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Exhibitor: Perennial

PERENNIAL LIFELINE GARDEN CELEBRATES 180 YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE IN HORTICULTURE

The Perennial Lifeline Garden marks the 180th anniversary of the charity that helps people in horticulture. The walk-through exhibit in the Great Pavilion is designed by Chelsea first timers Colm Joseph and Duncan Cargill and celebrates the long-standing and ever-evolving role of Perennial at the heart of the horticulture industry.

The garden was inspired by The Laskett Gardens in Herefordshire, which its owner and creator Sir Roy Strong bequeathed to Perennial in 2015. Taking the elements of the Laskett's traditional rose garden and colonnade as a starting point, Colm and Duncan have reimagined them in a more contemporary style, with a sustainable rose meadow at the centre. The rill flowing around the garden represents the 'lifeline' that Perennial has been for so many people over the past 180 years when they are struggling financially, physically or personally.

Duncan says: "The garden celebrates design heritage but reinterprets classical principles and elements with an eye on the future. Just as Perennial has adapted over the last 180 years to help countless people in the horticulture industry through challenging times, we hope the garden takes the best from the past while embracing the future."

Colm says: "It has been a joy to work with so many experienced people at the top of their game to create this garden while raising awareness of Perennial and the fantastic support it offers everyone in our industry. We hope our design resonates with visitors to the show who will be able to walk through the garden and experience it up close."

Colm and Duncan's design was chosen following a competition run jointly by Perennial and the London College of Garden Design. Creating the exhibit has only been made possible thanks to a wide range of partners from across the industry who have come together to support their trade charity. These include Conquest Creative Spaces as contractor and suppliers London Stone, Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Peter Beales Roses, Majestic Trees and Stark & Greensmith. Apprentices from the Association of Professional Landscapers helped build the garden.

The low maintenance rose meadow is a bold move away from traditional rose pruning and maintenance techniques. Roses are planted as if running wild amongst ornamental grasses, perennials and annuals to create a striking and texturally rich display with long seasonal interest. The mix of roses supplied by Peter Beales includes species such as *Rosa glauca*, modern shrubs including *Rosa 'Ballerina'*, and patio climbers such as *Rosa 'Purple Skyliner'*.

Providing formality and structure, topiary and three types of hedge are asymmetrically arranged and clipped to varying heights. Bespoke freestanding metal screens from Stark & Greensmith, limestone pillars by London Stone and a pair of modern fountains all combine in a modern reimagining of a classical colonnade, where visitors can walk beneath the cascades.

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Anita Bates, Director of Marketing and Fundraising at Perennial says: “Perennial is at Chelsea this year because we want to reach more people than ever before with the message that we are here to help everyone who works in horticulture. From gardeners to greenkeepers, foresters to landscape designers, if you work with plants, trees or turf, we’re your lifeline when times get tough. We’re thrilled with Colm and Duncan’s garden that really captures how Perennial is both rooted in the history of the UK horticulture industry and evolving to meet the changing needs of today’s horticulture industry and the challenges faced by individuals and families.”

The partners and supporters that have made the Perennial Lifeline Garden possible are:

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| Colm Joseph Garden Design | Co-designer |
| Cargill Sykes | Co-designer |
| Conquest Creative Spaces | Main contractor |
| London Stone | Donating Jura limestone paving, bespoke limestone pillars and benches |
| London College of Garden Design | Partnered on design competition |
| Stark & Greensmith | Manufactured and supplied the bespoke metal screens |
| Majestic Trees | Sourced topiary and trees supplied on loan |
| Hardy’s Cottage Garden Plants | Majority of perennial plants supplied free of charge |
| Peter Beales Roses | Supplied the roses, as well as advice |
| Hortus Loci | Supplied the remaining plants and hosted the volunteer day |
| CED Stone | Supplied gravel for pathways free of charge |
| The Association of Professional Landscapers | Provided apprentices to help with build |
| Fairwater Ltd & Kelley Peers Design Partnership | Supplied water feature and rill |

For the full press pack visit: www.perennial.org.uk/chelseapresspack

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ABOUT PERENNIAL

Perennial helps anyone who professionally creates or maintains gardens, parks, sports facilities and other green spaces. If you work with plants, trees or grass, or work in the places where they grow, Perennial is your charity. Everyone working in or retired from horticulture, forestry or arboriculture is eligible for our free and confidential help, which includes friendly one-to-one advice, support and financial assistance.

perennial.org.uk

ABOUT COLM JOSEPH & DUNCAN CARGILL

Colm and Duncan are alumni of the highly-acclaimed London College of Garden Design. Running separate garden design practices, their collaboration for Perennial at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2019 brings together their complementary skills and design approaches to explore the theme of celebrating heritage while looking to the future.

Colm Joseph landscape + garden design, based near Cambridge and Newmarket, specialises in modern and contemporary garden design. Duncan is one side of garden and landscape partnership Cargill Sykes Ltd. They are based in London and the Cotswolds and are also undertaking projects in France and Spain.

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