



# WONDER WALLS

## PROJECT DETAILS

Project value  
**£85k**

Build time  
**Design: December  
2014 to January 2015  
Build: March to  
June 2015**

Size of project  
**364m<sup>2</sup>**

## PETER READER LANDSCAPES AND BELDERBOS LANDSCAPES

Peter Reader and Belderbos Landscapes transformed this walled London garden from overgrown yard to a relaxed, grown-up space



**T**his north London house had a walled garden laid largely to grass with inward leaning overgrown shrubs around the edge, making it appear smaller and dark. It also contained a dilapidated wildlife pond, a sunken trampoline and some damp areas at the southern end where the grass struggled to grow. As their children were now older, the owners wanted to have the garden redesigned to create a relaxed but grown-up space in keeping with the house. They were keen to retain some fruit trees and to redo the pond so it was more attractive but still used by wildlife. They liked the modern use of perennials and grasses in planting, but other than that were open to design suggestions.

### Design and build

The garden was in need of a radical restructure to inject some interest and beauty and a solution was required to make the damp, shady end of the garden attractive and usable.

Being bold and clearing the boundary of the old vegetation was a vital first step to opening the garden up and revealing the lovely surrounding walls. The cleared walls gave the garden strong boundaries and made for a perfect backdrop to a new, more formal structure within it. Large trellis squares at regular intervals covered with evergreen flowering climbers, alongside box cubes and shade tolerant perennial planting at the wall base, completed the picture. →





**ABOUT PETER READER LANDSCAPES**

Peter Reader Landscapes provides an award winning garden design service based in north London and the south east. Previously a doctor, Peter retrained at KLC Design School three years ago. He has a versatility of design styles as demonstrated by his two RHS show gardens; from the crisp modern outdoor garden room of 'Al Fresco' to the ephemeral naturalistic perennial style of 'Four Corners'.  
[www.readerlandscapes.com](http://www.readerlandscapes.com)



the glass walled kitchen and was the space most prone to being muddy. A self-binding gravel surface was laid across this area, providing formal beauty and all-weather usability. Two multi-stemmed amelanchiers were planted, with a bench for seating and the space was edged with cobblestone detailing, echoed throughout the garden. The existing patio by the kitchen was extended to bring it properly into the garden.

**Second section**

The second area contains the re-sited pond centre stage, with accompanying paving, stepping stones, rectangular flowerbeds and a rill, which highlights the longitudinal axis in the design. This formality was softened by lush naturalistic planting using a mixture of box spheres, grasses and perennials. This area is overlooked from the living room and an enlarged patio immediately outside. An armillary sundial in the far bed draws the eye across the stepping stones into the garden.



which allowed for a bench to be placed among the trees with a view down the whole garden. Both grass areas were finished with cobble detailing, demarcating and linking the whole garden together. With its succession of blossom, flowers and fruit this more relaxed area has become a joy to sit in and encourages wildlife into the garden and pond.

**Challenges**

Construction of the garden proceeded smoothly in the able hands of Belderbos Landscapes. One of the major challenges of the project occurred early in the build, when the foundations of a number of old buildings were discovered under the lawn. This required significant unforeseen digging to remove, not unlike removing several old air-raid shelters! This delayed matters by nearly two weeks.



**ABOUT BELDERBOS LANDSCAPES**

Belderbos Landscapes has built more than 600 gardens in and around London since 2004, varying in budget from £5,000 to more than £750,000. One of the many benefits of using Belderbos is that it also offers a regular maintenance service that ensures the garden develops as the designer intended it to.  
[www.belderbos.co.uk](http://www.belderbos.co.uk)



**Third section**

The third and final area contains five fruit trees that were under-planted with a wildflower meadow and naturalising bulbs. This more informal area is furthest from the house and the trees help to soften the high walls of the church that abuts the garden. The meadow has an incursion of normal turf,

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**REFERENCES**

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| <p>Designer<br/><b>Peter Reader</b><br/>24 Bisham Gardens,<br/>Highgate, London N6 6DD<br/>Tel 020 8348 4730 / 07941 829 162<br/>Email preader@readerlandscapes.com<br/>Web www.readerlandscapes.com</p> | <p>Lawn turf<br/><b>Tillers Turf</b><br/>Tel 01522 704 949<br/>Email sales@tillerturf.co.uk<br/>Web www.tillerturf.co.uk</p>         |
| <p>Contractor<br/><b>Belderbos Landscapes</b><br/>The Palm Centre, Ham Street,<br/>Ham, Surrey TW10 7HA<br/>Tel 020 8940 2832<br/>Email info@belderbos.co.uk<br/>Web www.belderbos.co.uk</p>             | <p>Wildflower turf<br/><b>Wildflower Turf Ltd</b><br/>Tel 01256 771 222<br/>Web www.wildflowerturf.co.uk</p>                         |
| <p>Patio and pathway stone<br/><b>Artisans of Dezives</b><br/>Tel 01380 720 007<br/>Web http://artisansofdezives.com</p>   | <p>Fruit trees<br/><b>Majestic Trees Ltd</b><br/>Tel 01582 843 881<br/>Web www.majestictrees.co.uk</p>                               |
| <p>Temple basalt setts/Cedec gravel<br/><b>CED ltd</b><br/>Tel 01708 867 237<br/>Web www.ced.ltd.uk</p>  | <p>Amelanchier trees<br/><b>New Wood Trees</b><br/>Tel 01803 782 666<br/>Web www.newwoodtrees.co.uk</p>                              |
| <p>Sawn York Stone steps to shed<br/><b>Whitehall Stone</b><br/>Tel 01274 684 440<br/>Web www.whitehallstonesales.co.uk</p>  | <p>Shrubs, climbers and perennials<br/><b>Provender Nurseries Ltd</b><br/>Tel 01322 662 315<br/>Web www.provendernurseries.co.uk</p> |
| <p>Trellis<br/><b>Jacksons Fencing</b><br/>Tel 01233 750 393<br/>Web www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk</p>  | <p>Perennials<br/><b>Northhill Nurseries</b><br/>Tel 01276 858 800<br/>Web www.northhillnurseries.co.uk</p>                          |
| <p>Pumps and lights<br/><b>Landscape plus</b><br/>Tel 01666 577 577<br/>Web www.landscapeplus.com</p>  | <p>Box cubes<br/><b>Best for Hedging</b><br/>Tel 01257 261 243<br/>Web www.best4hedging.co.uk</p>                                    |
| <p>Building materials<br/><b>Travis Perkins</b><br/>Web www.travisperkins.co.uk</p>  | <p>Aquatics plants<br/><b>Anglo Aquatic Plant Co Ltd</b><br/>Tel 020 8363 8548<br/>Web www.angloaquatic.co.uk</p>                    |