

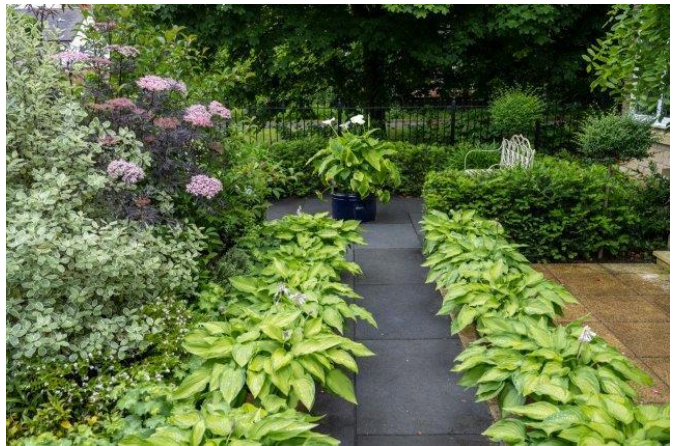
New build small garden

We downsized and moved to a new property in Cotswold Chase, Brockworth in mid-2017. In June 2022 we were visited by a journalist and photographer for preparation of an article that was featured in the December 2022 edition of the Amateur Gardening magazine.

The house is excellent, apart from the mandatory snagging list, and set in a well landscaped development with lots of open space and mature trees. However, the garden is very small, and this was a particular challenge for us as we had a 1-acre plot in Leicestershire.

We pretty quickly replaced the developer's standard planting of grass, urban phormiums and cornus with a series of rooms, each with its own individual character.

The front garden has a formal feel with colourful shrubbery, low yew hedges, parallel rows of potted hostas and standard ligustrum trees. Wisteria and blue leaved hostas soften the edges of the Cotswold stone coloured house, while the placing of white metal seats create places to sit and watch the world go by.



The back garden was re-designed on two levels with space for a small greenhouse and a “space age” pod, which fulfils the same function as the summerhouse we left behind, without taking up too much space.

Well, it is a modern house, so why not go for a pod!

Grey slate pavers and contrasting stone chippings compliment the colour of the house.

Pleached Quercus Ilex help to screen the area from neighbouring homes, while a trio of white stemmed silver birch brighten a far corner. The central area has an unusual water feature – a large stainless steel sphere, which looks even more stunning after dark.



We wanted to cover the walls and fencing with green to “move the boundaries out” and it was important not to see everything at once. Planting is of year round interest with a mix of evergreen foliage and summer flowers. We use pots to ring in the changing seasons, tulips in spring and vibrant verbena for the summer months.

We don't like to throw things away, so items are repurposed



We wanted to have a number of our favourite plants here, but at the same time had to be disciplined in “not thinking too big”. Specimen trees like the slow growing Henry's lime ((*Tilia Henriana*) with its interesting foliage, and snowy mespilus (*Amelanchier lamarckii*) with pretty pink flowers, summer fruits and Autumn colour.



Although we have “retired” from a formal role with the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) we plan to open a group of small gardens again on the Chase, probably in 2024. Watch this space!

We're happy to answer any questions – we look after the book swap.

Colin and Verena Olle