

Press Release
Simply Italian Garden ‘Ocean to Garden’
Designed by Paul Cooper
Royal Chelsea Flower Show May 2008

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This year’s garden called ‘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 rocks, marble and granites. It may remind you of the story of the fabled city of Atlantis submerged in a deluge, or it may warn you of a future where we could no longer control the rising levels of the oceans.

Paul Cooper, who is a Gold Winner from previous years, designed the Italianate garden ‘Ocean to Garden’ as a modular granite water feature. The garden incorporates columns set out on a grid at the lower ocean level, where all surfaces are covered in water up to the water level line. The granite columns carry Mediterranean plants and the backdrop – the back of the garden – is a typical Tuscan landscape above the water level line.

The garden is constructed on a strictly geometric grid, with granite columns set out on a sculpted granite floor. Each column has water running over the surface, pooling at the bottom of each column. The modular floor of the garden is shaped in such a way that it is possible to walk on dry areas between the columns. The side walls are constructed from smooth and textured granite panels on two sides, the third side is a clear glass wall filled with water which enables you to see into the garden through water, and the fourth side is left open.

Paul Copper, who designed the garden for Simply Italian, comments:

“At 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 Oceans as Givers of life. Here in the UK we have 2000 year old Roman baths and temple remains, so the column seemed the obvious choice, laid out below the water line and with the Italianate landscape laid out above the water line”

‘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

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