

JOHN HOYLAND

Garden Design

2 Holly Cottages
Ley Green
Kings Walden
SG4 8LX

john.hoyland@madwithjoy.com

Grove Lodge, London NW3
Garden design statement of intent

The overall aim of the design has been to create an informal, unpretentious garden that is welcoming and relaxing and caters to the needs of a young family, encouraging biodiversity and enhancing the character and appearance of the Conservation Area in which it sits.

The design preserves the current topography of the garden, increases the number of trees and broadens the diversity of the planting within the garden. It creates some areas that are intimate and informal and others that are more elegant and formal. In keeping with the original use of the house as a farmhouse, the design conveys a sense of the countryside in the city. Above all, the garden design creates a safe, stimulating and occasionally whimsical space for the whole family.

Within the garden are two main areas:

The rear walled garden evokes the atmosphere of an old orchard with a semi-mature walnut tree and a semi-mature apple tree along with seven columnar fruit trees.

A semi-mature specimen of Magnolia 'Susan', which has a habit similar to the unnamed magnolia already in that area of the garden as well as a similar flower size and colour, will balance the existing magnolia in this area of the garden. In addition to the retained trees along the wall adjacent to Lower Terrace there will be three Prunus 'Sunset Boulevard'. This was bred as a street tree and will eventually grow

to 6-7m tall with a columnar habit. It has single white flowers that are attractive to insects. It is tough, pollution resistant, strong growing and a tidy shape.

The main part of the garden consists of lawn, meadow, and mixed herbaceous and shrub borders. A larger acer (*Acer freemanii* 'Autumn Blaze') is the focal point of this part of the garden. A group of multi-stemmed Japanese maples, a pollarded *Catalpa bignoides* and pollarded *Paulownia tomentosa* will form the upper tree canopy.

York stone will be used for terracing and paths, and brick will be used for retaining walls and gravel around the house. Any other hard landscaping materials will be natural products.

The bank adjacent to Admirals Walk will be planted in a loose, informal manner to create a 'country garden' feel. Dog roses (*Rosa canina*) will be planted close to the boundary and allowed to tumble down the bank to soften their appearance. The area will be planted with the native daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus* subsp. *lobularis*). Groundcover will consist of lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*) and, in spring, the native primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) followed by foxgloves and oxeye daisies. The area will be maintained to ensure that no species becomes dominant. This relaxed and unpretentious planting will reinforce the semi-rural character of the area.

Planting at the front of the house will be restrained and simple, underlining the unostentatious nature of the building. A *Wisteria sinensis* will be used to soften the facade of the house and will be kept in check by annual pruning. Hollyhocks and simple seasonal bedding will be used around the entrance to further soften the facade of the house.

Three new lime trees in Lower Terrace will create a line already suggested by the existing lime trees on the adjacent property and temper the expanse of brick wall. Beyond the wall, in addition to the existing magnolia, mulberry and box elder, the new cherry trees will be visible. Further into the garden the top of the new apple tree, Magnolia 'Susan' and walnut tree will be seen, creating an attractive and relaxed treescape and a sense of *rus in urbe*.

This scheme incorporates several changes from that originally submitted.

This design proposes the removal of seven (originally six) individual trees and five (originally 3) trees identified as group 'G' in SJA tree survey.

This design proposes the planting of twenty-one new trees rather than eleven suggested in the original plan

I propose the removal of all five (originally three) trees identified as group 'G' in SJA tree survey, which have been assessed as category 'C'. These trees are small, barely visible from the roadside and have been poorly maintained. At least one is a self-sown seedling. They add little to the treescape, nothing to the garden and are easily replaceable by more attractive subjects.

I propose the removal of a multi-stemmed Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*), assessed as category 'C', identified as tree no. 7 in SJA tree survey. This is within the garden and prevents the creation of a sunny terrace and play area. It will be replaced by several other trees.

There are several changes to the species and varieties to those suggested in the initial application. I propose that *Prunus* 'Sunset Boulevard' be used (in the same situation) instead of *Prunus avium* (the wild cherry). *Prunus avium* is too big for the space. It is fast-growing and will reach 10m in ten years. Its eventual size is up to 25m high; it produces suckers that are difficult to control in a garden; its shallow roots and dense shade limit the plants that will thrive near it. *Prunus* 'Sunset Boulevard' was bred as a street tree but is a perfect garden tree where space is limited. It eventually grows to 6-7m tall and has a columnar habit. It has single white flowers that are tinged with pink. The flowers are as attractive to insects as those of the species. The autumn foliage is a buttery yellow. It is tough, pollution resistant, strong growing and a tidy shape. The growth rate, size, shape and amenity value make it a better choice.

Rather than a heavy standard *Magnolia grandiflora* to be planted in the rear of the garden I propose, in the same position, a semi-mature (18-20cm, 5m tall) specimen of *Magnolia* 'Susan'. This has a habit similar to the un-named magnolia already in that area of the garden and has a similar flower size and colour. It will balance the existing tree and avoid the sense of overcrowding caused by the number of different species that are in a relatively small area.

I propose using the cultivar *Crataegus monogyna* 'Stricta', rather than the species, on the bank adjacent to Admiral's Walk (planting position E). The species has an

eventual height and spread of up to 8m. 'Stricta' can eventually reach 4m-6m tall with a width of 2m-3m. It is, therefore, a more appropriate scale for the space. In all other ways, particularly its value as a nectar source in spring and as a food source for birds in autumn, it is the same as the species.

I propose adding a third specimen of the same *Crataegus* cultivar at the rear of the same area.

Additional trees

Visible from the street:

A semi mature apple tree (*Malus domestica*) at the northern end of the rear garden)

An additional *Crataegus monogyna* 'Stricta' on the bank adjacent to Admirals Walk.

Within the garden:

Acer x fremanii 'Autumn Blaze', planted as a large multi-stem 4-5m tall as a replacement for the *Acer palmatum*, tree no. 7.

A group of 4 multi-stemmed *Acer palmatum*.

2 *Paulownia tomentosa*, pollarded at three metres.

Re-positioning of trees

I propose that the three new lime trees are planted between the garden wall and the highway. The adjacent mature lime trees on Lower Terrace are also at the edge of the highway in front of the property's wall (as they are in several places in the vicinity). Planting the new limes as proposed will form a more locally characteristic line with the existing trees, creating a rhythm along the street and softening the view of the garden wall when seen from Lower Terrace.

Biosecurity

Trees used in the scheme will be sourced from a British nursery, favouring plants propagated and grown in the UK. Imported plants will only be used where the nursery has held them in quarantine for a full growing season and regularly inspected them for pests and diseases.