



THE ENGLISH GARDEN

GARDEN DESIGN TRENDS FOR 2022

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Garden by Ann-Marie Powell

As we enter a new year, top designers from the **Society of Garden Designers (SGD)** share their predicted garden design trends for 2022.

With the continued drive for sustainability as the overriding theme, these are the plants, materials and design styles to expect in gardens in 2022. Think pretty patchwork paths, luxury wild swimming pools and bold, jewel-like colours.



Garden by Ann-Marie Powell, Ann-Marie Powell Gardens

Wild gardens

"The trend for next year will be the immersive and natural wildlife garden," says Ann-Marie Powell MSGD. The **eponymous studio** of the designer, broadcaster and author has seen an increase in enquiries from clients wanting natural, loose gardens. Ann-Marie predicts that 'nature-scaping' and 'curated wildling' will be the buzz words of 2022.

This theory is echoed by Ana Sanchez-Martin MSGD of **The Garden Company** who says, "I am hoping that more and more people will jump on the 'Rewilding wagon'! One of the positive effects of the pandemic is that people now understand the therapeutic effects of gardening."

Wabi-sabi garden

"I think we will see many gardens designed to follow a wabi-sabi philosophy, meaning that people will be embracing a less perfect aesthetic," says Filippo Dester MSGD of [Garden Club London](#).

Filippo believes that, in the context of the garden, this will lead to a greater focus on natural materials that are rich in texture and neutral in colour. "I think we'll see the deeper meaning to wabi-sabi in the approach to garden design", he says.

"We will begin to accept the beauty of the 'imperfect' and the ever-changing nature of materials such as stone and wood and plants themselves. We will veer away from the sleek, immaculate look that often characterises urban gardens."

Luxe homes

With more people holidaying in the UK, Fi Boyle MSGD of [Fi Boyle Garden Design](#) has found an increasing popularity for luxuries in home gardens. "Pools, particularly natural swimming ponds, are definitely one of these luxuries," she says.

Ben Chandler, MSGD of [Farlam & Chandler](#), agrees. "With possible further restrictions on travel, our gardens will continue to be personal sanctuaries and a kind of modern-day pleasure garden," he says.

"I aim to incorporate 'interior' elements into my designs," adds Oliver Bond MSGD of [Bond Landscape Design](#). "This includes fireplaces and built-in outdoor kitchens. We are also experimenting with entertainment features, such as TVs and sound systems."

Tapestry lawns

"I would love to design and plant a tapestry lawn as an alternative to the normal grass lawn," says Ana Sanchez-Martin. To create a tapestry lawn, the designer explains, you must combine many different mowing-tolerant plant species. "Like meadow lawns, they are low in maintenance and of higher ornamental and environmental value.

"The need to mow a tapestry lawn can be reduced by up to two thirds compared to a regular grass lawn. As a consequence, a greater number of plant and insect species are able to inhabit the lawn. In small urban gardens, meadow lawns are not usually practical, but a tapestry lawn could be a great solution."

Jewel colours

Experimenting with colour is one of the most exciting aspects of planting. Ann-Marie Powell adores bold colour. She says: "I have a penchant for acid yellow mixed with warm oranges and deep blue-purples right now."

Oliver Bond is also excited by purple and yellow combinations. "This is a fantastic colour scheme to bring bees into gardens," he says, "and it will stand proud against a cascade of green foliage."

Fi Boyle of [Fi Boyle Garden Design](#) also enjoys grouping vibrant jewel colours together. She says: "I love to combine strong magenta reds like *Rosa* 'Munstead Wood' with moody purples, deep blues and limes. The next step is to incorporate plants with coloured stems and leaves. Try *Salvia* 'Caradonna', *Sedum* 'Karfunkelstein' and *Heuchera* 'Plum Pudding'."

The last word on colour goes to Jilayne Rickards, who thinks that colour schemes could be on their way out in favour of *planting* schemes that support pollinators.

Low carbon gardens

"I feel there is a big movement towards good environmental schemes, supporting wildlife and reducing our carbon footprint," says Jilayne Rickards

Landscaping

Ben Chandler believes the rising cost of imported goods and an increased awareness of our carbon footprint means there will be an emphasis on locally sourced materials, plants and products. "I hope this also means more support for smaller specialist plant nurseries and brings opportunities to local makers and craftspeople," he adds.

Oliver Bond notes he is always on the hunt for more efficient and eco-friendly ways to create hard landscape elements, whether through sustainable materials, greener logistics or less intrusive installation methods. "We have been looking into a universal pedestal system to replace mortar beds beneath garden patios," he says. "It reduces the amount of construction materials required, decreases the impact to the garden and improves storm water management."

Planting

For Ann-Marie Powell, using more plants to lock carbon into the soil is a top priority. "It negates the requirement for extra imported hard landscaping, looks beautiful and attracts beneficial insects too, so it's a win-win" she says. "I would love to find more suppliers who grow their plants peat-free too."

When it comes to planting, Ana Sanchez-Martin is trialling alternative growing mediums and substrates in difficult soils. Meanwhile, Filippo Dester says, "I think we'll keep seeing a focus on Mediterranean and drought-tolerant planting."

Reuse, recycle, repurpose

"Recycling and up-cycling is set to continue into 2022," says Ann-Marie Powell, who is escalating the use of repurposed materials by crushing them for paths, terraces or driveways and selecting low carbon materials.

"I love upcycling existing elements within a garden rather than adding to landfill," says Ana Sanchez-Martin. "Last year I managed to save a beautiful old Victorian greenhouse by working with a wonderful craftsman who helped me to repurpose it."

Jilayne Rickards agrees. "Using pre-owned furniture or ornamentation gives a garden automatic character. Even within a contemporary setting, something aged acting as a counterbalance is wonderful to see."

Jilayne's approach to garden design is to do as little as possible with the site rather than to replace everything. "Try and work with existing soil and use existing plants that are healthy. These will support the local wildlife while encouraging biodiversity," she advises.

Patchwork paths

Designer Filippo Dester says: "I look forward to experimenting with ideas and materials for permeable surfacing. I plan to feature oak setts as an alternative to clay paver. I'd like to combine recycled, existing stone paving with aggregates and low planting to create sustainable and ecological surfaces."

Ana Sanchez-Martin is on the same track. Anna aims to add texture and interest to the garden by planting low, mat-forming species in-between stepping-stones or as path edging. "I want to experiment with plants such as *Pratia pedunculata*, *Carex divulsa* and *Sesleria caerulea*," she says.