



FUKUOKA

FLOWER

SHOW

SAT 3 - WED 7 APRIL 2027

Fukuoka Botanical Garden

Garden Contest

Application Guidelines

Application deadline : Thursday 10 September 2026



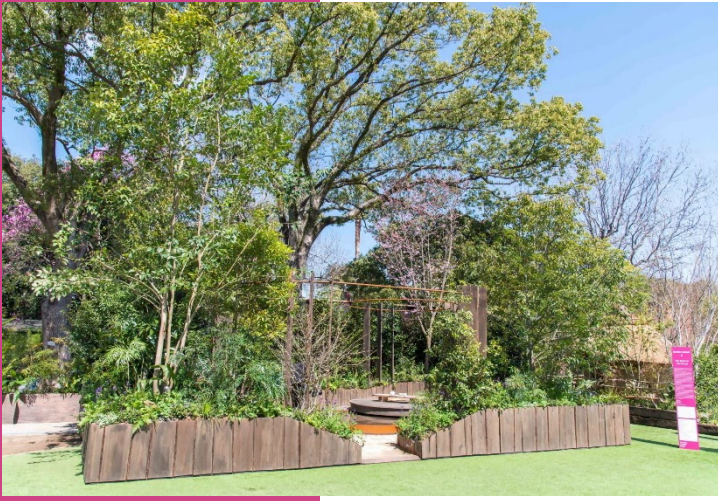


Photo : Fukuoka Flower Show 2026

About the Contest

We are calling for participants in the garden contest at the Fukuoka Flower Show 2027, which will be held in April 2027. This contest is an international-level garden competition judged according to entry requirements and criteria based on the world-renowned Chelsea Flower Show. Five entries selected through a document screening will be exhibited in a special area within the venue, and awards will be given based on onsite judging. After the exhibition ends, the works will be relocated around the city to be considerate of the environment and to spread flowers and greenery throughout the town. We are seeking vibrant, uplifting works that enrich people's lives with flowers and greenery, bringing colour and vitality to the city.

We sincerely look forward to receiving applications from people all over the world.

Garden Design Requirements

◆ Must Be Relocation-Based Work

After the exhibition, each garden is expected to be permanently relocated within Japan. Please design and construct the garden as a permanent installation intended for a site in Japan.

◆ Must Be Work Developed in Response to a Client's Request

Submissions must be based on the needs of a specific client—such as the company or sponsor at the planned relocation site. If no actual client is available, applicants may assume a fictional client and develop a design that reflects their hypothetical requirements.

◆ Must Evoke a Sense of Happiness in Viewers

The beauty during the FFS exhibition period (early April) should be given particular priority, and the work should be designed to evoke a sense of happiness in viewers.

On-site judging will be conducted immediately prior to the FFS exhibition period. While the work is intended to be relocated and should remain attractive throughout the year, proposals should emphasize works that are at their most beautiful during the FFS exhibition period.

Production Grants (Tax Included)

To support the cost of garden creation, the following grants will be provided:

◆ Garden Designers

Domestic applicants: up to ¥1,500,000

Eligible expenses: transportation and accommodation – up to ¥500,000
design fee and labor cost – up to ¥1,000,000

Overseas applicants: up to ¥2,500,000

Eligible expenses: transportation and accommodation – up to ¥1,500,000
design fee and labor cost – up to ¥1,000,000

◆ Construction Companies

Up to ¥5,000,000

Eligible expenses: construction, plant procurement, materials, labor cost, etc.

◆ Maximum Total Grant Per Garden

Domestic applicants ¥5,000,000

Overseas applicants ¥7,500,000

- The Secretariat can introduce local construction companies upon request.
- Details regarding payment will be provided after the selection of finalists.
- In addition to the grant, participants are welcome to receive financial or material support from their sponsors to complete their garden.

Garden Relocation

If a relocation site has not been determined at the time of application, applications are still accepted. The Secretariat can assist with identifying and coordinating a suitable site, including outreach and matching. Once participation is confirmed, please consult with the Secretariat promptly regarding the relocation site.

If no relocation site is confirmed by the end of the exhibition period, the garden will be taken into custody by the Secretariat, which will continue efforts to secure a suitable site on your behalf. Further details will be provided after the selection of finalists.

Support for Applicants

◆ Feedback after Document Screening

After the document screening, feedback from the jury will be provided to all applicants. This may be used as a reference for future creative activities.

◆ Opportunity for Special Exhibition

During the FFS period, a garden display will be held in front of the entrance of Fukuoka City Zoo. In addition to the five selected works for the garden contest, entries that are judged to be particularly highly evaluated will be selected as “Special Selection Works” and provided with an opportunity to be exhibited separately at this location.

Number of works: 2, Size: W4.5m x D4.5m (20.25㎡)

Period: during the FFS exhibition period

A production subsidy will be provided. Further details will be announced after the Special Selection Works have been decided.



Photo : Fukuoka Flower Show 2026

Judging Process

1. Document Screening

Submitted drawings and application materials will be reviewed, and five finalists will be selected based on the evaluation.

2. Onsite Judging

Finalists' gardens will be judged during the exhibition based on the following criteria:

■ Judging Criteria

- ◆ **Realisation of Client's Brief** Clarity, Delivery
- ◆ **Impact** Ambition, Atmosphere, Flair, Ingenuity, Theatre
- ◆ **Overall Impression** Attention to detail, Choice of materials, Polish, Dressing
- ◆ **Design, Layout, Plan of Garden** 2D, Dimensions, Scale, Unity
- ◆ **Design, 3D and Spatial Composition** Scale, Mass, Void, Volume, Balance, Visibility
- ◆ **Construction** Quality of build, Finish
- ◆ **Planting Design** Visual impact, Composition, Colour, Texture, Form, Plant selection, Appropriate size of plants, Suitability to brief.
- ◆ **Planting Associations** Sustainability, Cultural requirements, Right plant right place
- ◆ **Planting Implementation** Plant quality, Density of planting, Believability, Execution

*Please review the application guidelines (pp. 07–08) for details.

Awards

- ◆ Awarded gardens will receive one of the following honors:
Gold Medal, Silver Gilt Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal
- ◆ Additional awards include:
 - FFS Garden of the Year Garden with the highest overall evaluation
 - Best Construction Award Garden with the highest evaluation for construction quality
 - People's Choice Award Popular vote by visitors
- ◆ Award recipients will be offered the following support:
 - Garden exhibition in urban locations (planned for Gold Medal recipients)
 - Feature articles in newspapers, magazines, and broadcast media
 - Business and promotional matchmaking to support future activities

Judging Panel

Chair of Judges



James Alexander Sinclair

Vice President, RHS*
Garden designer



Liz Nicholson

RHS Board Member
Horticulture and Sustainability



Keiko Yoshiya

Hitori Hitohana
Ambassador
Garden Designer



Satoru Masaki

Garden Designer
Environmental Designer

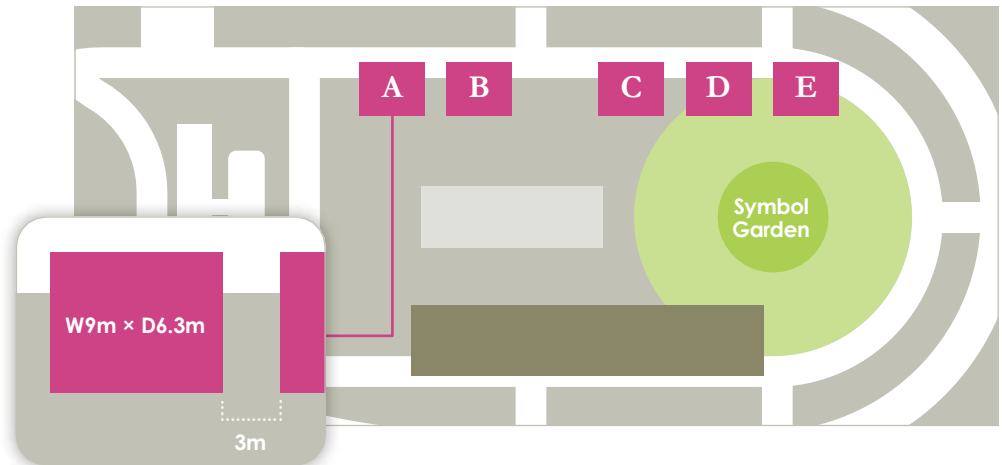


Eiko Ooide

Vice Principal,
Tokyo University of
Agriculture Green
Academy

Garden Specifications

Gardens will be constructed in a designated outdoor space within the Fukuoka Botanical Garden.



- ◆ **Size:** W9m x D6.3m (56.7 m²), flat surface consisting of artificial turf and compacted soil. Use stones or logs to secure soil edges.
- ◆ **Placement:** The exact location of each garden will be determined by the Secretariat, taking the overall venue balance into consideration.
- ◆ **Ground Conditions:** Artificial turf and stabilized soil paving. Excavation is not permitted—gardens must be built using raised beds.
- ◆ **Plot Features:** Some plots may contain artificial turf, curbstones, or gratings. Please adjust for unevenness as needed.
- ◆ **Height Restrictions:** For safety, the maximum height of all garden elements—including plants, panels, and lighting—is approximately 3.6 meters. If exceeding this limit or raising safety concerns, please consult the Secretariat in advance.
- ◆ **Accessibility:** If visitors are allowed to enter the garden, accessible pathways must be at least 90 cm wide.
- ◆ **Background:** Natural wooded areas will serve as scenic backdrops. Designs should consider views from the front and both front-side angles.
- ◆ **Safety Measures:** Secure any structures or features that could fall or tip over. Consider anti-theft and plant protection measures.
- ◆ **Lighting:** Nighttime illumination is required. Please ensure your garden remains visually appealing after dark.
- ◆ **Ground Protection:** Basic ground protection will be carried out by the Secretariat. Please undertake any additional protective measures as required, depending on the work layout and its condition. As a workspace will be secured behind each exhibit, please ensure that appropriate screening is installed so that the area is not visible to visitors. Further details will be provided after the participants have been selected.

Power Supply (Lighting & Water Pumps)

- ◆ **Maximum Power Capacity**
Up to 500W per garden during the exhibition period.
- ◆ **Lighting**
Nighttime illumination is mandatory until 9:00 PM during the exhibition (until 5:00 PM on the final day).
 - Use LED or similar low-heat, water-resistant lighting. Avoid contact with flammable materials.
- ◆ **Pump Use**
 - Must be a recirculating system.
 - Design the electrical system to stay within the 500 W limit, with separate circuits for equipment used during the day (e.g. pumps) and equipment used at night (e.g. lights).
Each circuit should be able to be switched on or off manually as needed.
- ◆ **Temporary Power Supply During Construction**
During the construction period, participants may use the venue's existing maintenance power line, which has a total capacity of 1,500W shared among all five gardens. High-consumption devices such as hair dryers are not permitted.

Maintenance and Site Restoration

- ◆ **Maintenance During Exhibition:** From completion to the end of the event, each participant or team is responsible for maintaining their garden.
- ◆ **Post-Exhibition Maintenance:** Maintenance, after the event until relocation is completed, will be coordinated with the participant and team based on their preferences.
- ◆ **Site Restoration:** All gardens must be dismantled and the site returned to its original condition after removal.
- ◆ **Support:** Up to ¥500,000 (tax included) will be provided to assist with maintenance and site restoration during the exhibition period.

How to Apply

Please complete and submit the required information via the application form.

*Please check the separate document “List of Application Form Fields” for details of the information to be entered in the application form.

Application Form URL: <https://forms.office.com/r/WdbPL3VDuP>

General Details

Include your contact details, background, past awards, and portfolio of relevant work. If a construction company has already been selected, please provide its details as well.

Sponsor's Details

If a sponsor has been confirmed, please include their information.

Garden Legacy

Whether or not a relocation site is secured will not affect the results of the document screening.

Garden Design Proposal

All drawings must be prepared in A4 landscape format.

The design should represent the condition during the FFS exhibition period (early April).

Layout Plan (Basic Design Drawing)

A top-view layout showing plantings and structures, with scale, orientation, and legend. Hand-drawn or digital formats are both acceptable.

Section and Positioning Drawings (Elevation View)

Show changes in level, raised beds, foundation depths, reference points, centre lines, and key dimensions in a concise manner. Simple sketches with dimension lines are acceptable.

Rendered Perspective Image

A visual representation of the completed garden. Hand-drawn or digital formats are both acceptable.

Plant List

Include names, characteristics, and intended uses of the plants.

Downloadable Format Template <https://convention.box.com/s/52ka5vlmf1nn4q7b6l5gt36g11wn38de>

Client's Brief

Create your design in response to the request of a real or fictional client (e.g., relocation site host or sponsor). Include details such as the client's profile, intentions, installation site, concept, design objectives, and key features.

Cost Estimate

To verify feasibility, please submit a budget plan. For overseas applicants who need an introduction to a construction company within the city, the contest secretariat can arrange one. Because coordination takes time, please contact us as early as possible. Please submit all documents required for the quotation by 31 July 2026.

Sustainability

Describe how your design and construction plan consider environmental sustainability. Please refer to page 6 of the guidelines for sustainability requirements.

Schedule

* All times indicated are in Japan Standard Time (JST)

- ◆ Opening of Applications Friday, 19 June 2026
- ◆ Application Deadline Thursday, 10 September 2026, 17:00 (JST)
- ◆ Notification of Results Late September 2026 *submissions must be received by this time
- ◆ Construction Period Tuesday, 16 March – Wednesday, 31 March 2027 (planned)
- ◆ Event Period Saturday, 3 April – Wednesday, 7 April 2027
- ◆ Exhibition Period From the end of the event until the relocation date
(up to Sunday, 9 May 2027, planned)

Contact

Fukuoka Flower Show Contest Secretariat

Email: contest-ffs@convention.co.jp

Terms and conditions of application

Applicants for the Fukuoka Flower Show 2027 Garden Contest (hereinafter “applicants”) must read the following carefully and apply only if they agree to these terms. By submitting an application, you are deemed to have agreed to the terms and conditions below; if you do not agree, you cannot apply.

Important notes

- Once you have applied, you cannot cancel your application without the consent of the secretariat.
- If a dispute arises between the applicant and a third party in connection with the application, the applicant must resolve the dispute at their own responsibility and expense; the secretariat accepts no responsibility.
- The secretariat assumes no responsibility for any damage incurred by the applicant or a third party in connection with the application.
- Applicants (or their organisations) must not be, nor in future become, members of or associated with organised crime groups, their members, quasimembers, corporate racketeers or other antisocial forces as defined in the Fukuoka City Exclusion of Organised Crime Groups Ordinance (enforced July 1, 2010).
- The contest content, schedule, application terms and requirements specified on the secretariat’s official website may be changed if the secretariat deems it necessary. The secretariat may make such changes by posting them on the official website or by notifying applicants individually, without obtaining individual consent. The changed content will apply from the earlier of (a) the time it is posted on the official website or (b) the time an individual notification is received by the applicant.
- The secretariat will not answer any inquiries about the judging process.
- All expenses incurred in connection with the application must be borne by the applicant.
- The right to participate in the contest cannot be transferred to a third party.
- Even after you have been selected to participate in the contest, if you are found not to meet the application terms or requirements specified on the secretariat’s official website, your participation may be revoked.
- If an applicant violates the application terms or requirements specified on the secretariat’s official website, or causes damage to the secretariat for reasons attributable to the applicant, the applicant must compensate the secretariat for that damage.
- When bringing in, removing or preparing to remove equipment or materials for construction, take adequate safety measures and strive to prevent hazards to visitors. Please follow the instructions of onsite staff.
- Construction and maintenance must be carried out during the periods specified by the secretariat.
- Participants are responsible for maintaining their gardens from completion until the end of the exhibition period.
- If, after the garden is completed and before it is removed, you must withdraw from the contest for unavoidable reasons, the constructed garden will thereafter be managed by the secretariat.
- Documents and data submitted at the time of application will not be returned.
- If the applicant is a minor, please apply with the consent of a guardian.

Use of applicants’ documents and photos

- The design drawings, layout plans, snapshots and photos of the completed garden submitted at the time of application may be used by the secretariat, on the Fukuoka City website, on official social media and in other printed or promotional materials. Photos and videos may be edited or processed, and individual notification will not be given.
- The secretariat may change or remove all or part of a garden, or take other measures it deems necessary, in the following cases:
 - The exhibition period has ended.
 - It is necessary for safety or sanitary management.
 - The applicant violates the application terms or the requirements set out on the secretariat’s official website.
 - In other cases deemed necessary by the secretariat.

Prohibited acts

- The following acts are prohibited when applying for this contest. If the secretariat determines that an applicant has carried out or is likely to carry out any of the following acts, the secretariat may cancel the application or award, or remove the work, without prior notice:
 - Acts that interfere with the operation of the contest.
 - Acts that interfere with the applications of other applicants.
 - Acts that infringe the honor, social credibility, privacy, portrait rights, publicity rights, copyrights or other intellectual property rights, or any other rights (including those prescribed by law and those recognized by precedent) of others.
 - Acts that slander, threaten or harass third parties or cause them damage or discomfort.
 - Acts for the profit of oneself or a third party, or acts intended to prepare for such profit.
 - Acts that are contrary to public order or common decency.
 - Other acts equivalent to the above or acts deemed inappropriate for this contest by the secretariat.

Disclaimers and other provisions

- If the secretariat determines that an applicant is in violation of these terms, it may take measures such as canceling the application or withdrawing an award, and the secretariat will not be liable for any resulting damage incurred by the applicant.
- During construction, each participant is responsible for their own belongings; the secretariat is not responsible for any damage, theft or loss of belongings.
- Please note that this contest may be changed or canceled without notice. The secretariat is not responsible for any damages or compensation arising from changes or cancellation.
- Any disputes or damages that occur between an applicant and a third party arising from the applicant’s work, or other matters not attributable to the secretariat, must be resolved by the applicant at their own responsibility; the secretariat will not be liable. Applicants are advised to take out insurance or other measures as necessary.

Handling of personal information

- Personal information provided by applicants will be used only for the operation and notification of the Fukuoka Flower Show. For award recipients, names, organisation names and portraits (such as face photographs) will be used for publication at exhibition sites and in various media.
- For details on how personal information is handled, please refer to Fukuoka City’s official website :
<https://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/sub/kojinjyohou.html>

Sustainability

- ◆ Design and construction must consider long-term sustainability and relocation by addressing the following:
 - Waste reduction, reuse, and recycling (e.g. designing to minimise waste, including simple compost facilities, and reusing discarded materials)
 - CO² emission reduction (e.g., efficient transportation, renewable energy use)
 - Biodiversity (e.g., Select plants suited to the environment and provide habitats that support a diversity of species.)
 - Sustainability in maintenance (e.g., ease of replanting/watering, use of permeable materials, shade planning)
- ◆ The five selected works will be subject to the environmentally conscious garden assessment system, the “Green Garden Audit*”, which is also implemented at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Accordingly, participants will be required to cooperate in submitting the necessary data and related materials. They will also be able to receive advice on design and construction methods to help reduce environmental impact.

Further details will be provided after the participants have been selected.

*A system that reviews design plans and material specifications prior to construction, evaluates environmental considerations and sustainability, and promotes improvements in advance.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Very Good (3)	Good (2)	Satisfactory (1)	Poor (0)
1. Realisation of Client's Brief: - Clarity - Delivery	The garden is a direct and unambiguous realisation of the brief, providing multiple ways for the audience to engage with the content.	The garden is a clear realisation of the brief, providing ways for the audience to engage with the content without further explanation.	The relationship between the brief and the garden is generally apparent. However, it is unlikely that the audience will fully engage with the brief, because it is either too complex or too confused.	The relationship between the brief and the garden is partially apparent, with some areas confusing or missing.	The relationship between the brief and the garden is not apparent.
2. Impact: - Ambition - Atmosphere - Flair - Ingenuity - Theatre	An extremely impactful garden that shows exceptionally high levels of atmosphere, creativity, and/or ingenuity.	An impactful garden that shows very good levels of atmosphere, creativity and/or ingenuity.	The garden has some impact, but may be lacking in atmosphere, creativity and/ ingenuity.	The garden has confusing or distracting elements that weaken the overall atmosphere.	An underwhelming garden that lacks impact, ingenuity and/or creativity.
3. Overall Impression: - Attention to detail - Choice of materials - Polish - Dressing	A meticulous garden with all materials finished to an exceptional standard and exhibiting excellence in detailed design. Exquisite dressing and styling strengthen the design and have been finished to an outstanding standard.	A garden which showcases materials finished to a high standard and which illustrates aptitude in detailed design. Dressing and styling compliment the design without unnecessary or distracting additions.	A garden which is finished to a generally good standard, and/ or the quality of some details vary. The dressing and styling generally complement the design but may be lacking or include some weak and/ or unnecessarily distracting additions.	A garden which is disappointing in terms of attention to detail, or which is variable with distracting weaker elements outweighing higher quality ones. Much of the dressing and styling is distracting or superfluous.	A disappointing garden, poorly finished with little, no or unnecessary dressing and styling.
4. Design, Layout, Plan of Garden: - 2D - Dimensions - Scale - Unity	A garden that is a pleasure to use, excellently proportioned, and which demonstrates an advanced knowledge of scale, proportion, ergonomics, comfort and design generosity.	A generally well- designed garden that is highly useable, well- proportioned and planned, with all elements unifying the space. No unnecessary elements.	A garden that may be useable but includes some areas which are difficult to understand or use, or which disproportionately compete with one another, weakening the overall design.	A garden that may be difficult to use, or which may include elements or areas that are unnecessarily complex or confused. Individual elements lack unity, perhaps competing with one another.	An un-useable, confusing disproportionate garden that lacks unity and which illustrates a poor understanding of design.
5. Design, 3D and Spatial Composition: - Scale - Mass - Void - Volume - Balance - Visibility	An exquisitely balanced composition demonstrating excellent knowledge of three-dimensional spatial design. The garden is exceptional both from the outside and inside with sequential views, and framing.	A well-balanced composition demonstrating good knowledge of three-dimensional spatial design. The garden works both from the outside and inside with sequential views, and framing. Some minor elements may not work as well as others, but do not distract from the overall balance of the garden.	A balanced composition, generally spatially well designed, but with conflicting, distracting or under-sized three-dimensional elements. It may work from the inside or outside, but not both.	A weak, un- balanced composition that lacks three-dimensional design. The garden may have under- sized structures or plants which fail to provide the design intention as described in the brief.	A poorly realised garden that lacks evidence and understanding of three-dimensional design. The garden may include under or oversized structures or plants which fail to provide the design intention described in the brief.
6. Construction: - Quality of build - Finish	Excellent build quality and finish demonstrating craftsmanship, flair and skill with no apparent fault in the construction that would detract from the finish of the garden.	Very good build quality and finish with minor faults in construction that reflect in the finish of the garden.	A generally good finish in build quality with a number of minor faults that reflect in the finish of the garden.	Variable build quality and finish across the garden with notable faults in the construction detail that reflect in the finish of the garden and/or the function of the garden.	Substandard build quality and finish across the garden with multiple notable construction faults that would affect the function of the garden.
7. Planting Design: - Visual impact - Composition - Colour, Texture, Form - Plant Selection - Appropriate size of plants - Suitability to brief	Excellent planting design with plant selection and composition that expertly reflects the client's brief.	Very good planting design with plant selection and composition that reflects the client's brief to a very good standard.	Good planting design but with some plant selections and compositions that conflict with the client's brief.	Satisfactory planting design but with plant selection and composition that conflict with the client's brief in multiple ways.	Poor planting design with weak plant selection and composition, lacking connection to the client's brief.
8. Planting Associations: - Sustainability - Cultural Requirements - Right plant right place	Excellent planting associations appropriate to the brief with no horticultural inaccuracies.	Very good planting associations largely appropriate to the brief with minor horticultural inaccuracies.	Good planting associations appropriate to the brief, but with some horticultural inaccuracies.	Weak planting associations, conflicting with the brief, with some significant horticultural inaccuracies.	Poor planting associations resulting in an unsustainable planting scheme, inappropriate for the brief with numerous horticultural inaccuracies.
9. Planting Implementation: - Plant Quality - Density of planting - Believability - Execution	Excellent plant quality, expertly planted at appropriate density for the client's brief.	Very good plant quality and/or well planted at largely appropriate density for the client's brief.	Good plant quality, and/or planted well in areas but at inconsistent densities for the client's brief.	Satisfactory plant quality, and/or planted weakly at largely inconsistent densities for the client's brief.	Poor plant quality and/or planted poorly at consistently inappropriate density for the client's brief.
Medal	Gold	Silver-Gilt	Silver	Bronze	No Award
Points	(36-30)	(29-24)	(23-19)	(18-15)	(14 – 0)

Criterion 1 Realisation of Client's Brief: Clarity, Delivery

THINK: Happy client

Does the completed garden fully reflect and support the design intentions as stated in the Client's Brief?

Criterion 2 Impact: Ambition, Atmosphere, Flair, Ingenuity, Theatre

THINK: Wow Factor

Does the garden transport you to the intended setting? Does the garden demonstrate creativity and/or ingenuity?
Note: The garden could have any one or a combination of the attributes listed.

Criterion 3 Overall Impression: Attention to Detail, Choice of Materials, Polish & Dressing

THINK: Furnished, dressed

Does the choice of materials and dressing support the other elements of the garden? Does every aspect of the garden unite to create an aesthetically pleasing whole?

Criterion 4 Design, Layout Plan of Garden: 2D, Dimensions, Scale, Unity,

THINK: Comfortable, cohesive and functional space

Does the garden function in 2D? Do the spaces work for their supposed purposes?

Criterion 5 Design, 3D and spatial composition: Scale, Mass & Void, Volume, Balance

THINK: Human scale

Does the design work as a whole?
Views, framing, visibility: can the viewer enjoy sequential views of the garden both inside and out?

Criterion 6 Construction: Quality of Build & Finish

THINK: Craftsmanship

Finish refers to the quality of construction; for example in the width of the joints in the paving, the finish of a rendered edge. It does not refer to the overall completion of the garden.
What standard of construction is evident in the completed garden?

Criterion 7 Planting Design: Visual Impact, Composition, Colour, Texture, Form, Plant Selection, Appropriate Size of Plants, Suitability to Brief

THINK: Aesthetic

Do the visual elements of the planting work together?
Do the selected plants and their composition translate the design intention? Does the planting design deliver visual impact?

Criterion 8 Planting Associations: Sustainability, Cultural Requirements

THINK: Right Plant Right Place, Right Purpose

Are the horticultural plant associations correct / realistic for survival and maintenance? Visitor education and best practice: could the public achieve this planting scheme sustainably at home?
Note: If a plant was in the wrong place for it to survive long term and poorly planted, it could be penalised in both criterion 8 & 9.

Criterion 9 Planting Implementation: Quality, Density, Believability, Execution

THINK: The Physical Art of Planting

Believability in terms of the execution of the planting and its relevance to the brief – do the plants look settled or do they look hastily planted?
Are the selected plants at the appropriate density for the size/style of the garden? Execution: have the plants been planted with care?
This is about the 'construction' of planting and an opportunity to celebrate the planting team