



The Children's Society Garden

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026
MA321

Designed by Patrick Clarke
Co-Sponsored by The Children's Society
and Project Giving Back

#RHSChelsea



**The
Children's
Society**

A space of hope, safety, and connection

The Children's Society's Garden offers a calm and reflective space within the energy of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Designed by landscape architect Patrick Clarke, the garden responds to the growing pressures on teen wellbeing across the UK.

“The Children’s Society Garden highlights the growing crisis in young people’s mental health and wellbeing. Nothing short of a happiness recession is facing teenagers and their wellbeing must now be a national priority.”



**Mark Russell OBE,
Chief Executive,
The Children's Society**

A garden with purpose

Created as a nurturing, reflective space, the garden offers a moment of calm in the heart of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Carefully chosen layouts create places for pause, reflection and quiet connection.

“The reclaimed and discarded materials have been repurposed to become items of imperfect beauty creating an eco-conscious, modern space that has therapeutic benefits for teenagers and the adults who support them.”

**Patrick Clarke,
Garden Designer**



Celebrating strength and resilience

Central to the garden is the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, which recognises beauty in imperfection and value in things shaped by time and use.

Reclaimed materials from across the UK, including waste corrugated steel panels, recycled concrete pavers, and weathered road plates transform forgotten elements into features of quiet beauty and resilience, echoing the garden's ethos of imperfection and hope.

Centring young people's experiences

Young Creative Partners worked alongside Patrick Clarke to help shape a garden grounded in their experiences. The result is a space where teenagers can feel seen, safe and connected, reflecting the emotional support The Children's Society provides to young people across the country.



Reclaimed Ironstone to form seating elements in the garden



Discarded and reclaimed concrete pavers sawn to reveal beautiful terrazzo style edge for paving in garden



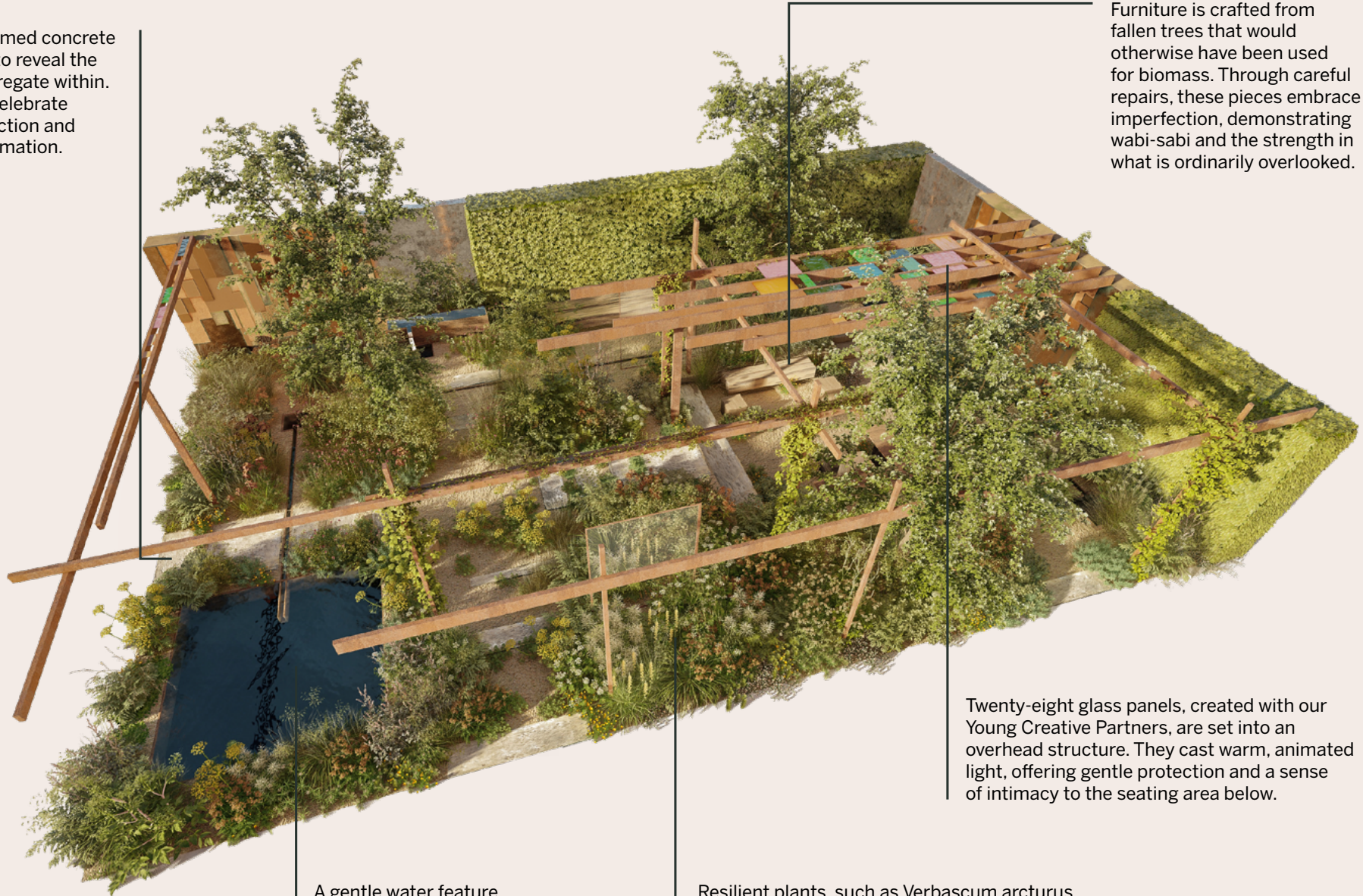
Reclaimed weathered steel road plates to provide retaining walls to the garden



Uncover hidden gems of the garden

Paving uses reclaimed concrete paving slabs, cut to reveal the beauty of the aggregate within. These materials celebrate beauty in imperfection and the art of transformation.

Furniture is crafted from fallen trees that would otherwise have been used for biomass. Through careful repairs, these pieces embrace imperfection, demonstrating wabi-sabi and the strength in what is ordinarily overlooked.



A gentle water feature encircles the garden, creating soothing sounds and a sense of protection around the seating areas.

Twenty-eight glass panels, created with our Young Creative Partners, are set into an overhead structure. They cast warm, animated light, offering gentle protection and a sense of intimacy to the seating area below.

Resilient plants, such as *Verbascum arcturus* and *Cymbalaria muralis*, are included throughout the garden. Chosen to grow in tough conditions, they symbolise perseverance and the emergence of hope in challenging environments.

An environment imbued with calm and resilience

Explore a curated list of plants featured in our garden.

Trees and Shrubs

Acer campestre
Coronilla valentina subsp. glauca
'Citrina'
Euphorbia mellifera
Osmanthus burkwoodii
Rosa x odorata 'Mutabilis'
Sarcococca hookeriana 'Winter Gem'
Viburnum opulus 'Roseum'

Perennials and Annuals

Achillea filipendulina 'Parker's Variety'
Angelica gigas
Anthriscus 'Ravenswing'
Allium sicutum
Allium obliquum
Anthyllis montana 'Rubra'
Asplenium trichomanes
Astrantia major 'Claret'
Atriplex hortensis 'Rubra'
Baptisia 'Dutch Chocolate'
Ballota pseudodictamnus
(pseudodictamnus mediterraneus)
Briza media
Bupleurum 'Bronze Form'
Callirhoe involucrata
Cenolophium denudatum
Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens'
Corydalis ochroleuca
Cymbalaria muralis
Deschampsia cespitosa 'Goldtau'
Digitalis lanata 'Café Crème'
Digitalis lutea
Dipsacus fullonum
Disporopsis pernyi
Dryopteris erythrosora

Eschscholzia californica 'Ivory Castle'
Euphorbia epithymoides 'Bonfire'
Euphorbia palustris
Epimedium x 'Frohnleiten'
Foeniculum vulgare 'Giant Bronze'
Galium odoratum
Geranium phaeum 'Samobor'
Geum 'Lemon Drops'
Gillenia trifoliata
Heuchera 'Brownfinch'
Hesperis matronalis 'Purpurea'
Iris 'Kent's Pride'
Iris sibirica 'Butter and Sugar'
Isatis tinctoria
Lamium orvala
Linaria 'Peachy'
Lunaria annua 'Chedlow Glow'
Mathiasella bupleuroides 'Green Dream'
Melica uniflora f. albida
Mukdenia rossii
Myrrhis odorata
Oenothera odorata 'Apricot Delight'
Oenothera stricta
Origanum vulgare
Papaver 'Amazing Grey'
Papaver 'Lauren's Grape'
Papaver 'Patty's Plum'
Polygonatum verticillatum
Potentilla recta var. sulphurea
Seslaria 'Greenlee'
Teucrium chamaedrys
Valeriana officinalis
Verbascum arcturus
Verbascum chaixii 'Album'
Zizia aurea



Jewels of planting

The garden is enriched by overlooked materials and resilient plants woven together that highlight the need for support, space, and the chance to grow.

Spotlight plants include hardy, breathtaking blooms alongside resilient and versatile species, showcasing the potential and adaptability young people possess even in difficult conditions.

Full sun planting combination

- 1 Cerinthe major 'Purpurascens'
- 2 Oenothera stricta
- 3 Papaver 'Lauren's Grape'
- 4 Rosa x odorata 'Mutabilis'



Shady planting combination

- 1 Cenolophium denudatum
- 2 Disporopsis pernyi
- 3 Galium odoratum
- 4 Gillenia trifoliata



Plant list accurate at the time of print. For the full and most up-to-date list, scan the QR code:



Shaping the garden, shaping futures

Listening to young people's needs

Every young person deserves to feel safe, supported, seen and heard as they navigate today's challenges.

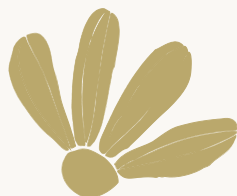
Through a series of skill-building creative workshops, a team of Young Creative Partners worked with Patrick Clarke to shape the garden's design and bring it to life.

"If I've ever had a bad day, maybe I'll go for a walk into the woods. It's just a very calming environment."

Young Creative Partner

Together, they imagined and crafted key design features like stained-glass panels that catch the light, bespoke sculpture, and the thoughtful final planting design, ensuring their voices are at the heart of the space.

Young Creative Partners designing elements of the garden.



A lasting legacy

The crisis in teen wellbeing won't disappear overnight. But neither will we. That's why this garden has been designed to continue its purpose beyond the show.

The Children's Society garden will relocate to the Central Bedfordshire Council's Leighton Buzzard Youth Centre, where our Youth Club is based – creating our first outdoor wellbeing space for young people.

"This garden will live on as a place of real hope for young people."

Nerys Anthony
Executive Director
of Youth Impact
The Children's Society



The future home of The Children's Society Garden.

It will offer a safe, reflective environment where young people facing emotional or mental health challenges can pause, access support, and speak with trained practitioners when they need to.

Beyond the youth club, the garden will also be available to the wider Central Bedfordshire community, creating a shared space for connection, calm, and growth.



With gratitude

Our garden would not have been possible without the support of:

Sponsorship:



Design:

PATRICK CLARKE LANDSCAPES

Construction team:



Planting team:



With special thanks to:



And additional thanks to:

Water Artisans
All Green
Clarissa Freeman Design
Matt Nickels – Stained Glass
Flint Garden Studio
AS Electrical Services
Central Bedfordshire Council

Surrey Ironcraft
MENA Woodwork + Design
Baker PR
Alice Cunningham – Sculptor
Barnwood Carpentry
Fothergill's Seeds Ltd

Meet Patrick Clarke



One of Patrick's highlights in The Children's Society Garden is the star-like blooms of *Gillenia trifoliata*. He selected it for its subtle, sometimes hidden beauty – a reflection of the unique qualities and potential within every young person.

Patrick Clarke is one of the UK's most experienced landscape and garden designers, with over thirty years' practice.

Educated at the University of Greenwich, University College London, and Oxford Brookes University, his work blends horticultural expertise with a strong multidisciplinary perspective.

“I hope that every visitor to the garden at RHS Chelsea will leave believing that life for our younger generation can be different, and that they too can help in creating that difference to build stronger communities in Britain.”

“The plant palette I have chosen for The Children's Society Garden features an eclectic mix of resilient, hardy plants which will continue to self-seed, grow and thrive after the Show at the garden's relocation site.”

Patrick draws inspiration from across design and the arts, collaborating with skilled specialists to bring each project to life.

Learn more about Patrick Clarke and his work by visiting patrickclarkelandscapes.com.

Be there for teens today

"Every child – no matter what age – should have someone."

Louise, 19

Our teen years should be a time to grow, explore and gain confidence.

But teens in Britain are the unhappiest in Europe.¹ Too often, help only comes at crisis point.

The Children's Society offers drop-in support with no referrals or waiting lists, helping young people build the coping skills and resilience they need to face the future. Your support can help ensure no young person has to face life alone.



Scan the QR code or visit childrenssociety.org.uk/donateCFS to give today.



In your community

With over 100 shops nationwide you can also shop, volunteer, and donate money or goods to support teens.

Find your local store: childrenssociety.org.uk/charityshops

At the show

Fothergill's has helped bring our garden to life, funding a planting workshop for young people and supporting with the garden's relocation. Seeds of Hope bundles, featuring flowers and plants used in The Children's Society Garden, are available at the Fothergill's trade stand (**Eastern Avenue stand EA539**). Every bundle sold helps teens build hope and confidence for the future.

1. The Good Childhood Report 2024.
The Children's Society.

© The Children's Society 2026.
Charity Registration No. 221124.

Photos: Chris O'Donovan, Julia Skelton.
2026635a/0426.



**The
Children's
Society**