

INFO

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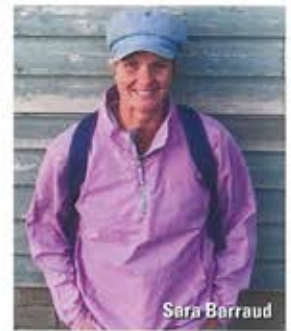
Photo: Sara Barraud



A large dining area sits underneath a bespoke oak pergola

MEMBER PROJECT SWEET HARMONY

Pre-Registered Member **Sara Barraud** redesigned a garden to combine elements of both old and new



Sara Barraud

My clients were open with their brief and happy to start from a blank canvas with a new garden design that would link in with their traditional Wealden hall house, the contemporary interior and the beautiful surrounding countryside.

I situated the main focus of the design to one side of the house. This area was very secluded, with French doors leading out from the kitchen onto a space with views out over lovely countryside. I felt this would be the perfect place to sit and enjoy the sun and peaceful surroundings, so I designed a large dining area set underneath a bespoke contemporary oak pergola surrounded by soft planting.

Linked to this area I created a new seating area with a bespoke Corten steel water tank, which reflected the new wraparound planting. Due to its proximity to the kitchen this was also the perfect spot for a small herb garden. Planting in these areas included box balls, lavender, grasses,

roses, peonies, philadelphus and potentillas mixed with large swathes of gaura, astrantia, agapanthus, alliums, nepeta, geraniums, erigeron and various herbs.

Set into the adjacent lawn, I designed a 10m-long, bespoke moon gate pergola, which linked the garden at the front of the house with the two new seating areas at the side and also led onto a wild area with a naturalistic pond and fruit trees. A bench flanked by two *Prunus serrula* and set within a long swathe of wildflowers, which were established using wildflower turf, provided a focal point when looking through the pergola from the house.

One priority was to move the existing parking area from the opposite side of the property to create an attractive new entrance to the house. Here I decided to design a small, formal courtyard garden with four new central beds planted with half-standard viburnums, *Geranium Rozanne*, box hedging and pleached hornbeams.

At the front of the house I designed a new front path with long lavender hedges running to the front door. Large rectangular planters set flush with the lawn on both sides gave lovely views from the house and lane.

Finally, I ensured the areas further away from the house, which included a pond, mown grass paths through wild areas, a new orchard and raised vegetable beds, flowed from one to the other. My clients' beautiful shepherd's hut was relocated and I surrounded this with wildflowers.

Throughout the redesign I used a mix of traditional and contemporary materials to reflect the house exterior and interior. These included old York stone, reclaimed brick pavers, oak, steel and Corten steel.

The clients were delighted with their new garden and, since its completion in April 2018, it has been such a pleasure going back to see how it is maturing and progressing.

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