



A RARE REBIRTH

This ancient Scottish steading rescued from dereliction is showcasing a new garden; one that respects its setting and sensitively reuses local materials ▶

PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREA JONES **WORDS** JACKIE BENNETT

Garden Profile

PLACE Broadwoodside, Gifford, East Lothian EH41 4JE.
www.broadwoodside.co.uk

DESIGN Developed by owners Robert and Anna Dalrymple with their gardener Guy Donaldson since 2000

SIZE Five acres

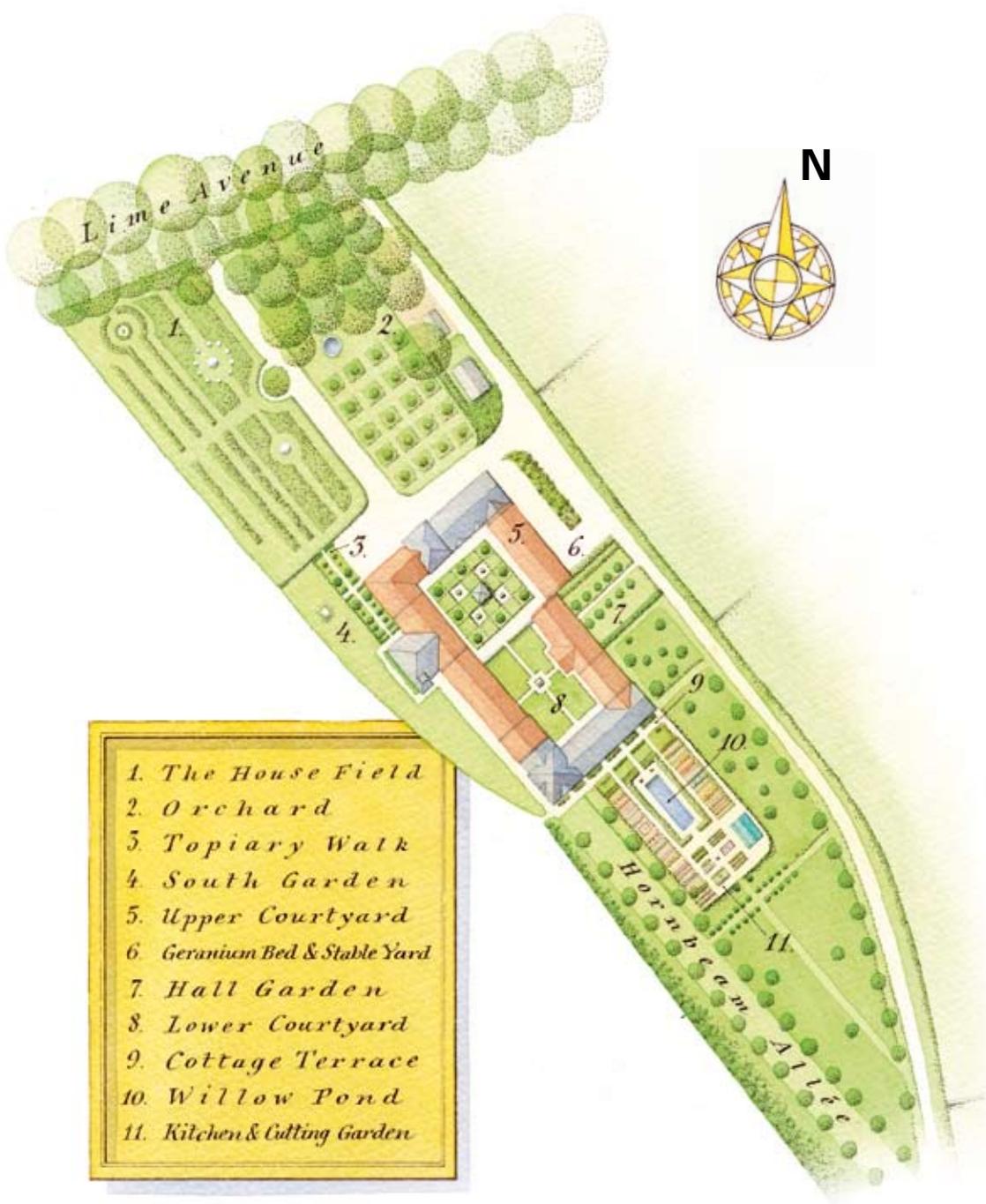
STYLE Contemporary courtyard gardens, kitchen garden, orchard and avenues

OPEN For the Scottish Gardens Scheme on 17 June 2012. Also open to groups

Some of the most successful gardens are ones where the shape of the land and the buildings themselves have influenced the style and ‘feel’ of the design. Built within and around the framework of an enclosed farmyard, Broadwoodside is just such a garden. ‘The buildings and the setting just dictated what we did with it,’ says Anna Dalrymple, who first saw Broadwoodside in 1997. The whole thing came about after Anna and husband - graphic designer Robert - saw a book by designer John Stefanidis. ‘It was about the house and garden he had created out of an old farm steading in Dorset,’ she says. ‘We just loved how he had shaped the land and the buildings and thought how wonderful it would be to do a project similar to that.’ As luck would have it, that very same day she drove into the village of Gifford and saw the ‘For Sale’ sign.

Broadwoodside was part of the Yester estate, and comprised a rectangle of derelict buildings, including the farmhouse itself, dating back to 1610. Because the farm had never been tenanted, the house escaped ‘aggrandisement’ and remains modest and simple in shape. So Robert and Anna decided to employ the Edinburgh architect Nicholas Groves-Raines to redesign the house, which he did extremely sensitively, adding only two completely new elements: the entrance arch, and an ochre-rendered corner building that links the ‘wings’ together.

Anne and Robert then turned their minds to the completely enclosed central courtyard. With Rob’s skills as a designer, they drew up plans with very definite ideas of where everything should be placed. ‘Even while the house was being built, we were planning the garden, and came across Guy [Donaldson]. He moved into the cottage on the farm and began work on the landscape - so he was



actually living here before we were!’ Guy was soon working full time to realise the Dalrymples’ plan. They both had definite ideas of how the space would be used. ‘Rob wanted things to be very geometric,’ says Anna, ‘so the upper courtyard is more designed, whereas I wanted an open space in which the children could play [their four children then ranged in age from six to 10], and also for us to use for eating and entertaining - and that’s the lower courtyard. So we have one area each!’

Today, Broadwoodside has become one of the most talked about contemporary gardens in Scotland, something Anna puts

down to having a clear vision in the first place. ‘I don’t think it is over-designed, or overdone. People seem to find it relaxing - it is very liveable.’

Very little of the couple’s sculptures were bought. They tend to be made from found objects and, because the garden is largely non-floral, they look good in all the seasons. Winter in particular is a magical time, when the evergreen shapes, lawns, structures and sculptural pieces really come into their own.

‘We have found a very special place here,’ Anna says. ‘It was lost - and it has been such a privilege to have been able to breathe new life into it.’



WINDOW ON THE WORLD A literal take on the idea of 'framing a view', this resin frame (*above*) is suspended invisibly on wires from a tree and appears to be floating in mid-air.

AVIARY WITH STYLE What looks like a grand fruit cage is in fact a bird house (*left*) for the family's parrots. The design is copied from a fruit cage created by Arabella Lennox-Boyd at Ascott, a National Trust property in Bedfordshire.

Scottish Artist Ian Hamilton Finlay was an important influence, and visitors will find many surprising objects here

Eclectic elements

The personality of a garden and the people who make it is often demonstrated in its features. Robert and Anna Dalrymple's eye for quirky objects is evident throughout.



FORK GATE Garden forks have been incorporated into the door (*above*) to the Kitchen Garden and given a green finish using a micro-porous paint by Valtti.

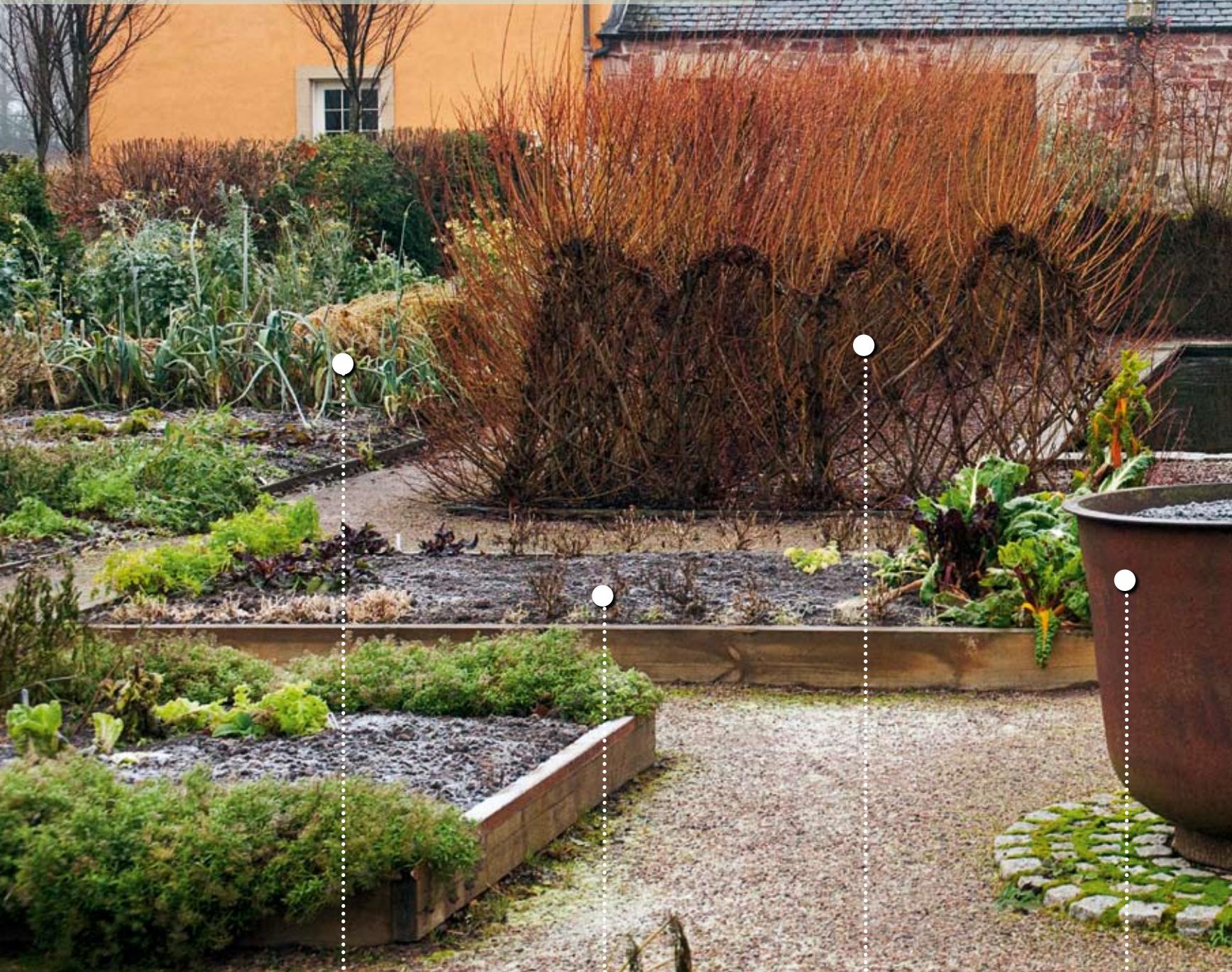


TOP DOG The family dog's tomb (*left*) is topped with a finial rescued from the Holyrood Brewery in Edinburgh, which was being demolished to make way for the Scottish Parliament building.

COOL CAT This cast-iron bench (*above left*) was designed by painter and printmaker Richard Bawden, son of artist Edward Bawden RA. Richard's benches are real collectors' items. ▶

Productive plot

A large rectangular area has been given over to growing fruit, vegetables and cut flowers for the Dalrymple family. On one side is the area dedicated to food production and on the other the space for decorative flowers, separated by a rectangular pool.



Long-lasting crops such as leeks can keep a kitchen plot looking attractive throughout winter. Vegetables look even better with a light dusting of frost - and leeks can be lifted at any time when the earth itself is not frozen.

The vegetables are grown in raised beds edged in sturdy timber (tanalised softwood). Even when there is little to harvest other than a few winter salads and greens, the beds give the kitchen garden structure and stop it looking messy.

The pool is surrounded by a screen of latticed willow branches, trained into hoops. These look equally good in winter, when their form can be seen clearly, as they do in spring, when the first shoots turn the hoops a glorious bright green.

A huge washing copper found in one of the derelict buildings has been put to good use as a focal point. It is home to spring bulbs, followed by a crop of carrots. The copper and height of the pot protects them from carrot fly.



The reflective pool is edged with off-cuts from reclaimed flagstones used elsewhere on site. Designed by Robert Dalrymple and built by John Monteith Builders, it is fed with rainwater that is channelled off the roofs of the outbuildings.

The paths are made of a local crushed granite known as whin dust. The stones are smaller than conventional gravel - somewhere between sand and driveway shingle. Using local stone ensures the paths blend with the architecture.

The mixed willows (including *Salix alba* var. *vitellina* 'Britzensis' with its vibrant stems) add colour to the kitchen garden in December and January, but will be cut back in late winter to leave a neat outline ready for spring.

Winter salads and oriental greens are protected from severe cold and frost with cloches made of rigid polythene (from Harrod Horticultural - www.harrodhorticultural.com), anchored down against the northeast winds. ▶



DESIGNER PROFILE

The garden was designed by owners Robert and Anna Dalrymple, who bought the steading in 1997. The style they have adopted is one of simple shapes and relaxed planting - a design that nevertheless needs a high degree of maintenance to keep it looking its best. 'The planting has evolved, but we don't go for change for the sake of change. If something works, it stays,' says Anna. But neither are they afraid of change. The original box hedges have shown signs of disease and may need to be removed. 'That's the exciting bit,' she says. 'Using events as an opportunity to renew and reinvent the spaces is one of the greatest rewards for a gardener.'

SUBTLE REFLECTIONS Drawing the eye across the lake, the boat house (*left*) is a copy of a garden building at Highgrove. It is used by the family in summer, when a rowing boat is launched into the water. The combination of high rainfall in this part of Scotland and a clay soil ensures that the lake is always full.

Even in this eerie light, the topiary, buildings and artworks give structure and definition vital for a successful winter garden

Atmospheric scenes

As mist descends on Broadwoodside, the garden features manage to look even more evocative, shrouded in the haze of a typical Scottish winter.



GRAND IDEAS This ruin (*above*) was discovered by architect Nicholas Groves-Raines while restoring Strathleven House in Dunbartonshire. It was placed at Broadwoodside, giving a classical feel to the otherwise contemporary landscape.

FALLEN FRUIT By the water, a carved artichoke (*above right*) by Chilstone arrests the eye. Visitors happen upon it as they amble around.



NEAT AND TIDY The path from the kitchen to the gate (*right*) is given definition by cushions of box interspersed with holly, phillyrea and *Prunus lusitanica* (Portuguese laurel) cut into lollipops.

