

PRESS RELEASE

# Royal Chelsea Flower Show

20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2008

## Simply Italian presents 'Ocean to a Garden' Sponsored by Testi Fratelli Designed by Paul Cooper

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'Ocean to a Garden' may take you back 2000 years, to the cradle of our civilization with Roman temples, or it may take you back billions of years when oceanic floors were laid down, only to erupt later on to form marble and granites. The Garden may conjure up images of the fabled city of Atlantis submerged in a deluge, the sinking City of Venice, or images of a Future World where we could no longer control the rising levels of the oceans.

The garden is sponsored by one of Italy's leading stone producers, Testi Fratelli, who will be supplying granite which uses the most advanced 3D stone shaping technology in the world. Multi-award winning garden architect and sculptor, Paul Cooper, has worked in collaboration with Testi Fratelli to create 'Ocean to a Garden' as a modular granite land and sea scape, divided by a water line. Everything below this line is saturated by water – the 'Ocean'. Everything above the water line is the Garden.

The never-resting 'Ocean' is set out in flowing granite with water cascading, rippling and pooling over the different textures. The ribbed columns mimic the rippling waves, the two side walls feature a combination of silky smooth and wave textured panels, and the third wall is a section of sea water encased in clear glass. The undulating granite floor invites you to walk into this watery world between the colonnades and through the raised dry areas.

Above the 'Ocean' is the Garden, scented by lavender and roses emerging from the columns and beyond that, with the horizon pulled forward, a natural Tuscan landscape.

Paul Cooper, who designed the garden for Simply Italian and Testi Fratelli, comments:  
"During my recent visit to Venice, I was reminded of the delicate balance in nature between water and our survival. Although we live in a world where 6/7 of our planet is covered in water and our bodies are made up of almost 75% water, we are continuously reminded how our survival is threatened if things go out of sync. It therefore seemed entirely appropriate to celebrate the fluctuating and dynamic worlds of Oceans and Gardens as facets of our lives. Water moves from the clouds as snow or rain, falls into the oceans or on to our gardens, to nourish all life, emerging back into the atmosphere to continue the cycle of life."

'Ocean to a Garden' can be used as an outside or an inside room. As it is modular, it can easily be configured for an area with different dimensions and planting schemes, or erected in a hot climate where the refreshing water would cool and purify the air.

To find out more about Paul Cooper's designs visit [www.paulcooperdesign.co.uk](http://www.paulcooperdesign.co.uk) or to learn about the stone surfaces we are using in the garden see [www.hyperwave.it](http://www.hyperwave.it).

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