

Rising stars

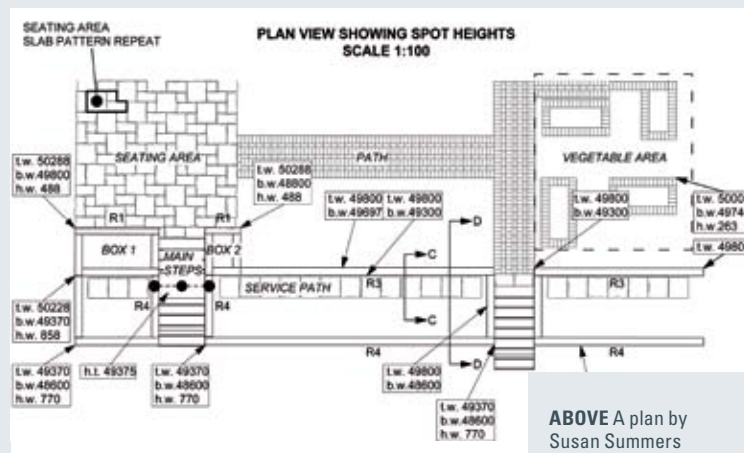
Continuing our occasional series where we ask lecturers to show us the work of their most promising protégés, this month we showcase three students from Sparsholt College



Susan Summers, 46

Susan is in her second year of the BSc Garden Design course, and will be graduating in summer 2012. Susan started teaching Garden History and Design Principles at the RHS Wisley School of Horticulture in October last year, and has set up her own business, Summers Garden Designs. She is also Mid South Regional Co-ordinator for the SGD. Sparsholt lecturer Harry Mycock describes Susan's construction drawing skills – essential for any designer – as "terrific".

"I started as an apprentice in mechanical and electrical engineering and became a design draughtsperson designing LCDs using AutoCAD, before progressing to managing a technical documentation team and, more recently, working as an IT Project Manager," says Susan. **"But I wanted to explore different avenues, so I took a fresh look back at all the skills I had gained. My desire to do something different, and my interests in horticulture, architecture and creative design, led me to enrol in 2008 at Sparsholt."**



ABOVE A plan by Susan Summers



RIGHT One of Moira's moodboards, which she feels can "prompt an emotional response in a way that no words or plan can".



Moira Rusbridge, 50

Moira is currently 'topping up' her Foundation Degree to a BSc in Garden Design and will graduate in two years' time. Before starting at Sparsholt, she was maintaining gardens for clients, which she still does. Harry Mycock has been impressed by Moira's moodboards.

"A love of gardening, and wanting to turn the visions of how I wanted a garden to look into reality inspired me to study garden design."

RIGHT AND BELOW Charlotte Murrell's 'Wild in the City' design



Charlotte Murrell, 35

Charlotte won the National Student Design and Build Competition 2010 (sponsored by Wyevale East Nurseries) while she was studying part time for a Foundation Degree in Garden Design. This enabled her to apply to the RHS to design a Small Garden at Hampton Court 2011. Charlotte was accepted and her design, Wild In The City, won Silver-Gilt. Her lecturer at Sparsholt, Harry Mycock, liked the design so much that he installed it in his own garden.

"Garden design combines my previous studies and my personal interests," says Charlotte. **"I spent two years as Second Gardener on the Trewidden Estate in Cornwall. Having studied both fine art and interior design, I felt I was well on the way to being able to transfer to garden design. I needed more experience in horticulture so I worked in the estate nursery, which supplied plants to the Eden Project."**

