



# FLOWERING CAREER

Living meets landscape and garden designer Louisa Corbett, now pursuing her dream career after moving to Hampshire in 2009 from London, where she was a lawyer

**L**ouisa has been able to indulge her passion and interest in nature and horticulture through creating beautiful country gardens, and believes in reflecting a client's own narrative within their garden and creating a true sense of place.

**When did you first become interested in garden and landscape design?**

I remember sitting by the fire at home when I was a very young teenager marking my favourite plants in the pages of my mother's RHS *Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers*. She is a very keen and accomplished plantswoman. We always had beautiful gardens and so my inspiration sprouted from my mother's skill and creativity. I attended an Open Day at Inchbald School of Design and fell in love with design. It was wonderful to listen to professionals who shared the same passion for glorious gardens and landscapes.

**What training did you complete to become qualified?**

I studied for the Diploma in Garden Design at Inchbald and qualified with distinction in the summer of 2018. I valued the learning so much I completed a second year in Design Development and last summer completed my third year. I have also been hugely fortunate to work on the planting teams of two RHS Chelsea Flower Show gardens for The David Harber and Savills Gardens in 2018 and 2019.

**What was it that prompted the career changed from London lawyer to Hampshire garden designer?**

I took some time out to raise our three children and during that time we also moved abroad and lived in Bombay for two years. I found law hugely rewarding, it was a vocation of mine for a long time and I was lucky enough to work with some brilliant people, but I was hopeful of moving to a field of work where I could have a greater impact on the quality of people's day-to-day lives, working with beautiful plants and materials.

**How long have you been running the business and what exactly is it you offer?**

I opened my own studio, launching my practice in the autumn of 2018, completing seven projects in my first year. I undertake a range of commissions, from designing new planting schemes to comprehensive re-designs of the entire garden, exploring and achieving its full potential.

**What are your main aims when it comes to creating/redesigning a garden or open space for a client?**

Firstly, to create a garden the clients want, through thoughtful design, drawing on the aesthetics and architecture of the house and the wider landscape and through carefully



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chosen hand-picked planting. Secondly, to support our wonderful and diverse ecosystems and enable them to thrive.

**What do you enjoy the most about the job?**

Meeting new clients and exploring the opportunities their gardens have to offer, delivering the gardens they want and watching plants and landscapes flourish.

**What are the trends for 2020 when it comes to gardens?**

This year there is a greater emphasis on managing the quality of the soil and how clever planting supports the environment we share with the wildlife around us, the use of native planting in particular. Reduction in the use of pesticides and more sustainable practices are popular, including allowing natural processes to occur in the garden, birds eating aphids for example and allowing fallen non-diseased wood to attract insects, fungi, mosses and lichen to decompose it gently over time. Elegant, bespoke cushions and tablecloths colour matched to your plant palette are a delightful addition to the garden, companies like amelfi.co.uk have sourced beautiful water and UV resistant fabrics.



**What are your aims for the future?**

I would love to be involved in a rewilding project. The arrival of a profusion of plants and animals at the pioneering Knepp estate in West Sussex run by Charlie Burrell and Isabella Tree is both astounding and encouraging.

I was recently shortlisted for a show garden at RHS Flower Show Tatton Park 2020 for Macmillan Cancer and so very much hope to have another opportunity to showcase a garden at an upcoming RHS show. In the meantime I am thrilled to be hosting a Garden Design Clinic at this year's wonderful Hampshire Country and Garden Festival in June. 📍

**Louisa Corbett Garden Design**  
**07761 986409**  
**[louisacorbettgardendesign.com](http://louisacorbettgardendesign.com)**  
**[studio@louisacorbettgardendesign.com](mailto:studio@louisacorbettgardendesign.com)**