

The Ripple Effect

Rain Garden

Resilient Pocket Planting 202



Designed by Sarah Cotterill

The Garden:

Last July was Ireland's wettest on record with more than double the expected rainfall. England has seen more rainfall over the last 18-months than it ever has since Met Office records began in 1836. As our gardens endure more frequent and intense periods of rain, many homeowners will need adapt their outdoor spaces to be more water - resilient. This pocket garden has a series of limestone stepping stones across a central wet channel and gently sloping mounds, filled with adaptable plants that can withstand temporary water logging. Clever contours create different zones to accommodate individual plants' drainage needs, from plants that thrive in boggy conditions, to prairie-style planting that can tolerate the extremes of drought and heavy rain. The multi-stem hornbeam – more tolerant than most trees of damp soils – provides a verdant backdrop to pops of lemon yellow, pale pinks, mauves and magentas, softened with golden, buff and straw coloured grasses. Hornbeam is a folklore symbol of resilience, associated with confidence in our ability to endure and remaining optimistic in the face of adversity. The waterworn limestone stepping stones are typical of the rock formations on the west coast of Ireland, and signify moving forward to something better, or more resilient.



The Designer:

Dr Sarah Cotterill's full-time role is as an Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at University College Dublin, where she has over twelve years' experience working on sustainable water management in the UK, USA and Ireland. She entered the competition as creative challenge and a way to pursue her love of plants and design. Prior to her PhD in civil engineering, Sarah completed an Honours degree in Biology which introduced her to plant physiology, classification, nutrition, and identification skills as well as strategies for managing different ecosystems. Recently, Sarah has begun a diploma in garden design, integrating her expertise in sustainable water management, her knowledge of plants, and her love of drawing and design.

The Sponsor:

The Ice House Hotel is located on the banks of the River Moy and overlooks one of the largest urban forests in Europe. It was formerly an ice store serving the river's renowned salmon fishery and blends this evocative history with a striking contemporary hotel and spa which is immersed in nature. The Ice House is a proud member of the Ballina community and an ardent supporter of the arts and creativity.



The Relocation Plan:

The garden will be re-built in full in a community-led regeneration of a derelict convent in Ballina, Co. Mayo. It is - I think - the first example of a relocation of an RHS garden overseas. One of the contributors to the building's decline was water ingress from downpipes into the building. The garden is part of the building's regeneration and landscaping plans. When brought back in to use, the building will serve a variety of social purposes for the community.

PLANT LIST:

Trees

- *Carpinus betulus* (multi-stem)

Grasses

- *Briza media*
- *Calamagrostis acut.* Overdam
- *Deschampsia cespitosa*
- *Molinia caerulea* Transparent

Shrubs

- *Hydrangea quercifolia* Snowflake

Aquatics

- *Juncus effusus*
- *Butomus umbellatus*

Perennials

- *Echinacea purpurea* Virginia
- *Lobelia x speciosa* 'Hadspen purple'
- *Geum* 'Mai Tai;
- *Scabiosa* col. *Ochroleuca*
- *Monarda* 'Violet Queen'
- *Rodgersia* 'Bronze Peacock'
- *Sanguisorba* ten. 'Pink Elephant'
- *Veronicastrum virg.* 'Fascination'
- *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Irish Eyes'
- *Echinacea paradoxa*

CONTACT DETAILS

Designer: Sarah Cotterill

Sponsor: Ice House Hotel and Spa

Charitable organisation: Ballina Convent Regeneration Company Limited by Guarantee

Media Contact Name: Sarah Cotterill

Media Contact details: wildatlanticgardens@gmail.com / +353874355737