



Wonder WALLS

This stunning garden makeover in Guildford was planned and completed in just 12 weeks – right on time to host a 21st birthday celebration

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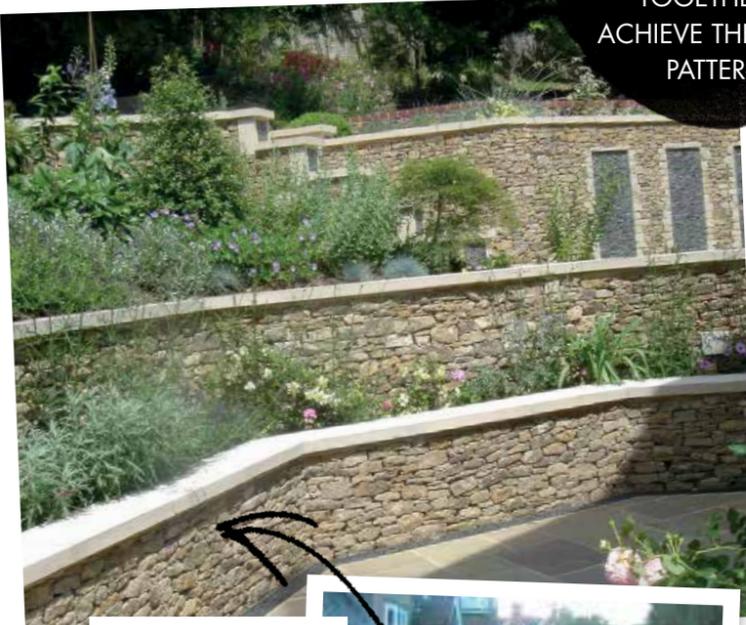
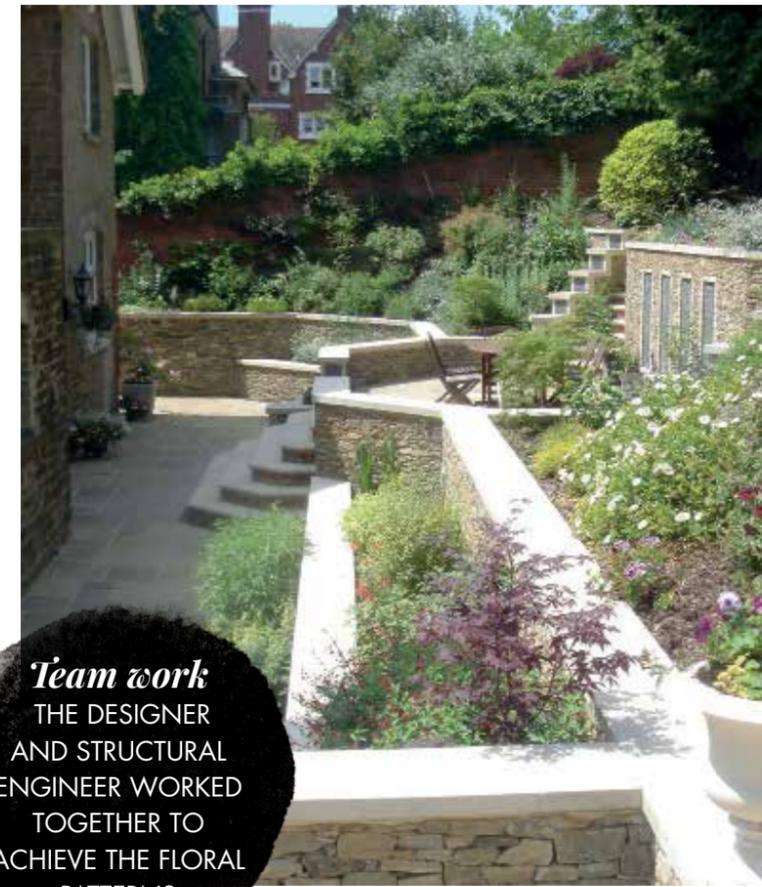
Adapting to the challenges of a steeply sloping garden is something every hill-dwelling homeowner has to face. For Henry Pearson, the solution lay in a total garden makeover, involving intricate terracing and a multiple-level entertaining space, all showcased to maximum effect with beautiful shrubs and flowers.

With a project of this scale, it was important to maintain the synergy between the house and garden, using natural materials that complemented the existing building, explains designer Paul Cowell from PC Landscapes Ltd (www.pclandscapes.co.uk). The majority of the work was in the rear garden, but to save costs and utilise surplus top soil, Paul redesigned the front and side, too. First on the agenda was overcoming that huge slope. 'From a design point of view, we started to work on the rear levels, so we could establish optimum cut points that provide the most efficient use of the space while reflecting the architectural merits of the house,' says Paul. 'Our first job was to remove and salvage the existing stone from the walls to be reused for the new walls. We then excavated it to the required levels.'

A different level

Other than the protection of a nearby tree, and supporting the boundary wall during construction

Team work
THE DESIGNER AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEER WORKED TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE FLORAL PATTERNS



Different levels were introduced to maximise the space while complementing the building's architecture



THE CLIENT WANTED US TO CREATE A "WOW" FACTOR FOR WHEN HE'S ENTERTAINING

work, there were no special features that needed to be kept. 'Due to the severe level change, all planting material was removed and a large number of bulbs were saved to be replanted afterwards. The planting areas were achieved by working closely with our structural engineer, and we were able to accommodate the height differences within the space.'

The biggest challenge Paul faced was the removal of chalk soil. 'We needed to gain permission from local authorities to restrict parking along the road to allow the large lorries to gain access to and from the client's driveway,' says Paul. 'But it worked out OK in the end.'

Off the wall

Although Paul and his team had free reign apart from the requirement of creating more space to entertain, he also had to be realistic with regards to financial costs. 'It wasn't a bottomless pit project, so we used existing materials, and they complemented the house without the client having to buy a whole lot of new materials.'

The new walls were made from concrete block work then stone faced and mortared to give a drystone effect. 'Over 500 tonnes were excavated from the old garden, and 200 tonnes reused to create this innovative use of space, where intricate walls were the order of the day.'