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Left: A touch of France Garden Design showed how you can make your patio a corner of Provence

Right: Brightly coloured planters on the PSI Nursery Garden will brighten an outdoor space all year round

Photographs by Clive Nichols



CHELSEA'S LATEST

As ever, the flower show was full of fresh schemes to help keen gardeners with planting and decoration

OUTDOOR bean bags stashed in colour-clashing piles proved irresistible to shoppers at Chelsea. In seven luscious shades, the Big Boy lounge, measuring 180cm by 145cm, is water-proof and UV fade-resistant.

The outer cover can be removed for machine-washing – a separate inner cover keeps all those polystyrene balls intact – and it can be hung to dry. Each bag costs £159, but Homes & Property readers can enjoy the special Chelsea Flower Show price of £114, including p&p by calling 020 8504 9082, or visiting www.outdoorbeanbag.com and quoting code 777; offer ends on 17 June.

Pattie Barron



Garden. Responding to high demand at the show, stainless steel manufacturers S3i Ltd (www.s3i.co.uk; 01302 714513) are starting a speedy production line and should have planters ready to buy within the month. At around £200 each, expect them to be durable and corrosion-resistant. Send your email details now to info@s3i.co.uk and S3i will let you know when they're ready to take your order. Those lacework metal chairs? From www.gomodern.co.uk.

Transform the patio wall with neon-bright planters that look great even when empty'



Left: Copper-headed Lady of is one of the new roses launched at Chelsea (£12.95); see our special offer

Far left: Make bugs feel at home with this unique insect tower, created from old recycled faced with tough drought-resistant plants

canes, old CD covers, slate strips, egg boxes and other recycled materials. On another side of the tower are plants that grow on dry rockfaces so need no watering, such as sedums, thymes and sea campion.

Fancy French?

Patricia Thirion and Janet Honour of A Touch of France Garden Design delivered their Entente Cordiale Garden, where the window shutters were painted Gaultoise blue, the window box planted with dainty French geraniums, and peonies added splashes of colour amongst the clipped box. To do likewise, stock up on Farrow & Ball's Cook's Blue, seek out Decora Rouge balcon geraniums and visit www.jonart.co.uk for similar cafe-style furniture.

Social climbers

New roses launched at Chelsea Flower Show include four heartbreakers from rose breeder David Austin: Lady of Shalott, with copper, chalice-shaped blooms; musk hybrid climber The Wedgwood Rose, with deeply cupped flowers of powder pink; Tam 'o' Shanter, which cerise full blooms centred with golden stamens, and musk hybrid Kew Gardens, which has large heads of soft apricot buds that open to pure white. They will be available bare-rooted from November for £14.95, but Homes & Property readers can buy them for £12.95 each plus £5.50 p&p. Order now as demand will be great, quoting code PH4 by calling 01902 376300 or visit www.davidaustinroses.com.

Don't miss Matthew Appleby's gardening news: homesandproperty.co.uk/outdoors

Planters to dazzle

Transform the patio wall with neon-bright planters that look great even when empty. Garden designer Jamie Dunstan showed the urban take on hanging baskets at the PSI Nursery



Piled high: jazzy beanbags shown at Chelsea are weather proof and washable

Walls that live

Living walls, pioneered by botanist Patrick Blanc, are filtering down from hotels and public parks to urban gardens. Low-maintenance and insulating, the vertical garden is set to stay and designer Ian Dexter showed a stylish solution to a bare wall in his front garden, one of four, for Marshalls Living Street. To offset the hard lines of the house's architecture, he planted the wall in diagonal swathes, using groups of airy grasses and perennials such as foamflower and London pride to add further movement when the wind blows. For similar ready-planted walls with their own irrigation system, contact www.livingwalls.com.

Bug homes

Wildlife-friendly gardens messy? On the Future Nature Garden, Ark Design Management showed how you can have just one pitstop for bugs. The insect tower, a kind of high-rise apartment block for wildlife knocked together from fencing, provides diverse habitats created by stacking bamboo

SEE IT BUY IT

- **SEE IT** Roots and Shoots, the beautiful half-acre wildlife garden off the Kennington Road, opens under the National Gardens Scheme this weekend, 11am to 4pm. The summer meadow, observation beehives, ponds, hot borders and sprawling old roses, which shelter butterflies, birds, bees, toads and newts, are great draws for visitors. Story-telling will take place in the Lambeth Dragon's Den. Admission £2; children free.
- **BUY IT** Find everything from fake grass on the roll to ready-planted window boxes at a new one-stop gardening shop in Chelsea, Harrington Porter. The former chief

florist of Harvey Nichols heads up the flower shop, a landscape department can maintain your hedges, restyle your patio or install a potager, and you can even consult an online plant surgery on www.harringtonporter.com. London gardens can benefit from the shop's square-cut shade sails, wooden-framed hammocks, rattan-weave weatherproof sofas and stylish zinc café tables. For the next fortnight, until 17 June, Homes & Property readers can enjoy a 15 per cent discount off all prices; to qualify, bring in this page. Harrington Porter, The Arches, 419 New Kings Road, SW6 (020 7731 3552).



The one-stop shop: Harrington Porter