemble a group of giant pot plants and comprise a series of curved structures with plant-covered roofs that will offer a mix of private and communal spaces.

Marie-Louise's concept for the landscape design was generated from the topography, building form, access and views. "At present the site is a tiny island of green, sterilised by mowing and located within a comprehensive blanket of building," Marie-Louise explains. "But with the enriching ecology of woodland as a prime generator of the overall design, and with new planting at both ground level and on the roof, the site will become an oasis in the concrete desert." The site's biodiversity will be greatly increased by native species, including birches, sessile oaks and an understorey of shrubs and spring bulbs. www.balstonagius.co.uk, www.heatherwick.com



An artist's impression of the new centre

Credit: Heatherwick Studio

Drawings: Tom Stuart-Smith

