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New BALI Board Director for Designers

Chris Parsons, design director of Sheffield-based Hallam Garden Design, has been successfully designing gardens for over 13 years. Trained in garden design at RHS Harlow Carr, Chris soon realised that her first degree in Art & Design, more than anything, would give her the edge as a garden designer: "Years of working with shapes and getting an intuitive feel for balance and proportion is invaluable in designing the 3D spaces of a garden."

One of her first priorities as a garden designer was to join a professional organisation. Chris was North East Regional Co-ordinator for The Society of Garden Designers for five years, pulling together designers and organising courses in her region. In 2002, Chris was accepted as a fully Registered Member of the Society of Garden Designers and served on their Council for a year in 2005/6.

Chris became a member of BALI in 2005 soon after designer membership was introduced, joining because of her respect for a particular BALI contractor with whom she had been working for many years. If BALI was synonymous with quality for contracting then the same should hold true for design. "The problem for garden designers is that it is an unregulated industry - anyone can call themselves a garden designer. BALI's designer membership category can give the general public the same confidence in employing a garden designer as when they employ a BALI contractor. Chris won the BALI Principal Award for Landscape Design Excellence in 2006, 2007, 2008 and an Award in the same category in 2009.

Hallam Garden Design has grown from its early beginnings into a close-knit team of designers and support staff. The company thrives on loyalty and teamwork and every project benefits from the complementary skills of four individuals. This sense of teamwork extends to the contractors who build the gardens and Chris loves the statement on the bottom of the BALI awards plaque 'given in recognition of the contractor, designer and client working in harmony to produce an exceptional award winning scheme'

What has impressed Chris about BALI is the striving for excellence of its members, the professionalism of the BALI administration and the wealth of experience, the commitment and warmth of fellow board members. As a member of the board she is determined to increase the number of designer members and as well as members of all categories in the north of England, particularly amongst domestic contractors. "More BALI contracting members need to see the value of working with a professionally qualified designer." That teamwork again.

INDOOR GARDEN DESIGN TO CREATE FIRST INDOOR CHELSEA GARDEN

Longstanding BALI members Indoor Garden Design, a company who are widely recognised as the UK's leading provider of tropical plants to offices in London and the South East, have been chosen by the RHS to design and build the first indoor garden at the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show - 'The Living Office'. Visitors will see a 'working' office environment with integrated planting.

The garden will be a collaboration between Indoor Garden Design and Vitra, the Swiss furniture manufacturers. Indoor Garden Design's creative director Ian Drummond is very excited about leading the design process for what will be the first indoor garden to be showcased at Chelsea: "The living office garden design is about looking toward the future and truly embracing a healthier and more sustainable environment in which to work. Food is all important to our overall well being so one of the most exciting elements for me is the 'grow your own lunch' concept that will be part of the scheme."

Ian and his team were responsible for sourcing and planting the Canary Spa Island Garden at last year's Chelsea Flower Show. They will be working with James Wong again this year and collaborating on a show garden for the Malaysian Tourist Board.

<http://www.indoorgardendesign.com/>

WYEVALE EAST NURSERIES LAUNCHES NEW STUDENT DESIGN AND BUILD AWARD



New BALI Affiliate member Wyevalle East Nurseries, in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, has developed a unique award for students on horticultural design courses, giving them a rare opportunity to design and build a garden in the 'small garden' category at The Hampton Court Palace Flower Show in 2011.

Individuals or groups are invited to apply and will be judged on their ability to demonstrate a holistic and applied knowledge of all design stages from the paper plan through to the implementation of a scheme.

Richard McKenna, Director at Wyevalle East Nurseries said:

"This is a brilliant opportunity for aspiring garden designers to demonstrate their skills at one of the most prestigious events in the horticultural calendar. We're looking for clever plant selection and association to underpin a good garden design and we hope to see some real innovation in thinking as entrants work through the process from paper to plot."

Wyevalle East Nurseries will fund the winner's materials to a value of £5,000 and supply all plants for the project. **The closing date for applications for the Student Design and Build Award is 30 July 2010.** Full details of the competition and application process are available at www.gardendesignaward.co.uk.