



Case Study 51

Memories of England Show Garden

Melbourne VIC

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Designer: Jim Fogarty Design

Construction: Semken Landscaping



Memories of England

[Gold Medal-winning show-garden at Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show](#)



There's a touch of the contrarian in Jim Fogarty. At a time when minimalism is in vogue, his latest prize-winning show-garden is anything but!

We spoke to Jim just days after his return from Chelsea. He was part of an English-Australian-Japanese team assembled by legendary designer Julian Dowle that won an unprecedented Gold Medal, People's Choice and Best in Show.



A "ruined" brick wall provides a whimsical backdrop to this English-pattern garden. Attractive and restful by day, the garden comes alive at night thanks to creative lighting and the rambling design.

Just weeks before Chelsea, his show-garden Memories of England won Gold at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. "It's an interpretation of the English style of gardening," he explains. Traditional English gardens are strongly rectangular, often with a paved terrace leading to an upper lawn.

The most startling feature of his show-garden was a "ruined" brick wall along one boundary. "I was trying to get a bit of age into the garden. It was a way of telling a story, maybe of an old building that had been demolished." It also evokes the English walled garden.

"I think the brick wall worked well because it became the garden's backdrop," considers Fogarty who adds that the climbing roses and clematis are key to that effect. "I think it's a lesson in respecting the hardscape, but understanding that it is the backdrop to the garden."

The main feature of this garden is its plants. "Plants aren't getting a great look-in in gardens any more," he asserts, "so I was keen to run in the face of that trend." Fogarty and his team worked with eight growers to bring

“It’s an interpretation of the English style of gardening”

1500 plants to maturity for the show, selecting half to two-thirds. “It meant we were able to use the best plants, so the quality was very high.”

Japanese designer Koji Ninomiya, another member of the multi-award-winning Chelsea team, brought four students to work on the project. “The Japanese are really good at detail, such as cleaning up plants and dead-heading flowers.”

What can we learn from Memories of England.? “Not to be scared of plants, that a low maintenance garden can still have lots of plants. The worst thing we can do for the environment is not to use lots of green products.”

(Right) A bronze bird-bath nestles in the garden. Jim Fogarty contends that a low maintenance garden can still have a diversity of plantings.

(Far right) A clematis drapes softly over the low brick wall on the garden’s left boundary. The facing brick wall evokes a ruined building or walled garden.

Photography by Roger du Buisson



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