



planting is kept quite simple with a lot of evergreen grasses to link with the countryside beyond, in another there is substantial layered planting in curving beds.

Lisa has some signature plants that she likes to use, including stately phormiums, evergreen herbaceous and trees that give interest in different seasons. "My favourite focal point evergreen shrub is *Nandina domestica*, as when it matures the stems are strong, hence its common name Heavenly Bamboo, and when the new stems appear they are a purple, reddish colour. The foliage turns red in the winter and the summer flower clusters turn into clusters of berries. This is a very worthy plant.

My favourite evergreen trees are *Eriobotrya japonica* for its large architectural leaves and *Magnolia grandiflora* with its large dark green leaves with a velvety brown underside. It may take a few years of establishment to get a good show of flowers, but the treat will be saucer-like cream coloured scented flowers in August," enthuses Lisa.

For deciduous trees, Lisa finds the large, lime green leaves of *Catalpa* hard to beat, with their added benefit of fantastic flowers and a strong skeletal shape. She also uses a range of *Acers*, appreciating both their fine foliage and their coloured barks. "I

particularly like red varieties or *Sangu Kaku* which has a coral coloured bark so it has interest after the leaves have dropped," she adds.

Working with clients

Lisa, through her business 'Room with a View', offers clients a full design service – including consultation, scale drawn plans, two visits to agree any changes and a survey carried out – for less than £400, depending on the size of the garden. Plants can also be purchased through her and the garden fully completed. "My philosophy is to create a beautiful but practical outside space. I like to keep my prices reasonable for the service that I provide as I think that it should be affordable for everyone thinking of spending money on their garden. You will find me very approachable and down to earth. I am a hands dirty designer and enjoy carrying out the planting myself. My passion for what I do shines through," concludes Lisa.

FIND OUT MORE

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