

COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

MARCH 12, 2025

The COUNTRY LIFE Top 100

Our who's who of architecture,
interiors and gardening

COUNTRY LIFE
THE TOP
100
2025



The cake that conquered Everest
Sorry, sorry, sorry: why we love apologising
Village ponds, crowdfarming and Chatsworth's flowers



sandstone, interspersed with colourful beds of perennials, with wilder planting beside the mill stream.

The studio has also worked at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire and is currently creating a large family garden with natural swimming pond at a property in Hampstead, London NW3. Commercial projects include working with Heatherwick Studio on a science park in Surrey, featuring a medicinal garden, and a culinary garden at Hambledon Vineyard in Hampshire. 07973 419097; www.erlamstudio.com

Miria Harris Design

With an MA in contemporary art and curation, London-based designer Miria Harris says she was drawn to landscape design by the 'slippage between architecture and the natural world'.

She is known for elegant, artistic gardens, featuring a painterly sense of colour, made with low environmental-impact choices and carefully sourced materials that blend well into the overall scheme.

Her boutique studio was founded about a decade ago and the portfolio of projects includes a dramatic and highly successful reinvention of the garden of a Decimus Burton villa in Kent (*'The odd couple'*, July 24, 2024); current gardens include ones in Suffolk, Cornwall, Norway and Jersey, as well as London.

'For something so solid, architecture is strangely emotional. I like spaces that give peace'

After suffering a stroke at the age of 44, Mrs Harris used her experience to design the Stroke Association Garden for Recovery at RHS Chelsea last year, considered to be one of the most calming spaces at the show. 'I wanted it to be as close as possible to the experience of a real garden, within the context of a temporary exhibition space,' she explains. 'One of my greatest delights was how alive with

Nature it became, with visits from bees, butterflies, hoverflies and even a duck.' 07887 993197; www.miriaharris.com

Studio Bristow

Dan Bristow is known for his work in harmony with the landscape and for incorporating environmental awareness into his designs. He set up his Snowdonia-based practice, Studio Bristow, in 2008, and won a Gold medal and Best All About Plants Garden prize at RHS Chelsea last year for the Size of Wales garden, which featured more than 300 different plant species. 'I want to encourage everyone to make planting in their own gardens more diverse, in order to benefit wildlife,' he explains.

Known as 'Propagating Dan', he is a widely travelled plant collector with extensive knowledge of using unusual species to suit specific locations, which may be why he is currently working on the design of a low-nutrient, high-exposure garden on the wind-swept rooftop of a multi-storey car park in St Austell, Cornwall. Mr Bristow is equally at home creating private gardens that celebrate his bold and irreverent approach, always designed to suit the surrounding →



NEW ENTRY A colourful dining room created by Kit Kemp's design studio for the Kips Bay decorator showhouse in New York, US



NEW ENTRY A scheme conceived by London-based Miria Harris for a garden originally designed by Decimus Burton in Kent

context. 'We create landscapes that are human-focused and eco-conscious,' he says.
www.studiobristow.com

Specialists Graphenstone

Although many paint manufacturers have moved towards recipes made with more environmentally friendly materials over recent years, Graphenstone still stands out as a leader in the sustainability charge. Its 'Purifying Paints' are manufactured from a combination of lime, calcium carbonates and natural minerals, fused with graphene—a non-toxic material made from pure carbon, discovered in 2004 by two Nobel Prize winners at Manchester University.

'Our paints gently combine time-honoured materials, such as lime and silicate, with 21st-century graphene technology, ensuring they are ecological, sustainable and highly durable,' explains Patrick Foulkes, CEO and chairman of the UK arm of the highly certified Spanish company, founded in 2013. Such credentials make Graphenstone a favourite among designers (Tim Gosling, Michelle Ogundehin and Rose Uniacke all have colour collections with the company). Clients include The Ashmolean in Oxford, Grosvenor

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Estates and Historic Royal Palaces, with a range of 16 colours created in partnership with London's Royal Ballet and Opera, which was launched last autumn. In April, Graphenstone will unveil a new collection in collaboration with English Heritage.
01379 772940;

www.graphenstone-ecopaints.store

Jack Badger

This traditional joinery company comprises a team of skilled craftspeople, known for its experience of working on prestigious projects—and is a firm favourite among leading architects specialising in the heritage sector. Taking its name from the traditional wood-working plane, Jack Badger was founded by managing director Ben Naylor 15 years ago. The company is admired for the full gamut

of period architectural joinery and carving, including internal and external doors, flooring, gates, kitchens, staircases and bespoke pieces, made at its workshop in Old Glossop, Derbyshire. Projects include panelling, doors and furniture made for Plumpton Place, an Elizabethan manor house in East Sussex that was once the home of the first editor of COUNTRY LIFE, Edward Hudson.

Last year, Mr Naylor and master carver Rob Poole won the inaugural 'Outstanding Craftsmanship' award from the Traditional Architectural Group for their work on a medieval manor house in Oxfordshire. 'By choosing authentic, handmade joinery, owners of period buildings can not only do what's most appropriate for their homes, but also help preserve traditional skills,' notes Mr Naylor.
01457 854440; www.jackbadger.co.uk

ZOTA

This Cirencester-based construction company is known for its work in the Cotswolds, taking on both new-builds and renovation projects across a variety of traditional buildings. It works closely alongside leading architecture and interior-design studios, including Simon Morray-Jones and Sims Hilditch, to deliver a co-ordinated and →