



Naomi Ferrett-Cohen

Much influenced by her Landscaper father, from a young age Naomi has been a keen gardener. Since then, nature and gardening have formed the constant backdrop to her working and family life, whether pottering in her own garden or volunteering in the stunning and inspirational gardens at Parham House in West Sussex.

Before a career break to start a family, Naomi worked in the care sector with people with mental health problems and learning disabilities and has a firm belief in the importance of horticulture for human wellbeing, both physical and psychological. Now with a young family of her own, this interest extends into creating gardens for children and families, encouraging them into the garden together to explore and share what nature and horticulture has to offer.



Inevitably, Naomi was drawn to pursuing these interests as a career and, having attained her RHS Level II in Horticulture, went on to train with the world-renowned London College of Garden Design, gaining a Garden Design Diploma in 2015 and a Planting Design Diploma in 2016, both with Distinction.

Now heading up her own Landscape and Garden Design Practice nestled at the foot of the South Downs in Sussex, Naomi continues to find inspiration in the nature around her, working on design projects large and small.

This is Naomi's second Chelsea Flower Show garden since graduating from London College of Garden Design

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CONCEIVED BY
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Finding Our Way



An NHS Tribute Garden



‘Finding Our Way’ -

an NHS Tribute garden - represents the story of the last two years since COVID-19 hit the headlines in early 2020.

No-one had any idea back then how the pandemic would unfold. Before we knew it, cases started to increase, patients were admitted to intensive care units, and people were dying. Lockdowns meant that things we took for granted – hugging our families, going to the shops, or an evening in the pub – were challenged. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone differently. For many, the pandemic has provoked anxiety or fear, for others exhaustion or frustration, and for some isolation.

Through all of this, NHS staff have been looking after those affected by COVID-19. Sometimes stretched, frequently exhausted, frontline clinical staff and those working ‘behind the frontline’ had to face their own individual challenges of isolation, anxiety, and loss while keeping the NHS running.

At the same time, the UK universities set to work to understand more about this new virus, and have led the world in doing this. What does immunity look like? How can we treat and prevent the infection? Can we make a vaccine? The unique partnership we have in the UK between our hospitals and our universities put us centre-stage for tackling COVID-19.

The result has been a breathtaking mobilisation of amazing people working together to defeat COVID-19. As 2021 draws to a close there is still much uncertainty, but there is also a cautious optimism as we see vaccines protecting people and saving lives, and we all start finding our own way back to normality.

Achillea Walter Funcke
Agastache Alabaster
Agastache foeniculum Black Adder
Agastache Red Fortune
Bulbinella ‘Sunset Orange’
Campanula lactiflora
Carex oshimensis Evergold
Coreopsis Moonbeam
Dahlia Black Narcissus
Dahlia David Howard
Dahlia Mango Madness
Dahlia Sam Hopkins
Echinacea Eccentric
Echinacea pallida
Erigeron Karvinskianus Profusion
Erigeron Lavendar Lady
Galtonia ‘Candicans’
Geranium All Summer Joy R31
Helianthus salicifolius
Knautia macedonica
Miscanthus Sinensis Morning Light
Panicum Squaw
Pennisetum Hameln
Pennisetun Skyrocket
Persicaria amplexicaulis Firedance
Phlomis russeliana
Rudbeckia nitida Herbstonne
Salvia guarantica Amino
Salvia uliginosa
Schizachyrium scoparium ‘Blue Heaven’
Sedum Jose Aubergine
Stipa arundinacea
Stipa gigantea



Dahlia David Howard



Bulbinella ‘Sunset Orange’



Dahlia Black Narcissus



Galtonia ‘Candicans’



Dahlia Sam Hopkins



Helianthus salicifolius



Dahlia Mango Madness



Conceived by Professor John Frater after a shift on the COVID-19 wards at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, the ‘Finding Our Way’ garden, designed by Naomi Ferrett-Cohen, is a tribute to the many thousands of NHS staff who have been working flat-out over the last 18 months, as well as the thousands of other key workers who kept the country ticking over. Developed in collaboration with those who were on the frontline throughout the pandemic, this garden aims to provide a space to reflect on our experiences, to remember those we may have lost, and a place to imagine a better future.

Entering the garden, the sheer imposing verticals of the timber canopy represent the sharp descent into fear at the outset of the pandemic. From here, water starts an exploration through a series of rills and pools, reflecting the collective efforts of the many people working together in different fields within the NHS.

Stepping down into the garden, the centre of the space provides an immersive experience within

the planting and the gentle sound of the flowing water. While the pandemic brought many challenges, nature seemed renewed during lockdown – birdsong seemed louder, untended hedgerows appeared greener and wilder, and the trail-free sky seemed bluer and crisper. To reflect this, the warm palette and soft textures of the planting provide a safe space for reflection and contemplation, bringing optimism and hope of a better future.

Water is a key theme – a medium that flows and fills spaces, providing connectivity. Shallow rills run the length of the garden linking small pools of collective effort. The rills meet, and join together into one larger pool, representative of the many working towards a common goal. The garden is, more than anything, a ‘thank you’ to all those who have worked so hard to help in the fight against COVID-19. A chance to think about what we all want our world to look like as we move forward.