

Community Helps Local Gardener Create Show Garden Inspired by the Impact of Motherhood.



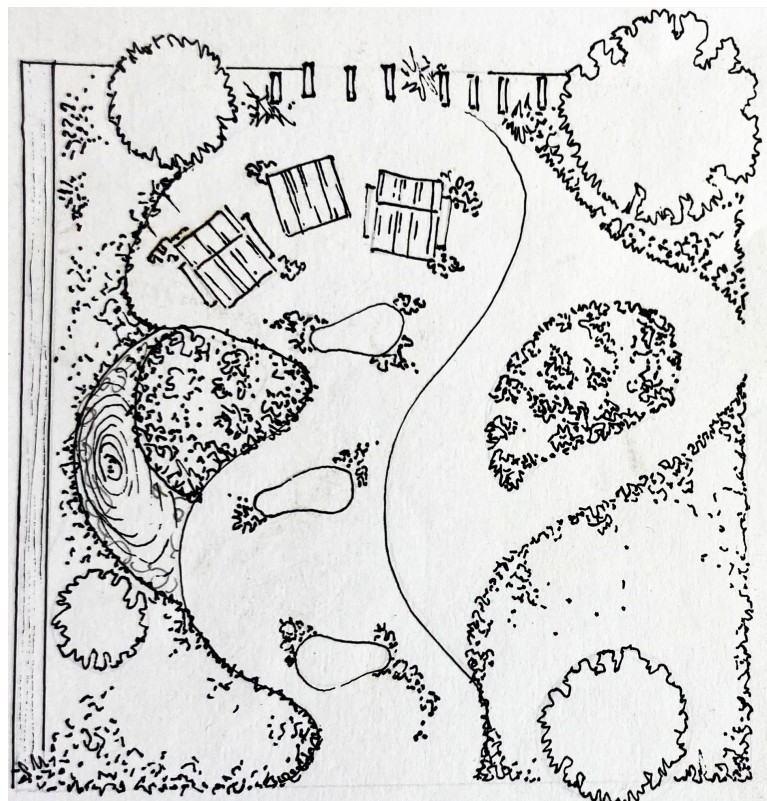
Giada Francois was 20 years old when she became a single mother. She took refuge in gardening as way to find comfort, engage her young son with the joys of nature and, ultimately, as a means of providing independence for herself.

With '*Garden of Renewal - Nature's Embrace*', Giada's aim is to demonstrate how, without a financial sponsor, a

Show Garden garden can be created by sheer determination. Her key message is that *anyone* can create a garden that offers comfort and joy. Budget should not be an obstacle.

Trees aside, most of the plants have been grown from seed by Giada in her own garden. Planting has been selected to represent the different stages of motherhood, from tender and delicate to strong and resilient. Some are not yet fully developed. A few edibles encourage children to engage and interact with the space.

The central path through the garden is loosely formed in the shape of an embryo. Stepping stones represent the three stages from conception to creation of new life. The



overall concept highlights the power of motherhood in shaping our experience and perception of the world. Giada's hope is that those entering the garden get a sense of the impact that motherhood has had in her approach to design aesthetic and on herself as a woman.

Giada is Seychellois/Italian. Her son is also of Senegalese heritage. Her daughter Caribbean. The main focal point of the garden is a strong multistem Betula '*Nigra*', it's bark hinting at renewal; it's colours, at first pinkish-orange then brown or almost blackish and grey-white - representing familial ethnicity.

If you look closely, you will see that the Betula has a single young, strong shoot growing up from its base. This represents Giada's young daughter and her place within the family.

Giada hopes that '*Garden of Renewal - Nature's Embrace*' will inspire other single mothers to pursue their dreams and passions, finding their own personal sense of renewal that she believes nature provides. She also wants to highlight the challenges, opportunities and, ultimately, joy that motherhood brings. This garden celebrates the diversity and richness of culture that make up our society.

'*Garden of Renewal - Nature's Embrace*' is testament to both Giada's love for her children and her gratitude for the role that gardening has played in her life.

Giada Francois lives in Walthamstow, East London. Her local garden centre, Lancaster's Home and Garden, has provided their Commercial Grounds Maintenance team free of charge to construct the garden. Subscribers to Lancaster's weekly newsletter crowdfunded a few hundred pounds to help support the project. Local roofing supplier Thames Roofing donated reclaimed roof tiles. Locally sourced recycled and repurposed materials feature heavily.

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- RHS Hampton Court Flower Show 2024: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-hampton-court-palace-garden-festival/gardens/2024/garden-of-renewal-natures-embrace>