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Birmingham NEC

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Applications open for BBC Gardeners' World Live Beautiful Borders

Would you like to showcase your garden design talent and horticultural skills to thousands and thousands of gardeners, horticultural experts, media and influencers? Applications for the BBC Gardeners' World Live 2023 Beautiful Borders competition are open until January 2023.

Beautiful Borders are an annual visitor favourite at the flagship BBC Gardeners' World Live which returns to the NEC Birmingham from 15-18 June 2023. These compact 9m² spaces are packed with imaginative design features, planting and materials, and provide inspiration for small gardens and challenging spaces. Whether you're a seasoned garden designer, a budding first-time creator, horticulture student, gardening club or charity, the Beautiful Borders competition is the perfect opportunity to gain experience of building a small show garden and to make your mark.

The theme for the 2023 Beautiful Borders competition is '*My Garden Escape*', lending itself perfectly to interpretations of oasis and refuge, peace and mindfulness, health and wellbeing. Alternatively, the 'Garden Escape' could be a place of vibrant joy, sensory stimulation and social gatherings with friends or family, perhaps a place to enjoy delicious fresh produce grown from the soil. Entrants should be

motivated to use the theme to inspire others to transform an area of their garden into an escape of their own.

Rachel Poletti-Gadd, Portfolio Director - Gardening Division at Immediate Live, organisers of BBC

Gardeners' World events, said: "Visitors flock to see the Beautiful Borders because they are literally bursting with creative, inspiring ideas than can be achieved at home. The Borders show that gardens don't have to be large, costly or complicated to be full of colour and character, and that even the most challenging spaces, like a shady spot or a tricky corner, can be transformed with some imaginative design. We're really looking forward to next year's entries and can't wait see the finished Borders in situ at BBC Gardeners' World Live."

The Beautiful Borders are assessed by a panel of esteemed horticultural experts and awards are presented to winning designers. The winner of the BBC Gardeners' World Live 2022 Beautiful Borders competition was Cathy Perry, a student at Winterbourne Centre for Horticulture, for *The Crinkle-Crinkle Dead Hedge Border*, inspired by the kitchen garden hedge at Winterbourne House in Birmingham which offers a bountiful habitat for a wide variety of organisms.

As well as the prestigious Platinum, Gold, Silver Merit, Silver and Bronze Awards to acknowledge excellence within the competition, the Beautiful Border Assessment Panel awards the Best Beautiful Border and Best Interpretation of the Theme which recognise the most outstanding entries. A Best Subscriber Border is also awarded to the best design by a subscriber to BBC Gardeners' World Magazine.

For full information about how to apply to bring a Beautiful Border to BBC Gardeners' World Live (15-18 June), visit bbcgardenresworldlive.com or contact Horticultural Manager, Lucy Tremlett, at: lucy.tremlett@immediate.co.uk. Applications close on 23 January 2023. Beautiful Border applications, with the same 'Garden Escape' theme, also open for BBC Gardeners' World Spring Fair at Beaulieu in Hampshire (28-30 April) and BBC Gardeners' World Autumn Fair at Audley End in Essex (1-3 September).

BBC Gardeners' World Live is a four day celebration of summer gardening. Highlights include spectacular Show Gardens by award-winning designers and landscape teams, a garden feature by headline sponsor Lexus, an extensive Floral Marquee and Plant Village with breathtaking displays, new plant launches and plants to buy, hundreds of exhibitors of gardening kit, tools and accessories, seasonal gardening advice, practical demos and talks from the UK's favourite gardening presenters and BBC Gardeners' World Magazine editors, Garden Walks and Plant Expert Tours, a schools wheelbarrow competition, live entertainment, delicious food and drink, and a Club Lounge for BBC Gardeners' World Magazine Subscribers. Tickets include entry to the BBC Good Food Show Summer, featuring TV chefs and experts, theatres, stages and talks, tastings and workshops, food, drink and shopping.

Tickets for BBC Gardeners' World Live are on sale now. Advance standard tickets from £27, Over 65s from £25, children £13.50, under 5s free. Transaction fee applies. www.bbcgardenersworldlive.com/.

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Notes to editors:

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