

Studio Elwes

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The Garden Dispatch

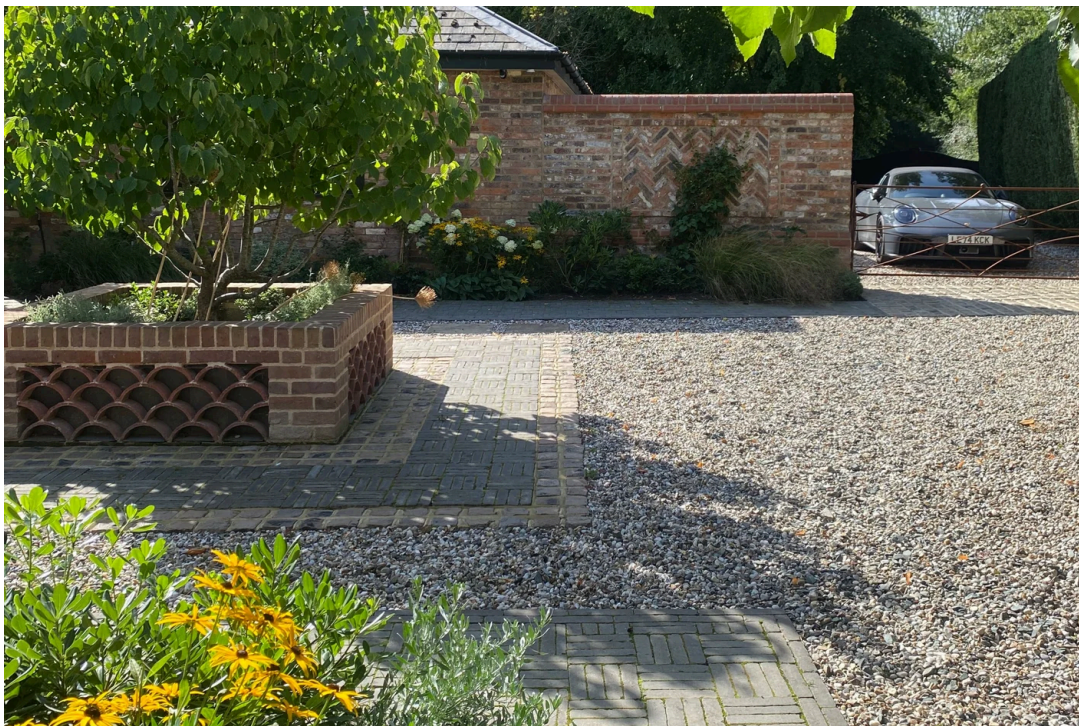
vol. V - 05.ix.25

Rooted in time

As Summer slowly begins its gentle decline, holidays come to an end and children begin to return to school, attention returns, once again, to construction projects that have been placed on ice for the last few months. This has certainly been the case here at Studio Elwes, where, I'm delighted to say, we have been inundated with inquiries of all shapes and sizes. What pleases us most about this influx, beyond the obvious excitement about potential new collaborations, is that these prospective new clients understand that now is the perfect time to start your landscape project. So often clients find themselves, at the beginning of March, once the sun

starts just about peeking through after its winter sleep making that initial contact with that vital caveat that – ‘we’d love to have it all finished for the summer’. The important thing to recognise here is that it’s not us, the designers, who will struggle to complete our part of the bargain in that shortened time frame but the contractors who install the garden. Most landscape contractors will be largely booked up from the end of February until mid-June.

This is why we’re so delighted to be starting projects as early as August the year prior because now we are in a great position to appoint the landscape contractors in a timely manner, which means that they schedule your work in and guarantee you get your garden in time for the summer.



Gardens Revisited

We’ve also had the pleasure of returning to a couple of projects that were designed between 2020 and 2023 which have now had at least 1 growing season to get into their stride. We really take pride in forming close bonds

with our clients and one of the main benefits of this is being able to see your vision come to life. Unlike buildings, which are at their peak at completion before they begin a very slow decline, gardens only begin at completion, sometimes it can be 3, 5 or 10 years before the full design is realised.

The first garden we visited was down in Kent and was a project that began during Covid. Originally the scope was to simply alter the arrangement around the swimming pool, however, like all good projects, the scope expanded over time. We were delighted to see how much the client has taken to looking after the garden herself. The glasshouse that we built was originally meant to be somewhere that they could have drinks in the evening is full of propagating seedlings without a corkscrew in site.

The second garden was in Buckinghamshire on which we worked between 2023 and 2024. What pleased us most about this garden was to see the hard materials aging so elegantly and really adjusting nicely to their space. Often, fresh mortar and stone can look jarring against old brickwork but it's a good reminder that with a bit of patience, new masonry quickly blends in.

The top photo on this page is that glasshouse in Kent. The middle image is of the Buckingham Garden. We'll be posting photos of these on social media and on our website, so keep an eye out for more images.

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