

Studio Elwes

[Website](#)

[Instagram](#)



The Garden Dispatch

vol. II - 06.vi.25

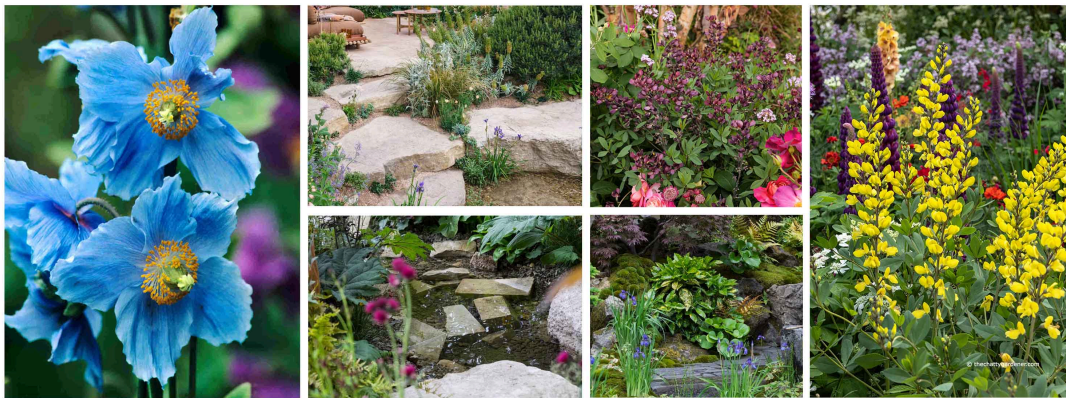
4 Star Loggia

Welcome to the second edition of the Garden Dispatch. This month we'll be reflecting on a wonderful Chelsea Flower Show, our collaboration with Isabella Worsley on the Country Life trade stand and a handful of trends from the show.

It's fair to say that there was no lack of ambition for our stand, exemplified by Artorius Faber, who generously created the water basin, fireplace, flooring and windows, who had 20 people on the stand for the first 2 days. This, however, only left 3 days for the staging and planting which required

some late nights, pizza deliveries, copious coffees and countless trips to Leyland's on the Kings Road. Sunday should have allowed a moment to reflect and revel in our creation but with the photographer originally booked for 9am, we were still pushing through until 4pm when the photographs were finally done. The stand wouldn't have been such a success without such generous support, in particular from Italian Terrace who loaned us a pair of their beautiful pots and Hortus Loci who provided such stunning plants.

All in all, I think the stand was well received with a lot of great press and it was wonderful working with such a great team. The poppies eventually popped, the vines just about held on, and no one took their eye out on the lemon tree spines.



Chelsea 2025's Cultivated Trends

It would be fair to say that garden trends at the Chelsea flower show can be glacially slow to change, this is not through lack of innovation, however, more a product of factors. One such factor is that the show takes place at the same time each year and while nurseries are incredibly skilled at forcing plants to either slow down or speed up, designers inevitably will pick from a selection of plants that are guaranteed to look good in late May, such as geums, peonies, roses and irises, staples of the flower show for generations. Secondly exhibitors tend to come back year on year, giving the trade stands a feeling of familiarity – what would Chelsea be without David Austin's roses, Blackmore and Langdon's Delphiniums or Alitex's glasshouses. Finally, whether it's their first time designing a balcony

garden or a trade stand going for their 10th straight gold, bringing your wares to the Chelsea Flower Show is always an expensive and very public risk and thus exposing yourself further through breaking with tradition is often a step too far.

That being said, Chelsea 2025 did seem like a year where traditions were challenged, in particular within the larger show gardens but also within the tent. We have outlined below 5 trends that threaded through the show:

Natural lines and softened edges

Where once gardens strived to stay as rectilinear as possible, this year's shows presented a newer, softer approach to walkways and terraces. Irregular (dare I say, crazy) paving slabs, infilled with gravel mulch gave gardens a timeless, relaxed feeling so familiar to historic gardens. For me, no garden did this better than Jo Thompson's stylish garden where moss and shale punctuated the gaps between the broken edged stone slabs.

Unusual Chelsea planting

Usually famed for their cacophony of chromatically blended perennials, the show gardens this year were threaded with a series of the most un-Chelsea plants. From the false nettle (*Boerhmeria platanifolia*) to white currant bushes (*Rubus phoenicolasius*), there were all sorts of things one might not have expected, however, Kazuyuki Ishihara took the biscuit with the much maligned *Aucuba japonica* in all its glory.

Baptisia

One perennial that was used to great effect was Baptisia. This brightly coloured legume was seen throughout the show in a variety of different colours, from Tom Massey & Je Ahn's 'Lemon Meringue' to Jo Thompson's 'Burgundy Blast' they were used to great effect. Others spotted throughout the show included 'Dutch Chocolate' and 'Purple Smoke',

Meconopsis

This family of poppies really captured the imagination this year, none more so than the legendary Himalayan blue poppy (*Meconopsis betonicifolia*), famed for its pure blue colour, these plants are particularly tricky to grow so seeing them in such abundance was a real treat and no one did it better than Kevock Garden Plants from Midlothian.

Incidental water features

The final trend that seemed to pop up in several gardens were incidental water features. Often these appeared like watering holes like in Monty Don's dog garden or Baz Grainger's 'Save it for a Rainy Day' garden where the water fluctuated to represent flooding. Ponds and water features create great opportunities for biology to thrive and it was great to see people showcasing simple ways of introducing water.

Studio Elwes Ltd.

London
United Kingdom



You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)

