

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2004



PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREW WENHAM



OUT OF AFRICA . . . and into Hampstead Heath

Originally from South Africa, the owners of this property moved to the United Kingdom in 1997 and have a hectic family, social and business life.

Andrew Wenham was brought in to design the garden in April 2004. His brief was to:

- k create a garden that connects with the architecture and materials of the house, and Hampstead Heath (on the eastern boundary);
- k make a garden that reflected the owner's nationality and love of foliage;
- k soften the garden using simple materials such as timber and planting;
- k enlarge the dining and entertaining area;
- k improve the site's drainage;
- k give a more dramatic entrance by using lighting and water.

The original garden, which wraps around the house on three sides, was overgrown and completely undeveloped. Work started on site in April 2004, with the removal of a mature yew hedge and some of the 39 overgrown trees, within the limitations set by the area's Tree Preservation Orders. Due to the heavy clay soil, the contractors had to

wait to undertake the groundwork when there was dry weather — the clay also meant that the site's drainage was poor. As a result, the lawn was created with a base shingle layer and geotextile, which supported a topsoil mix of sand and Kettering loam. Block and brick walls were constructed early in the design process, with the sawn sandstone paving, blue engineering brick paving and Balau hardwood decking walkway coming later in the build. Planting was intentionally lush and dense, with lots of varying and contrasting distinct foliage.

Wenham created a Balau hardwood walkway around the perimeter of the plot. The focal point of the whole garden is a water feature which stems from a curved brown engineering brick wall and heavily waterproofed Balau skirt. Planting includes ferns and Japanese maples.

GARDEN FACT FILE

Designer: Andrew Wenham. Tel: +44 (0)1462 790079.

Website: <www.andrew-wenham.co.uk>.

Location: Hampstead, London **Size:** 750m²

Aspect and soil: south facing, with varied soil, but mainly heavy clay loam (pH 6.8–7.9)

Design started: April 2004

Construction started on site; finished on site: April 2004; July 2004

Cost: £100,000 (approx.)

Design fees and project management: £10,000

Hard landscape: £65,000

Soft landscape: £25,000

Contractor: Andrew Rice Landscaping