



# NATURE

# NURTURING



Rudyard Kipling once said that gardens are not made by sitting in the shade - a statement that garden designer, Teresa Potter is sure to agree with. Photography: *LottieDesigns.com*

Teresa Potter has been transforming barren, empty spaces into heavenly gardens throughout the north west for the past 10 years. From her high profile commercial contract at the Michelin-starred Northcote to her contracts at private homes of all sizes, Teresa's beautifully designed gardens provide award winning chefs with quality organic produce and families with a place to enjoy each other's company and the outdoors.

Teresa's green fingered nature became apparent as a young girl when she helped work the land on her family's farm in Wiltshire.

After leaving school she went on to study landscaping and plant propagation and production at college, which led to a lifelong love of horticulture.

On moving to the north in her early twenties, she landed a position at Barton Grange garden centre, quickly progressed and established her love for garden design. However, a need to experience life outside of the world of horticulture pulled her away from the industry and into a job selling management training in cities throughout Europe. Several years of liaising with chief executives and high powered business people later, Teresa

eventually gained the confidence and life experience that she needed to return to the industry that she loved, setting up her garden design and landscaping business.

At the time that she established the business, garden makeover shows, like Ground Force, were incredibly popular and, as a result, many of her clients believed that redesigning an entire garden was something that could be done within a weekend. However, that couldn't be further from the truth, and thankfully for her sake, people have become much more realistic over the years.

Months before any physical



labour is actually carried out, Teresa works with her clients to draw up detailed design sketches that combine their desires and her gardening expertise. In all of her plans, Teresa aims to promote sustainability, believing that a garden should be allowed to develop, mature and improve,

and her services even extend to advising clients on how to nurture the garden between her visits.

Although Teresa's designs include all aspects of landscaping, from patios and lawns to water features and summer houses, her main passion in gardening is for

plants and, if it is in keeping with her client's wishes, she keeps this in mind when drawing up her designs. By making plants a focal point she can create a garden that is natural yet defined and that provides an environment in which birds, bees and other wildlife can thrive.

Teresa's services don't just end with the design of the garden either. She co-ordinates the entire operation from beginning to end, including the sourcing of the plants and materials, the employment and management of reliable contractors and the overseeing of the work to ensure that it is of the highest standard. She leaves nothing to chance, planning and liaising with her clients to discuss every detail, so that their new garden can take shape.

Throughout her time as a professional garden designer, Teresa has accomplished many goals. She has created an award winning show garden at RHS Show at Tatton Park and established long standing relationships with her clients, but the achievement that she has become most well known for is her consultancy and design work for Northcote.

Working alongside their head gardener and their renowned chef, Nigel Haworth, Teresa works on the ground's ornamental gardens to produce the freshest, highest quality fruit and vegetables for use in the chef's mouth watering dishes.

All of the produce from the Northcote gardens is completely organic and Teresa constantly strives to ensure that the productive garden and ornamental garden work together to produce everything from the finest batch of juicy strawberries to the humble nettle.

From orangeries and green houses to woodland screens and apple arches, children play areas and ponds to fruit orchards and rose gardens, Teresa Potter can make it possible for you to enjoy your garden, as much as you enjoy your home. She will take away all the stress that is often associated with a garden renovation, leaving you with an area that you can entertain in and be proud of for many years to come.

She will take a space that is unproductive, unusable or under utilised and by combining her plant knowledge, design skills and experience she will turn it into a place that people, plants and wildlife can enjoy in harmony.

To book an appointment with Teresa Potter to talk through your garden design needs, simply call 07966 030448. Your appointment can be arranged either at your home, business or at Teresa's office in Whalley and will give you an opportunity to view images from her extensive portfolio or past projects. n

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