

Studio Elwes

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The Garden Dispatch

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The Modern Pavilion

Welcome once again to the Garden Dispatch, our regular pulling-back-of-the-curtain to show what is happening behind the scenes, here at Studio Elwes.

This month we've been busy setting out the planting scheme on one of projects in Surrey that has been some 4 years in the making. The project centres around a new outbuilding, adjacent to the client's beautiful arts and crafts house. The new outbuilding has been designed by John Pardey Architects and is intended to be an accessible and modern living space. The challenge is connecting a period house with a mature garden to a contemporary building while maintaining overall garden cohesion. This was done by sticking to two key principles – sympathetic material choices and continuity in planting. Ironstone, found throughout the original garden was introduced in the retaining walls, along with fragments of tile, so familiar to the arts and crafts palette, yet the wall itself feels somewhat modern as it curves up and around, making space for the new building.

Similarly by using a red, Vande Moortel clay paver we connected the terraces with the red brick house, however by setting the pavers in alternating runs, we gave the new spaces a dynamic, contemporary feel.



Gardening in the heat

As landscape designers we always strive to plan well ahead. Different aspects of the installation should, in an ideal world, happen at specific times, such as mortar-works not happening in the dead of winter, or not digging when it's too wet but the most important scheduling we try to get right is to avoid planting during peak summer – alas the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, and so it was that we found ourselves recently setting out a full planting scheme in 30 degree heat. Thankfully the landscape contractors worked tirelessly to keep everything alive and luckily only a small portion of the plants failed. Below are a few tips in case you find yourself planting in the heat:

- **Dunking the plants before they go in** – keep a bucket of water to hand to place your parched perennials in just before they go into the ground.
- **Temporary shade** – keeping the worst of the direct sun off with a gazebo or even old sheets will help keep your plants alive and will stop water evaporating from the soil.
- **Watering at night or in the morning** – don't waste time, effort and water by watering in full sun. Wait until temperatures come down in the evening or morning to avoid excessive evaporation.

- **Water deeply** – when its in the high 30s it's almost impossible to overwater. Remember also to water the roots not the leaves.
- **Mulch generously** – whatever mulch you plan to use, get it on as soon as you can. This will lock moisture into the soil for longer and keep plant roots cool.

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