

# County Conciierge

SURREY AND BERKSHIRE

*Classic design from Alexander James*  
*Bespoke shoes to die for*  
*Fitness resolutions just got real*

ART DECO ELEGANCE IN ASCOT

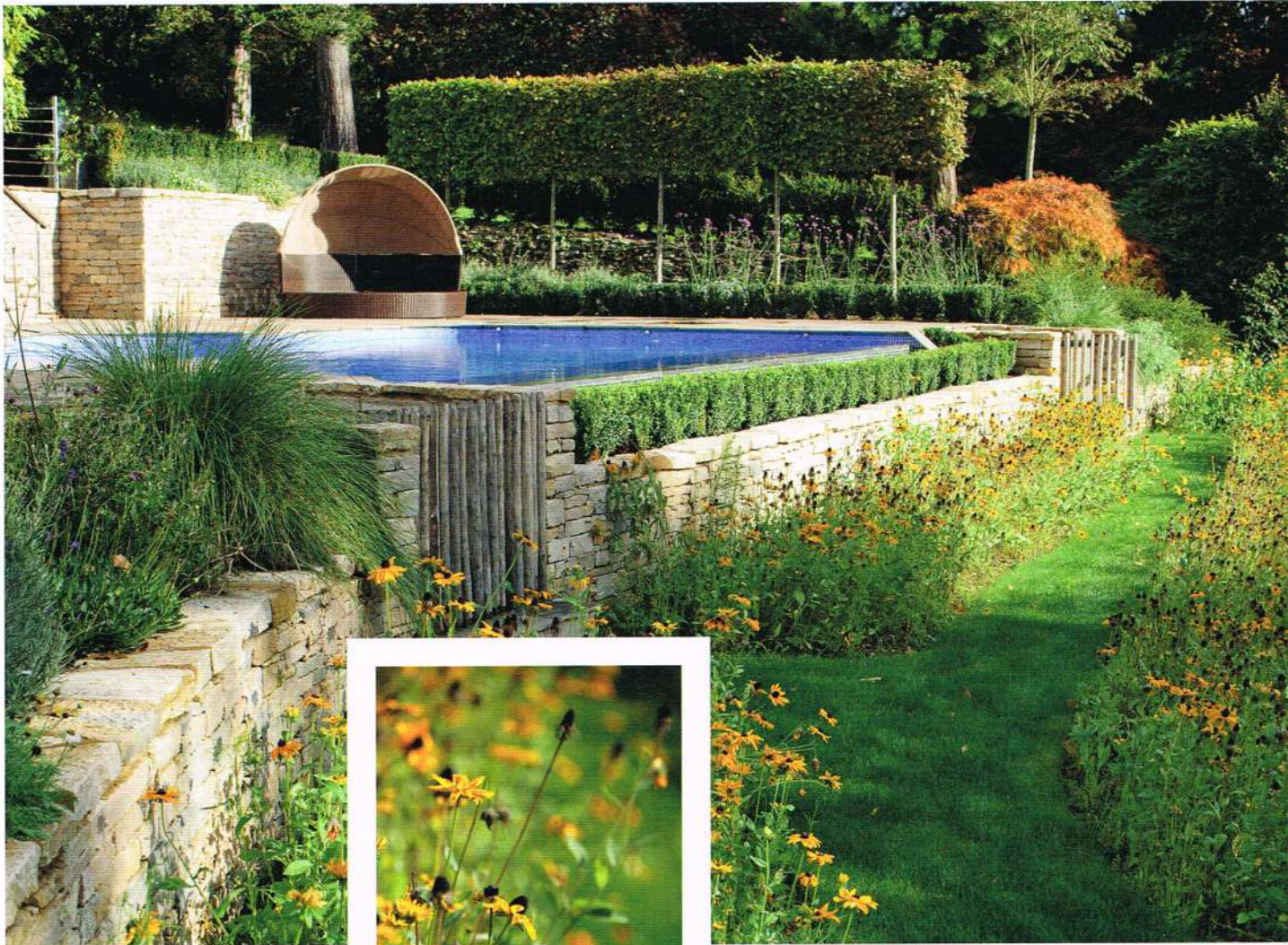
TRANSFORMING YOUR GARDEN

BREAKING THE STRESS CYCLE

BASED IN VIRGINIA WATER, THIS  
HORTICULTURALIST AND GARDEN  
DESIGNER WORKS WITH THE  
CLIENT AND NATURE TO ACHIEVE  
TRANSFORMING RESULTS.

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## *Fiona Harrison*



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Photographs:  
jo scott photography  
[joscottimages.co.uk](http://joscottimages.co.uk)

**M**any people are happy to decorate their own homes inspired by the wealth of ideas from magazines, the media and interior shops. When it comes to gardens, many face difficulties – where to start, there being no defining spaces, issues of privacy and no sense of order or functionality. On top of this, gardens need living plants but which to choose; there are so many different species and varieties!

It is easy to 'decorate' a garden with pots, seating and plants that you hope will grow but often without the design input that vital connection between house and garden is missing. Perhaps there is no intimacy in the seating areas or a disconnect between sizes of borders, and lawn areas. Does something always seem missing no matter how many wonderful plants are introduced?

A well designed garden works with the client's lifestyle and budget, architecture and setting to create something that not only works functionally but is pleasing aesthetically and emotionally.

This garden, set within the woodland of the Wentworth estate, was remodelled to suit the requirements of a young family with plenty of space for play and entertainment.

Set on steeply sloping land the terracing allowed for levelled lawn areas and a series of summer flowering meadows. The swimming pool terrace was expanded for summer entertainment and planted with scented billowing masses of grasses, Roses, Salvia, Ceanothus and Verbena.

Pleached Hornbeam trees help to shape and define the outdoor spaces giving that architectural connection to the house.

The planting relaxes into a woodland meadow and stream planted with tree ferns and the prehistoric looking giant, *Gunnera manicata*. A tree house for children's parties and peaceful relaxation is nestled amongst the Magnolia and Birch trees.

This garden is one of many constructed over the last 15 years of my practice as a designer. I offer a complete design and build service from initial consultation to advice on after care and maintenance and indeed work for many clients solely in an advisory capacity to develop gardens to their full potential.

Reassess your garden this winter – a perfect time to reconsider your garden and plan for a summer of outdoor living.



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