



Jan Buchanan MHort (RHS) Plantswoman Garden Planning & Creative Planting Designs

Profile

I have over thirty years of training and experience in the Arts, Garden Design and a lifetime in Practical Horticulture. I was employed at Sotheby's in London prior to training in Horticulture at Merrist Wood, RHS Wisley, and the Chelsea Gardening School. In 1981 I established a successful 'design & build' gardening business in Chelsea, London employing a team of qualified gardeners. I have taken up commissions both in the UK and internationally working in various climates. My varied projects ranged from large country gardens that develop over the years, family gardens, small minimalist gardens for urban living, to small terraces and exotic roof gardens. I have always maintained a personal involvement in the manual labour and in the actual 'hands-on' planting and realisation of my designs. In 2004 I bought a holiday cottage in the Perthshire hills, I fell in love with it, sold the business and I now live here in Scotland permanently.

Combining these skills and my passion for plants I offer a down-to-earth approach to both the planning *and the planting* of your garden – *both* the design concept *and* the practical implementation of the design. I undertake soft landscaping only and if any hard landscaping or construction is required I will recommend a suitable contractor and can supervise works. Nor do I supply and charge for a *to-scale* coloured garden design drawing but I *do* supply a detailed plan of the planting schemes together with listing of plants, varieties and number and a detailed maintenance advice schedule.

My inspiration and influences are taken directly from nature. I work from sketches, notes and photographs building an abstract visual idea of the garden in my head, then on paper as an informal sketch. My working methods are not to scale plan but rather using a hands-on approach and my intention is to be site-specific responding to the area, architecture and the surrounding landscape. I research plants suitable, 'right plant for right place', and draw from my existing plant knowledge to provide exciting combinations of texture and seasonal colour using plants which will make an impact and, importantly, thrive in those particular conditions. I favour the simplicity of mass planting using a strong uncomplicated design softened or highlighted by innovative textural planting. I am wildlife-friendly and aim to employ organic methods using environmentally safe pest control. I like to work closely with the client to reflect lifestyle, personality and budget. My work is to a high standard with an attention to detail.

