

LUXURY

LUXURY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2018



WHERE THE GARDEN GROWS

FROM CLIPPED HEDGES TO CLIMBING VINES, STONE SCULPTURES TO LILY PONDS, THESE PRIVATE OUTDOOR SPACES ARE BOTANICAL WORKS OF ART.

by Jorge S. Arango

Parrotia persica trees, foxglove, iris, and other plantings surround a wind pavilion in a London garden designed by landscape architect Luciano Gubbio.

Photo: Bob Whitton



1. SCHOTEN, BELGIUM

Size: 9 acres **Landscape Architect:** Wirtz International Landscape Architects, wirtznv.be **Features:** Mown grass paths between triangular beds, a canal, a sculptural, stepped berm **Plantings sampler:** Beech hedges, berms, hornbeam hedges, wild grasses, flowering trees, including dogwood, Japanese cherries, crab apple

Designed two decades ago by the great Belgian landscaper Jacques Wirtz, this garden has grown and matured into an experience that remains a benchmark for Wirtz's prestigious international firm. As Jacques' son Martin Wirtz describes it, "The effect on the eye and heart is very intense." Carved out of a former stand of pines, the area fans out from the house in wedge-shaped beds defined by neatly clipped hedges and billowy masses of wild grasses that are punctuated by flowering trees. The beds were built up from soil dug out to create a canal. The centerpiece, a stunning, stepped circular berm, rises up from the water. *"The main axes and framing structures are very clear and formal, while in between plantings are more natural looking,"* Martin says. "It is beautiful to combine these two expressions. It is also a garden you read very well in winter, when the formal structures come out much better, combined with different textures and colors."



2. WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

Size: 20 acres **Landscape Architect:** Doyle Herman Design Associates, dhdia.com **Features:** Serpentine hedges between house and meadow, sculpture collection, canal water feature **Plantings sampler:** Beech hedging, specimen beech trees, an serial hedge of sheared linden trees and conical yews

When landscape architects James Doyle and Kathryn Herman surveyed the sprawling estate they were asked to design for a Broadway-producer couple, Herman remembers, *"We wanted to create something that would encourage the owners to get out and walk the farther reaches of the land."* The team conceived neatly clipped, serpentine hedges comprising hundreds of beech hedging plants. Gardeners planted the trees in three undulating rows and keep their lower branches tightly sheared so that the foliage appears to float several feet above the ground. A striking, specimen beech tree stands alone at the beginning of the rows. Leaves rustle in the wind and change from purple to burgundy to brown with the seasons. The hedge's sculptural presence pairs confidently with the owners' many powerful outdoor works by artists such as Malcolm Martin and Caynor Dowling, Ben Barrell, Hanneke Beaumont, and (pictured) Chakata Booker. >

