



54 CAPELL ROAD – PLANTING PALETTE

A selection of planting proposals for front & rear garden



Garden overview

Our main objective for any focal-point from a house to its garden is to provide successional colour, depth and perspective in the choice of planting. I would propose we plant design with the overall vista from your 2 seating areas (deck and lower garden) uppermost in our minds. The trees I have selected for your consideration are therefore for small to mid size and ones that offer wonderful leaf colour changes across the seasons. The majority are therefore deciduous and will require autumnal attention – wonderful leaf mould should be saved for compost! I have offered up a selection of shrubs, roses, climbers and perennials which encompass a colour palette of white, blues, pinks and purples and will provide structure throughout the year. The majority of plants attract bees and are highly scented.

I have also given advice on particular plant varieties, planting, aspect and soil preferences. Hopefully you will see a colour palette spread across the proposed selection where the pastel and vibrant tones are complimented and enhanced by greys and whites. Grey foliage is a significant ‘companion’ in all my garden designs.



TREES

Mid November to late March is the best time to plant trees as they are dormant and can be lifted without stress and damage to roots so we need to make a decision on the varieties you like, I can price them up wholesale and put a date in the diary for planting! Here are some suggestions:



Tree: Weeping Pear (*Pyrus salicifolia*)

Shrub under-planting: Lavender
(*Lavendula angustifolia*)

Could also include kitchen garden
herbs: mint, rosemary, thyme, oregano
You could consider these for the front
garden

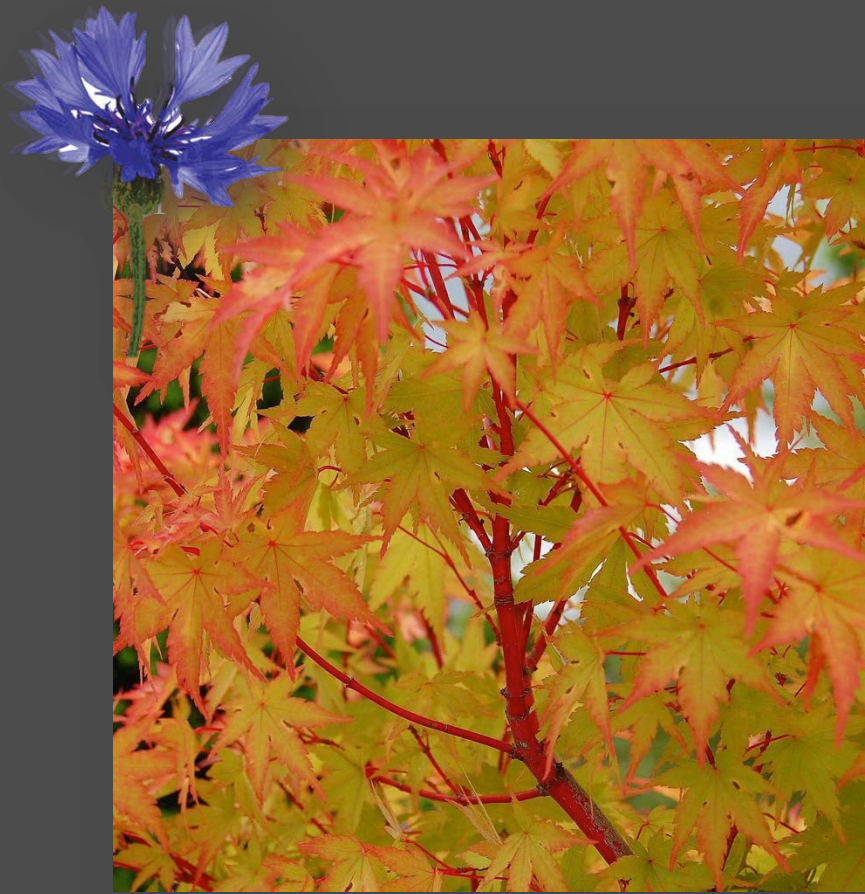


Tree: Olive (*Olea europea*)

Shrub under-planting: Lavender
(*Lavendula angustifolia*)

Could also include kitchen garden
herbs: mint, rosemary, thyme, oregano

You could consider these for the front
garden







Japanese Acers

The Japanese palmate maple or *Acer palmatum* requires a slightly acidic loamy soil and needs a sheltered spot which offers up plenty of sun to enrich their wonderful rich colours. Your deck position is suitable and I would propose you planted in a large pot. The pots (with drainage holes) should be filled with a loamy mix of ericaceous compost and John Innes 2 above a good 100mm of broken 'crock' for drainage. I would propose a cement/plant fibre pot (<https://www.iotagarden.com/planters/fresco-planters/>) or glass fibre reinforced concrete pot (<https://www.theredmudhut.co.uk/g-r-c-planters.html>). Both composites are frost resistant.

1 *Acer palmatum* 'Sango-Kaku'

2 *Acer palmatum osakazuki*

3 *Acer palmatum* 'Waterfall' (green varieties can suffer with too much sunlight)

4 *Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Garnet'



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Ornamental flowering cherry trees

Living in Chorleywood you can't help seeing the popularity of these trees but with good reason. They offer up a spread of blossom from winter through to late Spring and provide a vivid Autumnal display as their leaves die back. I propose the following varieties:

1. *Prunus subhirtella autumnalis* 'Rosea' – November to March flowers, an attractive serrated summer leaf and then a dazzling orange and red Autumnal display. A tree for all seasons!
2. *Prunus incisa* *Kojo-No-Mai* – A small tree often confused as a bushy shrub which has a spectacular show of small white flowers early Spring to mid April
3. *Prunus triloba* *multiplex* – In the same group but in fact a flowering almond! I have to scour the Country for this one but have found it in Cornwall! Flowers in April/May



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1. I'm not a huge lover of the tulip magnolia (*grandiflora*) in small gardens as they tend to swamp any design subtlety but this one is really a star hence *Magnolia Stellata*. You have an ideal aspect for this small tree which can be grown in pots as well as open ground. Lovely white foil to March/April/early May planting.
2. *Amelanchier grandiflora* "Robin Hill" Dense upright small tree which bursts into life end of March with small white/pink starry flowers. Has eye-catching red berries in June followed by rich red and orange Autumnal foliage. You could consider this also for your front garden
3. *Malus Evereste* is a flowering crabapple which is a huge pollinator for other fruit bearing trees and popular with bees. Attractive crop of small red/orange apples cover the tree in Autumn.





“Grey companions”

I often try and include grey plants across a garden as they bring out the colours of others. They also exhibit some of the more architectural leaf qualities that bring shape and structure to the garden.

1. *Olea europea* – I wondered whether you would consider an olive tree in the front of your garden to kick off the Mediterranean ‘feel’!. Clipped olive definitely provides a more formal look but perhaps unclipped it will be better suited here. We could underplant with lavender or rose campion (as in the picture)
2. *Eucalyptus gunnei* – Many groan at this choice largely because they grow incredibly fast and therefore can dominate. However I like all varieties and have kept on top of this one by formative pruning and promoting side-shoots to form more of a bush shape.
- 3 & 4. *Pyrus salicifolia pendula* – Very popular since Chelsea ’17 offering up good under-planting (lavenders, salvias, white hydrangeas). Scruffy but effective. I have also seen this tree used very dramatically as a neatly pruned high hedge boundary line and ‘lollypop’.



SHRUBS

Principally for the rear garden I have proposed a number of core shrubs which benefit from full sun and offer up delicious scent and long flowering. October to April is the 'window' for planting.





Lavandula 'Hidcote' is my preferred lavender as it has a neat compact form, the deepest tone of flowers and a powerful scent. Avoid giving these plants too much 'tlc' as being of truly Mediterranean origin they like to struggle a bit in full sun. I have lost many to soils which have been too heavily fertilised/composted.

Once the existing soil has been worked on I propose you plant this either side of your steps down to the deck. The best time to plant the lavender is after Easter when all risk of a frost has passed.





1. *Ceanothus* Trewithen Blue. We all deserve a Californian lilac but the difficult thing is to find the bluest variety. I'm still undecided but this one definitely performs for me. Full sun, happy even on a slope if well watered. Tough, resilient and long lasting if pruned after flowering. Flowers May/June. Also recommend *C. Burkwoodii* in addition as flowers August/September and needs a prune by a third.
2. Also a favourite in August is the *Hibiscus syriacus* which comes in pink and blue, equally stunning but I prefer the *Hibiscus syriacus* Bluebird as this really is the truest blue shrub. They don't like being over watered or over fed; they like to struggle a bit!
3. *Buddleia davidii* with its evocative smell and languorous habit I think could go well right at the back of the lower rear garden. I propose 'Dark Knight' as a dramatic deep purple.





1. *Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Diane' provides some respite from the drab grey days of mid-winter and when clustered in a group of 3-5 is a real feature plant. This witchhazel prefers neutral to acid soil and is quite happy if kept topped up with organic matter. You could try this in the bed near the new hardwood seat

2 & 3. Lilacs are just good value and herald in May with a mass of colour and scent. Such a range here but the deep purple and whites are my favourite. Happy growing in full sun so perfect for rear garden. The ones featured here are *Syringa vulgaris* Primrose and *S.vulgaris* Katharine Havemeyer.



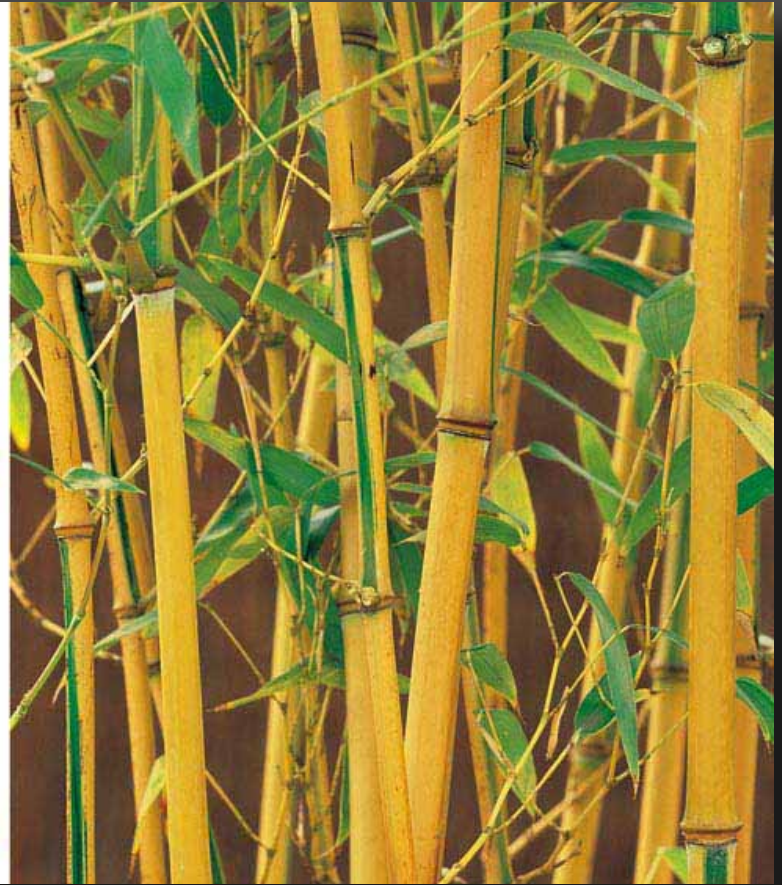




Hydrangeas – mophead, lacecap or paniculata

Many varieties here but they need space and growing up to 3 meters high they do tend to dwarf surrounding perennials with more floral interest. The blue ‘types’ only remain blue in an acidic soil or one which has been complimented by adding aluminium sulphate . They do not like full sun preferring part shade so careful positioning is a must. Perhaps consider them for border next to your hut

1. *H. Annabelle* – excellent for underplanting tree standards
2. *H. macrophylla* Merveille
3. *H. macrophylla* General V. de Vibraye



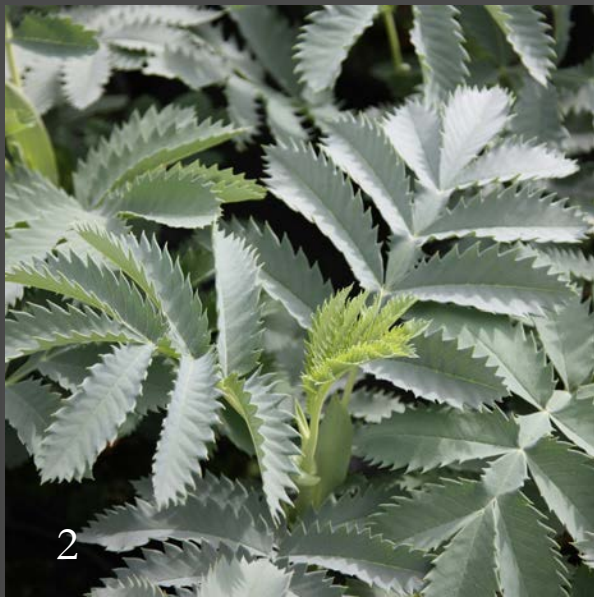
You could have hints of the Far East with the yellow and black stemmed bamboo!
(*Phyllostachys nigra* & *aurea*). Planting close to your deck could offer a bit more privacy



Sarcococca hookeriana Dygna (Sweet Box)— evergreen, scented, flowers Dec-March.
Wonderful shrub with a rare Christmas time scent! Good to plant close to your doors.



Viburnum tinus 'French white' – reliable evergreen, scented, flowers Feb-March.





Architectural shrubs

I tend to incorporate a few of these to take the eye away from hard landscaped corners, house right angles etc. They also perform as well at the back of borders. All are happy in part shade but perform well in full sun. Perhaps consider some of these for the side garden area complimenting your anemones and *Euonymus* 'Silver Gaiety'

1. *Sambuca nigra* 'Black Lace' The black elderflower is an excellent counterpoint for most perennials as its colour and habit give style and structure to the less formal perennials
2. *Melianthus major* Wonderful companion plant with an extraordinarily powerful chocolate smell!
3. *Euphorbia amygdaloides* Beware of the sap should you cut it (requires little to no pruning) but is an excellent shape and form to offset foliage of other plants
4. *Syneilesis aconitifolia* Attractive showy plant



1



Philadelphus

An absolute must in your garden as the scent is wonderful and shape and structure within this plant are remarkable. Flowering June and July this 'Mock Orange' eclipses most shrubs with its powerful scent and is definitely a contender for your Rear garden in full sun.

1. *Philadelphus Virginal* (Mock Orange)





Choisya

1. *Choisya ternata* Aztec Pearl

This accompanies the 'mock orange' with its powerful orange scent and could be considered for the rear of one of your 2 new beds in the rear garden.

The mexican orange is an evergreen that flowers in Spring and Autumn.



Camellia 'Williamsii', *Viburnum plicatum* 'mariesi'. Both offering up early Spring colour



PERENNIALS

The new beds in the rear garden will have the best aspect for the majority of perennials however please note that it is also the area that will require the most maintenance!



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2



Flowering July/ August Agapanthus adore full sun and like to struggle i.e. they do not want to have loads of fertilizer. By planting in pots we can arrange them within a border or have them on your deck. a chance.

1. *Agapanthus* 'Purple Cloud'
2. *Agapanthus* 'Midnight Blue'





Anemones.

The *Anemone x hybrida* Honerine (1) is a wonderful addition to a border because of its long flowering season from August to October. Its height and relaxed form compliment its reliability. These you are familiar with of course.

Anemone leveillei (2) is a hardy lower growing variety which is dramatic in swathes.



1



2



3



Aquilegia

Although considered by many to be too diminutive the *Aquilegia* has 2 important attributes. It has a wide range of colour across the species and it flowers at what many gardeners describe as ‘the awkward time’! This is at the end of Spring and at the start of summer but before the real show-offs take over! Although they tend to be considered as semi-wild flowers there is always a space for them in a garden whose aspect is not in full sun all day i.e they relish dappled shade

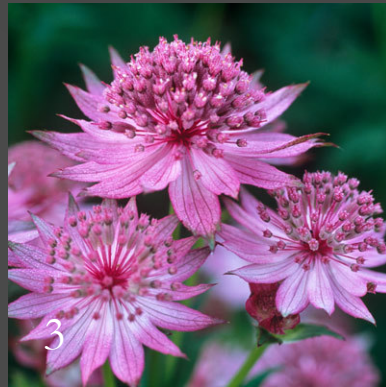
1. *Aquilegia* Blue Barlow
2. *Aquilegia* Origami Rose
3. *Aquilegia* Melba Higgins



1



2



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Aстранtia

These are hardy front/middle of border plants which have a 2 flowering Periods May/June and August/September and are therefore one of my favourites.

The key is not to plant different varieties close to each other otherwise they hybridise!

1. *Aстранtia major*
2. *Aстранtia* Pink Pride
3. *Aстранtia* Roma





Campanula

Campanula trachelium and *Campanula persicifolia* are true blue bellflowers and the is *Platycodon grandiflorus* , from the same family is a stunning blue





Delphinium

Lovely to have but you need to support the stems well with sturdy metal rings and keep the aphids off with frequent spraying!
Otherwise wonderful varieties. My favourites are

1. *Delphinium* Bluebird
2. *Delphinium* King Alfred



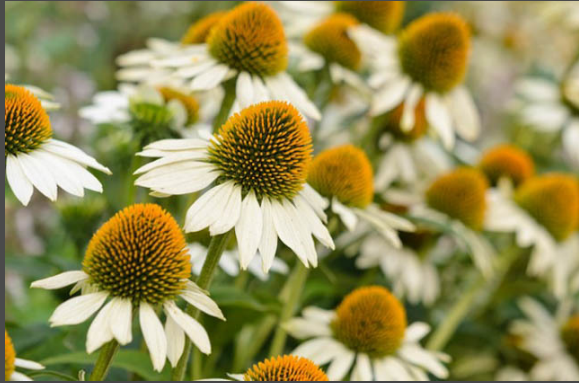


Foxgloves

Digitalis purpurea flowering May to July are understandably popular but they are biennial so they flower one year from sowing the seed so uncommon in your typical wholesale nursery.

They prefer part shade

1. *Digitalis purpurea*
2. *Digitalis purpurea alba*





Echinacea

Wonderful clump forming coneflowers which flower from July to September and are a huge attractant for butterflies (with the *Buddleia*) They need plenty of room when planting and the rhizomes will need division every odd year. My favourites are:

1. *Echinacea purpurea* White Swan
2. *Echinacea purpurea* Magnus





Echinops & Eryngium

Both these plants when clustered are beautiful.

These are thistles with a difference so require poor soils and loads of sun..

They draw the eye to the back of the border

1. *Echinops*
2. *Echinops bannaticus*
3. *Eryngium* Picos Blue





Shrubby Geraniums

I can't do without these as they are fabulous 'fillers' which in effect reduce the open ground so vulnerable to weeds! Some are 'cut and come again' so when they die back you simply need to level them to get another show. That show lasts from May to October and they grow literally anywhere that's well drained in full sun. Many varieties but my favourites are:

1. *Geranium rozanne*
2. *Geranium orion*





Salvia

These can form the backbone of your perennial planting as there are so many varieties to choose from. Some flowering from May to November! The majority like a chalky soil so finally a perennial that likes our native soil. However all are very happy in pots and many people overlook their potential as moveable colour throughout the season. My favourites are:

1. *Salvia farinacea* Victoria
2. *Salvia nemorosa* East Friesland
3. *Salvia uliginosa*





Verbascum phoeniceum

The yellow verbascum pops up everywhere
but maybe consider the pink one here in the driest areas of the your garden.

1. *V. phoeniceum* Violetta





Gaura lindheimeri “Snowstorm” & “Siskiyou”

Wonderful long flowering perennial that bends and sways in the wind – very relaxing!





Lychnis coronaria

Excellent long flowering biennial. Keep dead-heading and it will last the whole summer and will deter self seeding to other areas



CLIMBERS





Trachelospermum jasminoides

My lead proposal for an evergreen climber for the right hand fence area and your front garden trellis. This confederate or Star jasmine has delicate white flowers that produce a heady perfume. They perform extremely well in full sun and flower from June to September. I suggest you don't mix these with climbing roses as they aggressively compete for space and light but Clematis happily intertwine.





Clematis

Clematis cannot be described as easy because they fall into 3 pruning categories and if you want to mix with other climbers such as Jasmine you'd be best advised to choose the same pruning schedule.

My advice is to choose the following to intermix along your fence/trellis or arch so you have a show of white and purple

3. *Clematis viticella* Etoile Violette – mid to late summer flowering

4. *Clematis viticella* Polish Spirit – mid summer to late Autumn flowering

And these for the partition trellis:

1. *Clematis* General Sikorski – early summer & early autumn flowering

2. *Clematis* The President – May/June flowering





Honeysuckle

Lonicera henryana. Evergreen non- scented variety flowering in mid Summer

Lonicera halliana, Evergreen large leaved, highly scented in mid summer

Lonicera perichlymenum Graham Thomas Deciduous highly scented, longest flowering variety

I propose these climbers for your partition trellis either side of your arch, interspersed with climbing roses



ROSES





Climbing and shrub rose

1. *Rosa* Generous Gardener. Highly fragrant and repeat flowering this musk rose is hardy and reliable. The leaves remain on the plant well into the winter.

2. *Rosa* Iceberg

Sweet smelling small repeat flowering rose which I have planted in many gardens as it spreads quickly across arches, trellis, gazebos.

3. *Rosa* Felicia

My favourite bushy shrub rose with the best scent. Compliments lavender beautifully



GRASSES

We never discussed grasses but maybe consider some around your water feature and slope leading to your seating area.

Here are my favourites for your consideration.





1. *Calamagrostis* Karl Foerster. Excellent upright Feather reed grass that is happy equally in full sun and part shade. Lovely ornamental grass which moves gracefully in the wind. Maintenance just once a year - Cut down to base each winter.
2. *Equisetum hyemale*. Popular pond marginal plant but if kept well watered this Scouring rush can be used structurally. I have grown these in lines in a well watered planter as roots are invasive.
3. *Miscanthus sinensis* 'Morning Light'. Upright and graceful, a popular specimen grass for corners and backs of beds. Chop to the ground each February.
4. *Miscanthus sinensis zebrinus* Reliable and hardy variegated grass which has a good show all season even through the winter. Cut back end of February.



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