



# The Society of Garden Designers Awards 2022 – the winning gardens

The best in horticultural innovation and show stopping garden design are announced

**ANN MARIE POWELL**

**WINNER, UK COMMERCIAL OR COMMUNITY  
LANDSCAPES & GARDENS AND PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
AWARD**



(Image credit: Ann-Marie Powell / Mary Guinness)



Taking home two awards was the design of the new World Food Garden for RHS Wisley by Ann-Marie Powell, which combines and consolidates its fruit, vegetable gardens and herb gardens. As well as winning the UK Commercial and Community Landscapes & Gardens category, it got the public's vote for the People's Choice Award, sponsored by *Homes & Gardens*.

'The world food garden at RHS Wisley was a very different project for us as garden designers. It challenged us in myriad ways, working with a range of exceptionally qualified horticulturalists from the RHS, creating a garden that was inclusive, inspiring and educational for garden visitors, experimenting with all aspects of growing including dig and no-dig, trained fruit, crop protection, seasonal interest and last and not least, including plants that were edible in some way,' Ann-Marie explains.

'Previously the RHS didn't have a garden that incorporated vegetables, fruit, herbs and edible flowers all in one space, and this garden provides a holistic overview of the benefits – wellbeing, health, environment, variety – of productive food growing in all its forms.

'I believe the garden encourages everyone to celebrate just how beautiful, beneficial and satisfying productive growing can be, no matter your age, income, or ethnicity, whether you garden on a balcony, in a city garden or large country estate, there will be inspiration and physical representations of how you can develop a plot to plate experience without air miles, chemicals or high cost. To see so many people enjoying the space makes me feel humbled and proud,' she adds.

Ahead of the award, Ann-Marie said to win 'would mean so much to us, not just professionally but personally, too – that all our energies, the research, the long hours, and the blood, sweat, worries and tears were worth it.'

For the judges, the design represented a 'wonderfully immersive public space displaying a lovely mix of edible, annual and perennial planting designed to inspire and educate visitors.' A view that was echoed by the public.