



# bartholomewlandscaping - nature perfected Made in Chelsea

*Bartholomew Landscaping have transformed an unusable sloping space into a stunning cantilevered garden with a striking water feature.*

## THE PROJECT

The clients lived in this wonderful house in the heart of Chelsea for a great number of years and then decided the time had come to completely refurbish the property, which was also to include a new double basement and complete garden makeover of both front and rear gardens.

Bartholomew Landscaping was introduced to the client by the London based firm LAB Architects, with whom they had successfully designed and built a number of other similar projects.

Bartholomew's were commissioned to prepare outline sketch proposals for presentation to the client, which were approved and in turn followed on to the next stage of a detailed set of construction drawings as well as an outline costing.



The starting point was a mound of sloping earth within the lower light well, which was left over from the extensive basement construction surrounded by original London stock brick walls.

Their approach was to introduce a bespoke steel structure to create a series of cantilevered platforms in order to provide the spaces required, such as a patio / entertaining area, upper hardwood deck on which to relax, all surrounded by elements of gentle running water and beautiful planting, thus creating a thoroughly tranquil space.

A fireplace is integrated into the hardwood timber facade beside the patio, screening a newly installed staircase leading down from the upper balcony to the intermediate level. The main patio area and the stepping-stones are finished in a beige natural Castleton York stone and the retaining walls clad in a contrasting flame textured Nova blue limestone. The water feature runs from the upper level of the garden, cascading down and through a number of channels and precision laser cut stepping-stones.

A series of stainless steel walk on grills with an intricate pattern are also designed in order to allow an element of natural light into the lower basement, as well as maintain airflow.

Privacy is created by the installation of hardwood trellising around the boundary walls, which is also planted with a combination of evergreen climbers.

The planting consists of some beautiful specimen plants such as the key "acer palmatum" within the upper hardwood deck, providing superb layering structure as well as stunning autumn colour. These larger trees were sourced from Germany and transported during the dormant period for planting within this window of opportunity.

Other key evergreen, herbaceous and aquatic plants used include Azalea Hino Crimson, Nandina domestica 'Firepower', Rhododendron's, Peris Katsura, Actaea simplex 'James Compton', Zantedeschia aethiopica 'Crowborough', Anemone x hybrid 'Honorine Jobert', Cyperus alternifolius, Iris ensata, Cyperus alternifolius and Equisetum Japonicum.

The whole scheme is very subtly illuminated including subsurface lighting within the water features that provided a stunning atmospheric mood at dusk. A computer controlled irrigation and water feature top up system was also installed.

The front garden consists of a newly laid driveway, very smart bull nosed Portland stone steps, hardwood binstore with sedum roof, newly refurbished gates and railings including intercom with semi mature planting offering immediate visual impact.

In terms of the build, this project was extremely challenging particularly as access was very limiting with all materials being craned over the house

including, bespoke steel framework, staircase, large boulders for the water feature, hardwood timber, soil, key specimen trees and plants.

Needless to say the clients response was one of utter delight in so much as that they had created not only a fully functional space, but the perfect picture window when looking from their newly installed kitchen / diner within the newly constructed basement, as well as on

arrival. All materials such as hardwoods were responsibly sourced from sustainable suppliers.

## ABOUT BARTHOLOMEW LANDSCAPING

Bartholomew is a design and build Landscape Company that has been creating uniquely tailored gardens since 1989. With offices in Battersea Reach, London their team of Landscape Architects, Garden Designers, Horticulturalists and skilled tradesman have designed and constructed a variety of projects in London, and their schemes have won 25 BAII (British Association of Landscape Industries)

awards over the last 4 years, including the best design and build award 3 years running. ■

**BARRY BURROWS**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

## THE DETAILS



For a no obligation consultation please feel free to call them on **0207 931 8685** or email [gardens@bartholomewlandscaping.com](mailto:gardens@bartholomewlandscaping.com) [bartholomewlandscaping.com](http://bartholomewlandscaping.com)

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