

EMMA APPLEBY GARDEN DESIGN

Proposal for renovation of rear garden of:

The Swinton Hotel, 18-24 Swinton Street, London WC1X 9NX

Currently the rear garden of the Swinton Hotel is disused. Whilst some planting areas exist, they are overgrown and in a state of dis-repair.

The intention is to renovate the garden to ensure that the new timber garden building feels part of the surrounding space and to provide a relaxed environment for hotel guests to use.

The wrap around raised bed will be removed to provide space for the garden building, but the intention is to re-instate two raised beds either side of the garden building thereby anchoring the building into the garden itself. The new beds will be at the same height as the existing ones, but the brick used will match that of the hotel building.

To the right of the garden building we will create an informal seating area with two wooden benches made from western red cedar. They will be flanked by three planters, clad in western red cedar to replicate the fabric of the garden building.

The fence on the left-hand side of the garden is in a very poor state of repair and will need replacing, to the same height. The design of the fence will match that of the fence behind the garden building. We will train climbers along the fence to soften the borders.

The central raised bed with palm trees in will need to be removed. Concrete paving will be reinstated to match the existing surface. In order to provide additional planting areas, in front of the garden building we will install several modular planters clad in western red cedar to reflect the materials used in the garden building. These will be on castors to ensure flexible use of space around bistro tables and chairs.

The intention is to extend the second raised bed in front of room 7 to provide additional planting, and to link the bed to existing architecture. Again, this bed will be edged in brick to match that of the hotel building.

Turning to the sunken area, the existing concrete paths and gravel areas will be removed, to enable a permeable clay paver surface to be installed. This will be in a herringbone pattern, with brick colours to match the existing hotel building. We will create new planting areas by removing the existing brick outbuilding and intend to renovate the existing planting areas. The existing pergola is in a poor state of repair and will be removed to facilitate access into the garden via room 11. A new pergola will be installed in the sunken area to provide a quiet, secluded seating area.

Currently there is very little planting in the garden. The intention is to soften the whole area with multi-layered planting. Multi-stem trees will be used to create structure, with a mid-layer made up from evergreen shrubs, perennials and grasses. The lower layer will be created by using evergreen ground-cover plants. The overall aim with the planting is to increase biodiversity in the area, with a low maintenance scheme, paying particular attention to plants that can cope with adverse conditions and need little watering. All planting areas will be finished with a layer of composted bark to retain moisture and suppress weeds.