THE WORLD'S FINEST HOMES & LUXURY LIVING TRENDS

PORTFOLIO

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NEW BEGINNINGS

BALEARIC IDYLLS / HOMES FOR HOBBIES / LIFE SWAP: FROM WEST TO EAST LONDON
KIT KEMP'S DESIGN RULES / A MILL HOUSE REIMAGINED / PORTUGAL'S NEW WAVE

savills

PRETTY TASTY

Savills long relationship with the Chelsea Flower Show has entered an exciting phase this year, with a sponsored garden that ingeniously brings to life the plot-to-plate theme. The "edimental" garden, created by Chelsea's most decorated designer, Mark Gregory, incorporates a working kitchen from which chefs can serve up dishes made using food grown within the plot.

The edimental style is about planting with purpose, reinvigorating the potager, combining edibles with ornamentals and creating a visually appealing productive space. "I wanted to create a garden that is a vision for the eye as well as a feast for the palette," says Gregory.

At a time of increasing concern about food security, a kitchen garden encouraging aesthetically pleasing self-sufficiency feels especially relevant. Herbs such as fennel, bay and sage frame a secluded sunken dining area, strengthening the connection between diner and produce. Sam Buckley, a young British chef known for his sustainable approach, was chosen to head up the kitchen.

If the thinking behind it is serious, the garden itself is playful. Gregory is renowned for "theatrical offerings with touches of realism". In this case, the mechanics of the working garden are out on display, with details such as a newly dug bed and freshly harvested plants. Sustainability is embedded into every aspect of the design. Gregory opted for environmentally sensitive landscaping materials from his native Yorkshire, and at the end of show, the garden moves on to the next phase of its life cycle. Working with the national charity Shaw Trust, Savills is donating the garden to a residential home for young people in Nottinghamshire, where it will help inspire a new generation of gardeners and cooks.

DRESS TO IMPRESS

While bespoke shoe storage is something you'd expect to find in a high-end dressing room, a dedicated spot for an Oscar is a little more unusual. "The client hadn't won yet," explains celebrity interior designer Naomi Astley Clarke, "but they were determined, so I planned the perfect spot to showcase a statuette in anticipation of a future win."

Even if an Academy Award isn't on the cards, a well-designed dressing room is the ultimate luxury. "There's a sense of indulgence behind the idea of a room dedicated to dressing," says Felix Milns, co-founder of architectural joinery company HUX London. "An understanding of how a client dresses is important at the planning stage. Do they have lots of gowns? Is it a dressing room for one or should it deliver for a couple?"

Mirrored, glazed or panelled closed storage with ample drawer space is recommended, although some clients prefer open rails. "They must be kept tidy," warns Astley Clarke. "On occasion, I run a rail along the front of a closet as a place to hang evening dresses before an event, or to plan outfits for the following day."

Backlit open shelving works well for displaying shoes or bags, while a solution more commonly found in the kitchen has migrated into dressing rooms. "An island can provide glass-covered storage to showcase jewellery or watches," says Milns. "We often illuminate the contents, then incorporate extra storage underneath. Inserts in leather or suede are popular, and snakeskin can look incredible. The most outlandish storage we've created was in an Orient Express style, designed to look like vintage trunks."

Requests also include dehumidifiers seamlessly integrated into the joinery, soft carpet underfoot, flattering task and decorative lighting, plush ottomans for 360-degree seating and hand-painted wallpaper and murals. "In a dressing room where wall space is at a premium, you can even decorate your ceiling," says Astley Clarke. "I like metallic designs as the reflection can lift even the darkest of rooms."

Above: a dressing room by HUX London