

In Full BLOOM

We've handpicked the horticultural highlights we are most looking forward to exploring at this year's *Chelsea Flower Show*

Words **YVETTE MURRELL**



RELAX AND UNWIND

Cloudy Bay Garden by **Sam Ovens**

Escape the stresses of the city in the stylish and serene garden from New Zealand winemaker Cloudy Bay. 27-year-old Cornish landscape architect Sam Ovens has designed the outdoor space, drawing inspiration from the company's signature wines. Ovens, crowned 2014 RHS Young Designer of the Year, says: "I've really enjoyed working with the affinities between gardening and winemaking, and exploring a process which starts in the wild with the earth, and is guided by nature." The borderless garden features a red cedar timber cabin as well as a boardwalk and deck overlooking a large, peaceful pool.

Cloudy Bay brand manager Maria Ines Pina is delighted with the garden, saying it "is a perfect representation of natural luxury, with Sam's clean lines, serene water and planting providing a place to escape with a glass of wine in hand."

'BEHIND EVERY GREAT FLORIST...'

New Covent Garden Flower Market with **Veevers Carter**

Ming Veevers Carter, founder of one of the most prestigious floral design companies in London, has



created a show-stopping concept for the New Covent Garden Flower Market's debut exhibition stand. Already earmarked as one of the shows most ambitious designs, the stand will display a wall of Dutch flower buckets with a central vortex, hinting at an exciting design that will eventually be revealed on the other side.

Helen Evans of the Covent Garden Market Authority has been blown away by the design. "It is a confident, ambitious, show-

stopping concept, which demonstrates both the creative expertise of the professional, independent florist and the excellence of the wholesalers who supply them," she says.

Expectations are high with Veevers Carter's previous projects including huge events in spaces such as the V&A, Natural History Museum and National Portrait Gallery. This show promises to be another extraordinary display that is not to be missed.



SWEET SCENTS

L'Occitane en Provence Garden by James Basson and Peter Dowle

In celebration of their 40th anniversary, L'Occitane returns to its roots with a beautiful garden bearing reminiscent of the company's humble beginnings in Provence, where a young Olivier Baussan began producing essential oils from local rosemary and lavender growers back in 1976. The scene opens up with a gentle stream running through the middle of the garden, disappearing into a landscape surrounded by bushes of lavender and woodland trees. Over 300 different plant varieties specific to the region will be used for the garden and all materials are native to Provence.

“I'VE REALLY enjoyed working WITH the AFFINITIES between gardening AND WINEMAKING”

Naturally, scent and colour play an important part and add to the sensorial atmosphere of this garden, as they did for L'Occitane's Perfumer's Garden last year designed by the same team, which won a gold medal.

'HEALTHY GARDENS, HEALTHY GARDENERS'

By Coventry University

In a state-of-the-art showcase that is the first of its kind for the show, bio-mechanic experts from Coventry University will be demonstrating how gardening can be an effective and enjoyable form of exercise.

Using unique motion-capture technology, visitors to the show will have the opportunity to try on a Lycra suit fitted with sensors and have a go at performing typical gardening activities.



Cloudy Bay Garden 2016

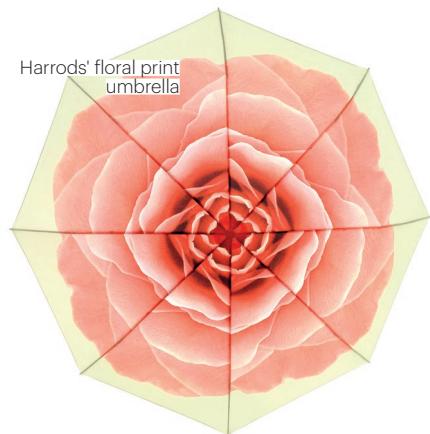


New Covent Garden flower market

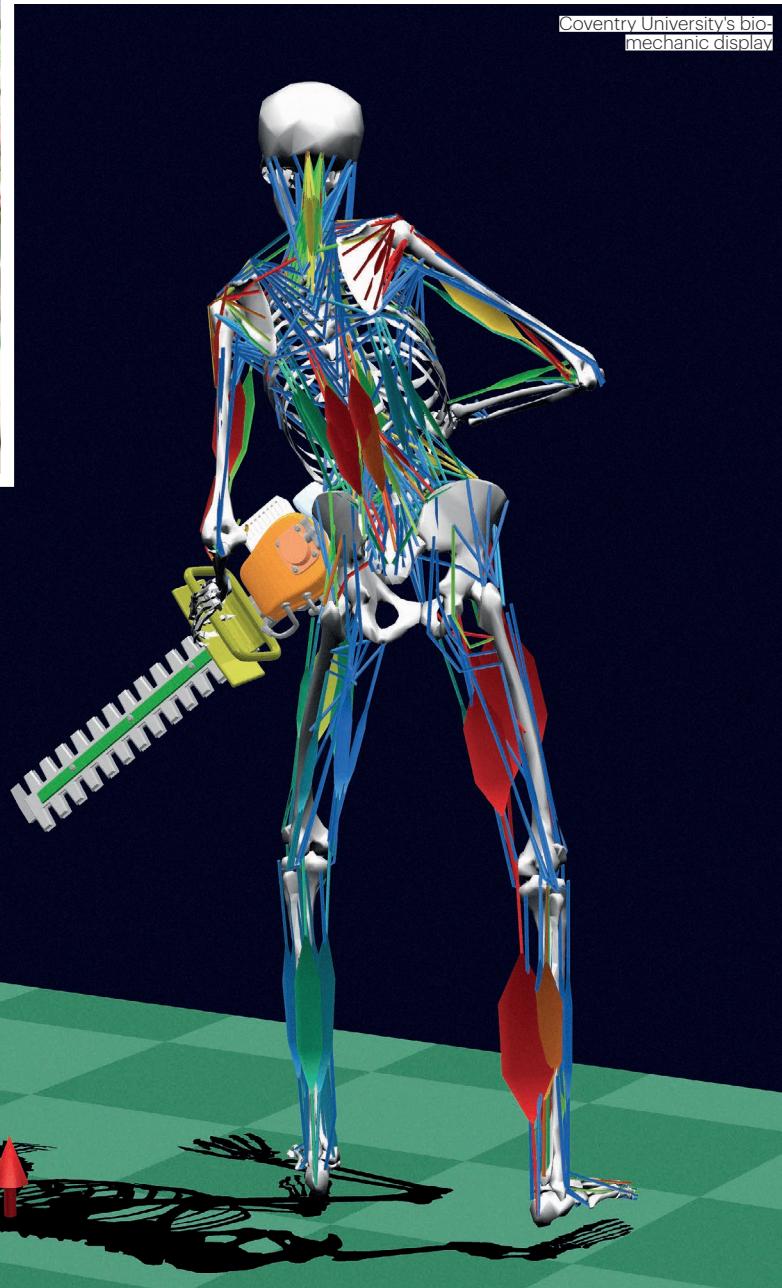
EXPERTS WILL *be*
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Their movements will be displayed as avatars on a large screen, showing just how hard the muscles work when carrying out such tasks.

Aiming to be both fun and informative, and Dr James Shippen adds, "it will be quite enlightening for a lot of gardeners who might not realise just how healthy gardening can be". Experts will also be on hand to explain the health benefits of gardening, and give advice and guidance on the best gardening tasks for maintaining healthy bones, muscles and joints and how to reduce the risk of injury.



Harrods' floral print umbrella



Coventry University's bio-mechanic display

QUINTESSENTIALLY BRITISH

Harrods' British Eccentrics Garden by Diarmuid Gavin

A major contender in this year's show, and set to be one of the most exciting gardens is Harrod's British Eccentrics design from Diarmuid Gavin. Inspired by Britain's greatest and most imaginative minds, the garden is filled with bizarre gadgetry, which comes to life every 15 minutes.

Pop-up flowerbeds, flipping furniture and even a carousel herb bed all add to the colourful and entertaining scene, giving nod to the British industrial design in a quirky and cartoon-like fashion. It is

clear to see the influence William Heath Robinson's illustrations had on this design.

In addition to Gavin's weird and wonderful display, Harrods have announced an exciting new bespoke garden design and landscaping solutions service with the award-winning garden designer. A range of limited-edition floral-print umbrellas is also available for the typically unpredictable British weather as part of their summer campaign, Whatever the Weather. ♦

*RHS Chelsea Flower Show
Royal Hospital, Chelsea, SW3 4SL
24 - 28 May, Ticket office 0844 338 7546
rhs.org.uk/chelsea*