



With six Gold Medal Winning Garden Designs the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show had some inspiring ideas for gardeners this year. The sunny weather also helped us to see all the new garden designs at their very best. **Joan Mulvenna & Andrew Lee's 'See the Wind'** Garden looked spectacular with its specially made 'wind cloud' sculpture, that hung above the centre of the garden and sparkled and moved as the wind caught it, while the tall plants and grasses swayed beneath it in the breeze.



The vibrant colours in **Pip Probert's 'The Narrows'** created a design with a tropical, holiday feel that would brighten up any Lancashire home. It showed just how interest much you can pack into a long, narrow garden.



Three Young Designers had built innovative gardens with a brief to push back the boundaries with a theme of 'avant-gardening'. My favourite was **Clare Broadbent's WorkOUT garden**, which crammed in lots of outdoor exercise equipment (including an exercise bike, mini-trampoline, benches and bars) whilst creating a functioning and attractive garden with a water feature that doubled as an upper body workout! Clare won a Gold and the 'RHS People's Choice Award: Best Small Garden'.



With a different aim in mind '**Maggie's Forest Garden**' by **Amanda Waring and Laura Arison** demonstrated how you can create a garden to sustain wellbeing and a restorative connection with nature. The garden showed how to use simple wooden planters and limited colours to create a calming effect, which was emphasised by swings and gentle waterfall. Parts of this garden will be re-used in a garden at Clatterbridge on Merseyside for cancer patients, their families and friends.



**Caroline Lord's 'Industrial Transitions'** garden used planting to change a neglected industrial landscape into a beautiful and vibrant garden. In her garden we moved from weeds and buddleia growing out of derelict ground to a relaxing urban garden with a seating area surrounded by orange, purple and silver plants and a gentle rill of water. Although her garden is based on Manchester's post-industrial landscape it would translate well into many Lancashire towns.



Last, but not least, I fell in love with **Ian Price's 'Elemental'** Show Garden. This was a beautiful and measured design that fulfilled its brief to reflect the four elements. The unusual angular approach to the layout created trapezium-like pond bordered by one of the few lawns on show at Tatton, a wooden bridge and stone paving. The planting focussed on foliage colour and texture rather than flowers and created a gentle, tactile effect.

