

# HOUSE & GARDEN

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### **Brita von Schoenaich**

Until recently working in partnership with Tim Rees, Brita von Schoenaich now runs her own design practice

in Petersham, Surrey, employing a team of four. Her commissions are varied and international, with particular emphasis on the Continent. Spontaneous and informal in her approach, she creates gardens that are defined largely by the planting, which is rich and unconstrained. 'If a place or its surrounding is beautiful, we enhance its quality in a gentle way,' she says. 'If there is nothing, we create a sense of place, a memorable garden. I like gardens that show their age; a new garden must look of-the-moment, but it can still be romantic.' Projects include a garden for Anish Kapoor, a large garden in the South of France, a garden for the British Embassy in Warsaw, and a roof terrace that is likely to be Europe's largest and most intensively planted, with 1.4 acres of perennial planting. *Greystone House, Sudbrook Lane, Petersham, Surrey (tel: 020-8948 4445, e-mail: info@schoenaich.co.uk)*

### **Tom Stuart-Smith**

With no fewer than six Chelsea gold medals under his belt, Tom Stuart-Smith has emerged as one of the most successful landscape designers in the country since he set up his own practice in 1998. Prior to this he worked with Hal Moggridge and was a director at Elizabeth Banks Associates, where most work revolved around historic gardens. Today Tom designs both public and private spaces, and specializes in large country gardens where he can impose his imaginative, almost painterly touch. 'I like playing with big spaces,' he says. 'My work usually has a strongly architectural but simple framework that contrasts with broadly naturalistic planting. I see the garden like a loose-fitting set of clothes - something that mediates between us and the surrounding world but does not restrict our freedom of movement and imagination.' Recent projects include Trentham in Staffordshire, one of the largest formal gardens in England, and a large private garden in Oxfordshire, which was featured in *House & Garden* in June 2006. *43 Clerkenwell Road, EC1 (tel: 020-7253 2100, e-mail: tom@landskip.com, website: www.tomstuartsmith.co.uk)*



### **Andy Sturgeon**

At the age of 41, Andy Sturgeon is one of the younger generation of garden designers making their mark in the profession. His career took off in 1997, after

returning from a trip to Africa and Southeast Asia, where he spent time looking at plants in the wild. He has since built up a strong portfolio of work including both country and city gardens mainly in Britain, but increasingly overseas. His designs are modern and stylish, with the aim of being 'user-friendly'. Planting ranges from bold architectural schemes to softer naturalistic styles, while hard landscaping is often dominant, usually in natural materials such as stone and timber. 'I am greatly influenced by modern art and architecture,' he says, 'and my gardens frequently involve sculptural qualities, with art and furniture often integral to the design. Each garden is different, and I am inspired by, and sensitive to, the idiosyncrasies and challenges of site and client.' In 2005 and 2006, Andy won consecutive gold medals for gardens at Chelsea Flower Show, and is hoping for a hat trick in 2007. Current projects include a roof terrace at Great Ormond Street Hospital, and a city roof garden in Hong Kong. *15 Clermont Road, Brighton, E Sussex (tel: 01273-553336, e-mail: andysturgeon@btconnect.com, website: www.andysturgeon.com) >*

