



Pro Landscaper's Inspire Theatre

Tuesday 21 November

- 10:00 Judging RHS Show Gardens: Explained**
James Alexander Sinclair
Senior judge James provides a detailed run-through of each of the nine updated RHS judging criteria, to give you an expert insight into how to create an award-winning show garden.
- 11:00 TBC**
- 14:00 Why create an RHS show garden?: A sponsor's perspective**
Sophia Notghi
Sophia talks with various show garden sponsors to find out why they decided to create show gardens at this year's shows, and what they gained from the experience – as well as offering advice on how the RHS can assist garden designers in finding sponsorship for their show garden creations.
- 15:00 Green to gold: How to plant a top-medal winning RHS show garden**
Humaira Ikram
Planting design and installation expert Humaira talks us through the some of the key points to consider when planting a show garden – from design through to execution.

Wednesday 22 November

- 10:00 Why form should follow function in a garden aka 'Gardens are for people'**
Matthew Childs
Matthew brings to life the notion of 'Gardens are for People' famously coined by landscape architect Thomas Church and why it is still so relevant to designing gardens today. Matthew believes that if you design a garden that meets all of the needs of the people who will use it, then they will spend time in it, nurture it, plant it. As a result, you will not only have happier people, but wildlife and the wider environment will benefit massively too.
- 11:00 Eat Your Garden: Edimentals in Garden Design**
Harry Holding
What is the role of 'Edimentals' – beautiful and delicious plants – in our gardens? Can they help to foster a deeper connection with our outside spaces and could they go some small way to encourage localised food systems? Harry explores if this portmanteau is just a fleeting trend or a powerful theme here to stay.
- 14:00 Tread with a light touch and the earth will repay you in more ways than you can imagine**
David Stevens | Matthew Childs | Harry Holding | Lynne Marcus | Julie Toil
The recently published 'Manifesto for Sustainable Gardens and Landscapes' sets the theme for the SGD seminars with two of the rising stars of the design world, Matthew Childs and Harry Holding, delivering talks that underline the Society's commitment to this increasingly important subject. The panel discussion will further explore and expand these vital and ever changing challenges.

Business and Nurture Theatre

In partnership with

Tuesday 21 November

- 10:00 Making an Exit: Ensuring your company's legacy continues**
Nina Mason | Tessa Johnstone | Robert Crowder | Richard Kay | Rachel Kay
Whether you've built it up from the ground or taken over the running of a company, it isn't always easy to hand over the reins, and there are a plethora of options to choose from too. Hear from those who have put their succession plan in place or are considering how to pass on their legacy.
- 11:00 Landscaping Leaders: In the Company of Heroes**
Richard Gardiner | Liz Nicholson | Paul Downer | Tony Woods
Richard Gardiner hosts an informal conversation with three of his industry heroes: Paul Downer from Oak View Landscapes, Liz Nicholson of Nicholsons, and Tony Woods at Garden Club London. Richard met these inspirational leaders while completing their Quality Standard Reviews on behalf of the British Association of Landscape Industries. Join Richard as he gains some valuable insights into their business philosophies, key drivers, and some heroes of their own.
- 14:00 Communicating with Clients: Establishing the Design Brief**
Helen Elks-Smith
Design is about change. Gardens are always created from something that exists, and the client wants change. How do you understand what 'works' and what doesn't? How do you establish what the client wants to be 'better' and what they mean by 'better'? What do you do when it doesn't match their budget? Helen Elks-Smith shares her advice for establishing the brief.
- 15:00 TBC**

Wednesday 22 November

- 10:00 Boost for Nature: Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain**
Lewis Normand | Nick White | Terry Smithson | Luke Mills | John Marsden | Alex Pelton
The long-awaited legislation has arrived. But in the last year, have the missing gaps in Biodiversity Net Gain, such as long-term maintenance, been addressed? And how have companies prepared? Is this an opportunity for the landscaping industry? Host Lewis Normand, alongside his expert panellists, will be offering insight.
- 11:00 TBC**
- 14:00 A Different Approach: Stories behind creating actively used care setting gardens**
Debbie Carroll
What prevents care settings actively using their gardens, even when designed to the latest guidance? The answers are explored through several thought-provoking stories from Debbie's research and work. Their key findings identified essential data required that may not be on most site analysis checklists. 'Relationship-Centred Design' – a new approach to delivering design to care clients – is explained, ensuring gardens are actively used long after the designer has left.

Training, Education and Employment Village

In partnership with

Tuesday 21 November

- 10:00 Timeless Success: Keeping the Family Business Fresh at 50**
Rob Woodhouse
Rob Woodhouse discusses the day-to-day running of his family landscaping, design and garden maintenance business, Solent Garden Services Ltd. He will explain how he keeps their 50-year-old company modern and progressive by embracing new materials, techniques, staff training and working alongside brands via social media – all while maintaining family relations!
- 10:30 Mastering Hard Landscaping: The Crucial Role of Expertise and Training in Landscaping**
Lavinia Dowson
Join Talasey to delve into the world of hard landscaping. Explore the vital significance of professional knowledge and training in the hard landscaping sector, with a focus on the manufacturing intricacies of composite decking and porcelain slabs. Learn how a deep understanding of these products, coupled with precise installation according to manufacturer specifications, plays a pivotal role in creating durable and stunning outdoor spaces.
- 11:00 TBC**
- 11:30 From Likes to Leads: Growing Your Online Presence and Converting Followers into Enquiries**
Matthew Freestone
The social media landscape is ever-changing and it can be hard to keep up. This seminar will provide you with practical strategies to cultivate a thriving online presence for the purpose of gaining valuable enquiries. Discover the secrets to attracting a larger audience and targeting and engaging with the ideal customer base for your landscaping business. Matthew will give you guidance to develop an ambitious social media strategy for 2023 and beyond.
- 14:00 Taking the Next Step: Help Your New Business to Succeed!**
Kim Sones | Matt Eden
Learn how to build a solid foundation for your landscaping business to set you on the right path for future success. Matt Eden will draw upon his experience in starting up a new business and some of the easy mistakes to make along the way. Kim Sones will share her method for monitoring profit, pricing correctly, and setting up a payroll system.
- 14:30 The World of CPD: What is it and how does it affect me?**
Andy Donnachie
A closer look at all things related to Continuing Professional Development (CPD), looking at what it is, what to look out for as a CPD consumer and why it is so important for a professional in the world of landscaping.
- 15:00 TBC**

Wednesday 22 November

- 10:00 Design with Innovation: Get Ahead with Vectorworks Landmark**
Marketa Hermova
Dive into the digital world and bring your landscape drawings to life. Get a look at the latest features and innovative steps that Landmark 2024 made to give landscape and garden designers even greater value. Discover how Vectorworks can save time and enhance your creativity.
- 10:30 TBC**
- 11:00 Community, Not Cringe: The Power of Networking for New Landscape Practices**
Gabrielle Shay | Kerrie Mckinnon
Just under two years ago, Goby and Kerrie founded their landscape practice, Studio Supernatural. Since then, they've collaborated with artists, charities, and a wide range of built environment consultants. This seminar explores the vital role of establishing a varied network during a practice's inception. It highlights the value of investing time in cultivating authentic connections and engaging with curiosity, ultimately turning networking from cringe to rewarding.
- 13:00 TBC**
- 12:00 TBC**
- 14:00 TBC**

Lighting Theatre

In partnership with

Tuesday 21 November

- 10:00 Reimagining landscapes and the public realm**
Elettra Bordonaro
Light Follows Behaviour has a fresh approach to lighting design for landscapes and the public realm – more inclusive, more meaningful, more engaging. Transforming spaces needs collective, radical approaches; so, through its work it weaves the disciplines of social researchers, urban planners, architects, brand designers and lighting designers. Here founder Elettra Bordonaro explains the practice's approach with reference to recent projects such as the Brandon Estate in Camberwell.
- 11:00 Creating the after-dark experience with light**
Benz Roos
Leading lighting design practice Speirs Major is seen as an international thought leader in exterior and landscape lighting. Associate partner Benz Roos walks us through the concept and execution of the lighting at some of the studio's most acclaimed recent projects, including the landscape lighting at Exchange Square and Elephant Park in London and the Green Heart at the University of Birmingham.
- 13:00 Illuminating gardens: A practical introduction**
Sam Cox
This presentation will focus on the fundamentals of garden lighting: the terminology, the basic techniques and the key technologies. Expert Sam Cox, director of Landscapeplus, will look at some real life residential projects, and explain how the rights choice of fitting and location made them successful.
- 14:00 Landscape lighting in the public realm**
Melissa Byers
Light is a crucial component in placemaking after dark. It plays a vital role in transforming what could be threatening environments into safe, vibrant and delightful spaces with real economic benefits. Melissa Byers, head of Bournemouth studio for Michael Grubb Studio, explores some of the practice's exemplar projects where light has been transformational.
- 15:00 Achieving the right lighting ambience in urban and countryside landscapes**
Sanjit Bahra
Knowing what to light, and what not to light, is key to achieving a harmonious lighting scheme in a garden. Sanjit Bahra, founder of DesignPlusLight, illustrates the art of balance with many of the practice's acclaimed exterior projects.

Wednesday 22 November

- 10:00 Dark Sky strategy: How to create great spaces without light pollution**
Dan Oakley
The theft of the stars by light pollution has soared up the agenda in recent years as we learn the harm to our environment that unregulated light can do. In this special presentation, Dan Oakley of Darkscape Consulting explains the impact of light pollution on dark skies and us, the best practice in landscape illumination and how you can embrace the darkness with a positive and sustainable mindset.
- 11:00 Right Light, Right Place, Right Time™**
Iain Carlile
Creating engaging landscapes requires putting the right light in the right place at the right time. That's why the phrase is the philosophy of multi award-winning lighting design practice dpa lighting consultants. Iain Carlile, senior associate at dpa lighting consultants in London, looks at how this thinking was implemented in recent projects.
- 14:00 Lighting for Wildlife**
Lee Gunner
We are only recently beginning to learn how sensitive wildlife is to artificial light, and how ill-judged illumination can damage the movement, roosting and feeding of fauna. In this special session, Lee Gunner of Light Pad will look at how the latest research can inform landscape lighting that is friendly to insects and mammals including bats.

Soft Landscaping Demo

Tuesday 21 November

- 10:00 TBC**
- 11:00 How can Irrigation save water?**
Sam Cox | Paul Willavoy
It's never been more important to use water efficiently. Sam from Landscapeplus is going to run through and connect an array of irrigation products covering parts from a small tap-based system all the way up to a comprehensive rainwater harvesting system, highlighting the dos & don'ts along the way whilst being quizzed by Paul, who will be asking the most challenging questions, suggestions of which are welcome!
- 13:30 Introducing Proven Winners®**
Richard McKenna
The Proven Winners® range is the result of years of plant breeding to produce quality plants with many attractive qualities for landscapers, garden designers, landscape architects and all areas where quality shrubs would be used. Richard McKenna talks through the range of plants, which are heat tolerant, drought tolerant and hardy down to -25°C.
- 14:30 GreenBlue Proven – the only guaranteed way to get trees to thrive in urban environments**
Howard Gray
Join GreenBlue Urban's specialists in showcasing the most effective and sustainable techniques for planting trees in the urban realm, offering a practical insight and hands on demonstration. Whether you are a landscape professional, working for a local authority, an urban planner or the installer for a scheme and interested in fostering green spaces, this masterclass will equip you with the knowledge and skills to make creative urban spaces in harmony with nature. This session will explain the following key questions: How can we overcome urban challenges such as utilities, maintenance and costings? How can we design with solutions manufactured in Britain. Is the negative perception of plastic correct?

Wednesday 22 November

- 10:00 TreeParker® – the next evolution in Blue Green infrastructure and storm water management.**
Seraya Siggsworth
In March, Green-tech launched the TreeParker® geo-cellular urban tree planting system to the UK market. The demonstration will showcase the next evolution of the system which enables tree pits to be fully integrated into SuDS; utilising green infrastructure to collect, convey and reuse rainwater. Creating better stormwater management, circular economy, and healthy trees all in one system!
- 11:00 TBC**
- 13:30 TBC**