

## Space and Pine

The May event may be welcoming many old hands but newly qualified Nicole Fischer and Daniel Auderset are hoping to make a splash at their first Flower Show. German-born Fischer is now a local, living and working on Ebury Street in SW1, and her route into garden design is an interesting one; she had a successful career running a German casting agency but after a complete change in direction, she qualified in Garden Design at the Inchbald School of Design last year, winning a top prize and meeting Auderset in the process. Together they are producing a Main Avenue Show Garden at Chelsea.

The Extending Space is a conceptual design which explores the diverse landscapes of the protected Pfyn Forest in the Swiss Valais, an area of outstanding natural beauty, where native pine trees are under threat due to climate change. By exploring the three dimensions of the 10mx10m garden, the duo has created a minimalist design which embraces the differing landscapes of the forest and captures the spatial experience found at the edge where views are framed and enveloped by large pine trees and shrubs. The distinct microclimates of the varied landscapes within the forest result in a diverse range of plant species which are reflected within the planting scheme, from the pine forest shrubs and trees through to the Rhône-flooded wildflower meadows and warm plains. Hard landscaping is used

to heighten the overall spatial experience and the focal point is a striking Pine pergola which emerges organically from the hedging and uses the widening space between its beams to create a feeling of extending space.

Fischer and Auderset explain that “the garden highlights how, by playing with dimensions, the spirit of a large and varied landscape can be captured effectively within a contemporary and minimalist design. Within the garden the pines are a focus as we want to highlight their beauty and show how they can be used effectively within a small space. We also want people to be aware that pine species are in decline in warmer areas of Europe.

“As newly qualified designers taking on a Show Garden at Chelsea some people think we are brave and others think we are completely mad! But we wanted to aim high from the start and to gain experience alongside some of the world’s best designers, on one of the most prestigious horticultural stages. It will be a fabulous showcase for our work but we have to admit to being both very excited and very nervous too.”

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