



THROUGHAM COURT GARDEN, Gloucestershire

In this marvellously thoughtful and innovative garden, Christine Facer Hoffman has overlaid and interwoven Norman Jewson's Arts & Crafts garden with joyful plantings that vary from exuberantly colourful borders to a serenely contemplative grove of black bamboos. This is only half the story, however, for she has embraced Geoffrey Jellicoe's dictum: 'A garden should be a voyage for the mind as well as the feet'. Her own scientifically trained mind became fascinated by the complex patterns found in maths, astronomy and nature, and when she switched careers from medicine to landscape architecture they followed her into the garden, expressed as mind-challenging gates, seats, stone balls and steel hoops.

This is science lightly worn, however: the plantings are relaxed, the combinations often unexpected, the effect literally enchanting. Arresting touches abound: a circular pool and rill made of slivers of blue and purple slates, tall red and purple banners fluttering beyond a grove of white birches, a Portland stone bookshelf in the Library Garden and steps covered in bright red astroturf leading up to a lime walk. You are guaranteed never to be bored. christinefacer.com



FROM TOP Stone steps and herbaceous plantings give the Arts & Crafts house a traditional setting; The Molecule Seat is surrounded by blue flowers; planets are represented by stone spheres.