



INDUSTRY ZONE

Compiled by Jane Perrone

Education & career advice plus the latest on SGD Members and projects

MEMBER PROFILE SELMA KLOPHAUS

Selma Klophaus MSGD is a garden designer and landscape architect based in Cornwall, where she also runs a specialist plant nursery

Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I work alone but each project involves a close collaboration with architects or other specialists such as lighting designers, craftspeople and planting specialists, which means no two projects are alike and every one is exciting.

What do you look for when choosing collaborators and colleagues?

Passion, attention to detail, professionalism and honesty.

What is your style?

All projects are very dependent on the setting and my clients' requirements. My style tends to be grounded and strong, sometimes with a modern or craft-influenced twist. This is tempered by soft, modest planting. I am always keen to introduce new and rare plants in my planting palette.

What projects do you work on?

I generally work on private gardens here in Cornwall but also take on projects further afield. Most of the

time these are gardens of either modernised developments or new builds.

Which completed projects are you most proud of?

A garden for a lovely couple who have asked me to include plants with a meaning to them alongside other important features. Both share a passion for plants and materials. As the garden matured they have stayed in touch by sending photos of flowers as they appear. The garden blends rustic and modern materials in an elegant way.

What are some of the challenges you face as a designer?

I feel most challenged when I am approached 'last minute', the garden has been ignored for a new build and a quick-fix solution is required.

What are you working on now?

A private garden on the south coast, as well as two private gardens on the north coast of Cornwall which are complete opposites. The gardens on the north coast are very exposed and beautifully rugged.

The garden on the south coast presents a number of pockets, each with their own identity. It's a challenge on one hand, but an opportunity on the other to introduce the right materials and right plants for the place.

How do you envisage your career developing in the next five years?

I am looking forward to deepening my relationship with craftspeople, old and new, and exploring unusual plants in my designs. Each new project and collaboration is very different, so I always look forward to finding out where it will take me. Keeping my eyes and ears open to avoid tunnel vision helps to broaden my horizons.

What's the best part of your job?

Leaving a meeting buzzing with ideas and eager to 'put on paper' after a great brainstorming session. Also, seeing a plant develop well in a garden, which I have nurtured from seed at my own small specialist nursery.

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