

DOMUS *Life*

SUMMER 2015

OUTSKIRTS OF AMSTERDAM / THE NETHERLANDS

PIET OUDOLF

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

HOME GROWN

With a refined sophistication and classic elegance, Europe is home to some of the most beautiful gardens and expert landscape designers. We explore some of the best...



THE DESIGNER

Piet Oudolf, from the Netherlands, is one of the most significant and acclaimed landscape designers in the world. As a leading name in the New Perennial movement, Oudolf's works are defined by a strong pictorial relationship to a garden's layout and composition. Inspired by nature, art and time, Oudolf's gardens are fulfilled by spaces of naturalistic planting, using swathes of grasses and perennials paired with structured pathways, shrubs and trees.

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THE GARDEN

This incredible family home, located on the outskirts of Amsterdam, was designed and owned by prominent Dutch architect and interior designer Piet Boon. Its sensational garden was in turn completed by Oudolf, also one of his greatest friends. The garden, which fits perfectly with the house, combines all the advantages of the big city and the harmony and tranquillity of nature. The BBC named it one of the 80-most beautiful private gardens in the world.

Featuring two private terraces, a beautiful lawn garden with an infinity pool and a pond used as an outdoor pool, the space is

spectacular. Oudolf's concept was to create a simple, yet strong garden that would suit the formality of the house, while also delivering an experience from the terraces and the swimming pool.

"It's a garden for garden lovers but also for anyone that works in the garden or the home," says Oudolf. Although he was inspired by classical formal gardens, Oudolf wanted to give it a contemporary touch.

The planting around the swimming pool was solely Sporobolus Heterolepis grass, while each spring the Allium cristophii 'Star of Persia' bulbs flower. The background garden has taller, more robust garden

planting that included Eupatorium Maculatum 'Atropurpureum', Filipendula rubra 'Magnifica', Persicaria amplexicaule 'Firedance' and Miscanthus 'Malepartus'. The clipped hedges were Boxwood, while all others were Beech and the tall, curved hedges were a variety of different shrubs.

VILLEFRANCHE-SUR-MER / SOUTH OF FRANCE SCAPE DESIGN



THE DESIGNER

Working in the south of France for over 15 years, James Basson, B.A. Hons Garden Design, MSGD, and SCAPE DESIGN have established a reputation for creating low-maintenance gardens that mix modern design with traditional skills. Creating timeless, sustainable landscapes that are sympathetic to the natural environment, the firm use young plants that are compatible with the native climate and soil, requiring little, if any, irrigation.

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THE GARDEN

Located in the south of France, near Monaco, SCAPE DESIGN's brief was to design a garden for this prestigious villa. The clients specified a unified approach to the three individual properties on the site, while maintaining privacy for the interconnected spaces. They also required the garden to have no irrigation and very low maintenance.

SCAPE DESIGN planted over 500 different species, laid out in a matrix using bands of grey and green foliage. They paid attention to height, varying colours and a layout relevant to shade or sun, with year-round seasonal interest. The pool area in particular showcases

the clean-cut simplicity of the space where the crisp edging of the paving contrasts with the complexity of the planting — mixing the feel of a natural landscape with contemporary design. Traditional techniques, including the dry stone walls, reflect the historical agricultural land use of the area, and ensure the end result is a garden completely in harmony with its surrounding landscape.

The garden is now on its way to being self-sustaining, an important part of SCAPE DESIGN's philosophy. Throughout the build, local materials and craftsmen were used wherever possible.

PORTO HELI / GREECE DOXIADIS+



THE DESIGNER

doxiadis+ is an award-winning Athens-based firm committed to excellence in contemporary landscape design. Their philosophy is founded on the complexity of the design process, taking a holistic approach to any project, regardless of its scale.

The firm was founded by Thomas Doxiadis, who was born in Athens and studied at the Harvard University of Architecture. doxiadis+ is based in Athens and has offices in Hamburg and London.

DOXIADISPLUS.COM
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THE GARDEN

Set on a hilltop above the stunning landscapes of Porto Heli, Amanzoe – a hotel from the Aman Group – is simply spectacular. Drawing its name from the Sanskrit-derived word for peace, and zoe, the Greek word for life, Amanzoe's philosophy pays respect to its beautiful Peloponnese countryside surroundings and coastline. The hotel instructed doxiadis+ to take care of the landscape architecture – they wanted a garden that would seamlessly enhance the existing landscape.

Reintroducing natural elements synonymous with Greece and its landscape, the firm's focus was on the surrounding area's pine forests,

vineyards, olive and carob trees, wheat fields, aromatic vegetation and stone agricultural walls.

doxiadis+ played with various qualities and sensations, from refined to wild, to provide not only a beautiful landscape, but one that belonged to the area too.

The techniques used throughout had environmental gains, ensuring that they retained the local biodiversity and landscape history, and minimalised water usage and the need for pesticides and chemicals. The firm made sure to keep the construction footprint on the environment as low as possible.

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