



# Consciously Considered

This garden in Worsley, Manchester, is an oasis for both its owner and local wildlife...

**Project details**

**Total value:** £30,000

**Size of project:** approx. 170sqm

**Build time:** 2 months

**Designer:** David Keegan, [dkgardendesign.co.uk](http://dkgardendesign.co.uk)

**Landscaper:** Spruce Landscapes



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**I**lse, an NHS worker from Worsley, Manchester, wanted to create a garden that was a calm oasis to relieve the pressure of her demanding job as well as a sanctuary and habitat for wildlife.

She wanted a garden that was another room on the footprint of the house, with nature as the design and where she could do as much or as little gardening as she felt, with the satisfaction of eating her own grown produce.

She enlisted the help of award-winning garden designer David

Keegan to create a calm oasis that would relieve the pressure of her demanding job, while providing a habitat for insects and wildlife.

David created an eco-garden, designed with a focus on natural, sustainable materials and encouraging wildlife. In conversation with Ilse, the homeowner, David suggested creating a space which would both connect the internal living areas with the garden and that would transport Ilse into a feeling of being within nature, as opposed to just ‘being outside’. So, while the space

feels connected when viewed from inside of the house, it feels separate from the outside.

One of the changes David made to the space was to remove the lawn and replace it with a cobble base, which he said is less environmentally demanding than a lawn would be, and avoided tropical hardwoods, instead opting for American yellow pine.

A bug hotel was incorporated to run

**Previous page:** View towards the house

**Clockwise:** Hidden raised bed planters; feature corten planters line a central terrace



‘My new garden is exactly what I needed, and this is a result of David’s ability to listen to the client and then transform this into a unique design. He was very clear about the design process; he is an excellent communicator and remained very involved throughout the whole project. David is an excellent storyteller and continues to be very curious about his clients and transforms all of this into your garden project. My garden is a story from start to finish that has been beautifully designed, executed and is exactly what I wanted and needed to enrich my daily living’ – Homeowner

**Materials used**

- Timber products:** The Manchester Deck Company, [manchesterdeck.co.uk](http://manchesterdeck.co.uk)
- Easi green wall:** Treebox, [treebox.co.uk](http://treebox.co.uk)
- Corten pots:** The Pot Co (trade only), [thepotco.com](http://thepotco.com)
- Custom livingstone cushions:** Stephanie Marin, [smarin.net/en](http://smarin.net/en)
- Furniture:** Supplied by DK Garden Design on behalf of Skyline Belgium, [sky-linedesign.co.uk](http://sky-linedesign.co.uk)
- Scottish river cobble:** John Henry Mayors of Preston, [jhmayor.com](http://jhmayor.com)
- Portuguese bush hammered stone:** Trade Price Stone, [tradepricestoneltd.co.uk](http://tradepricestoneltd.co.uk)



off the back of the boundary fence, further enhancing the nature-loving theme of the garden.

In regards to planting, the considered palate focused around nectar-rich plants and herbs, balancing those for bees and bugs with plants that Ilse could use herself when cooking. Standout picks include

*Verbena bonariensis* ‘Lollipop’, *Salvia* ‘Purpurascens’, *Echinacea* ‘White Swan’ and *e.* ‘Kim’s Knee High’, all of which contrast with the soft, lime green foliage of *Origanum vulgare* and the centrally-planted *Lavandula* ‘Munstead’.

**Clockwise:** Log store filled with cherrywood from a heavily pruned specimen in the garden; view of the garden from inside the house; dragonfly feeding on the nectar rich *Verbena bonariensis*

In the cobbled areas, a more muted, sliver-grey palette includes gems such as *Eryngium* ‘Miss Willmott’s Ghost’, contrasting with the bronze panicles of *Carex buchananii* ‘Red Rooster’, which picks up the tones of the Corten pots. **DG**