



2 Lights, camera..

Designed by Tommaso del Buono and Paul Gazerwitz for their *Telegraph* garden at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2014, this marble water feature demonstrates how effective up-lighting can be in creating a theatrical backdrop in a garden.

3 Lighting the way

Discreet floor-level lighting has been used on this contemporary balcony, designed by Stuart Craine. Low-level spotlights have been positioned along the decking in front of containers, which have been planted with *Fargesia murielae* 'Bimbo'. In a restricted space a large number of small lights are very effective.

4 Hung up on light

Electric lanterns strung through the garden, create a magical atmosphere. The choice of string lighting available now is really quite extensive and although they may not cast a huge amount of light, they produce a gentle glow that is perfect for setting the scene at outdoor parties and events.



2 TOMMASO DEL BUONO AND PAUL GAZERWITZ, TELEGRAPH GARDEN, CHelsea FLOWER SHOW 2014 / DESIGN DEL BUONO, GAZERWITZ, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE; 3 STUART CRAINE, FARGESIA MURIELAE 'BIMBO' CONTAINERS, CONTEMPORARY BALCONY, CHelsea FLOWER SHOW 2014 / DESIGN CRAINE; 4 TOMMASO DEL BUONO AND PAUL GAZERWITZ, TELEGRAPH GARDEN, CHelsea FLOWER SHOW 2014 / DESIGN DEL BUONO, GAZERWITZ, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

In my opinion garden lighting needs to do two things: it needs to perform a function; and it needs to be very discreet and not become a major feature of the garden. If exterior lighting is too dominant, the garden is no longer a relaxing place and to me this conflicts with what a garden is all about. Often gardens are overlit or have badly positioned fittings, when what is really needed is something more subtle.

When thinking about how best to light your garden, your first consideration should be the primary function of each light. For example, is the light performing a specific task, such as lighting a pathway, steps or an entrance? Or is it

simply a decorative light strategically positioned to enhance a garden feature, spotlight a special tree, or cast shadows against a wall?

It is important to carefully consider where you want to position the lights early on in the planning process – don't wait until the paths and terraces are all laid. If you plan ahead, your contractor can lay a conduit (or duct) underneath the paving, which will house and protect the electric cable.

Even if you haven't yet decided on the fittings or the exact positioning of the lights, if you put the conduit in place it means that you have the flexibility of running the lights around the ▷