



SCOUARNEC & PEASE-COX

GARDEN DESIGN

The Making Sense Garden



Can you imagine how you might experience a garden if you had no sense of smell? What if you couldn't smell the flowers - how different would your experience be?

The Making Sense garden has been designed with people who have smell or taste disorders in mind. Anosmia is a surprisingly common but often ignored condition. Many of us experienced what anosmia felt like during the pandemic when a loss of smell was a recognised symptom of COVID.

We are Flora Scouarnec and Victoria Pease-Cox of SPC Garden Design and our garden has been created as a space for people who have smell/taste disorders to explore, sit, talk and, importantly, to enjoy a garden in which the other senses - sight, sound and touch - are enhanced and given a platform.

The garden was further inspired by the work of the charity Fifth Sense - see below for details.

The garden serves not only as a sanctuary for people who may be processing a diagnosis but also as a plant resource for re-training smell which research shows is possible in some cases.

Set over two levels, a curving path gives way to clay paver steps and leads down into a more secluded, sunken area. A wall-mounted water feature creates a calming soundscape and a highly tactile, bespoke elm and chestnut bench made from trees felled as part of sustainable woodland management is nestled in the planting. Two wonderfully tactile trees frame the garden.

The garden is richly planted in tones of magenta, blue, purple, soft white and green and is a nod to the colours of the Fifth Sense logo. Our plants have been carefully chosen for the sound and touch experiences they offer as well as their aesthetic. Key scented plants such as mint, thyme, jasmine, lemon balm, wild oregano were chosen for their use in the retraining of smell.

In what we believe is a first for a show garden, a bespoke fragrance called 'Making Sense' has been created by acclaimed British perfumer, Sarah McCartney. She has drawn inspiration from the key botanicals in the garden to make the unique fragrance. Come along and have a smell!

The team from University College London will also be here demonstrating how they retrain smell using a clever piece of kit they have developed called 'I-Smell'. Come along and have a sniff and see how good your smell is by trying to identify the smell you experience through the machine.

Fifth Sense is a charity which was borne out of one person's vision to create something good following a life changing event. It was set up by Duncan, their CEO, who lost his sense of smell completely after an injury. This, and the absence of treatments, support resources and information prompted him to set up his charity which helps fellow sufferers and provides support and information.



Acacia Gardens is an award winning landscaping company based in North London and have built the Making Sense Garden.

Vickie and Flora say :

"We are delighted to be showing a garden at Hampton Court this year. We wanted to create a sensory garden to specifically highlight the challenges of smell impairment for this year's show and to make people more aware of how important all the senses are when enjoying gardens. Creating the garden has been a delight from start to finish."



About SPC Garden design

The studio is led by Flora Scouarnec and Victoria Pease-Cox who are friends as well as colleagues.

They met when they studied Garden Design at the acclaimed English Garden School in Chelsea, both graduating with Distinction.

Flora and Victoria instantly formed a creative connection and knew they would work together. A period of working with other established designers and further study followed, with the two coming together to create the Scouarnec & Pease-Cox Garden Design studio in 2023.

Prior becoming garden designers, Flora and Victoria had successful careers in events and financial services respectively, before choosing to follow their passions and turn permanently towards garden design.

Flora and Victoria are passionate plants women and creating naturalistic, richly layered gardens is at the heart of their design ethos.

Other key information

Designers / Sponsor - Scouarnec & Pease-Cox Garden Design : <https://spc-gardendesign.co.uk/>
@spc.gardendesign

Contractor - Acacia Gardens : <https://acacia-gardens.co.uk/>

In support of Fifth Sense charity : <https://www.fifthsense.org.uk/>



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