



**Viridian** is a landscape design and consultancy practice, offering services to architects, developers, planning consultants and property management companies. We also work directly with private clients, and a range of individuals and organisations who own or have responsibility for gardens and landscapes.

**Viridian** can lighten your workload by taking care of all your landscape requirements, from planning support and design right through to implementation and future management - all you need to do is [get in touch](#).

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### Cheltenham Ladies' College

Cheltenham Ladies' College is a private boarding school situated in the heart of the attractive Georgian spa town. Unlike a campus-style school where the boarding accommodation is situated within the boundaries of the school site, CLC has 12 properties located in surrounding roads where the pupils board in dedicated 'Houses'.

EU regulations demand upgrades to the boarding houses, and the College has embarked on a major refurbishment programme on rotation basis through to 2020. The gardens and driveways of all the properties will be redesigned and the College was keen to identify a Practice to work with throughout the project, to create new landscapes for each refurbishment.

### Our Partners

[Andrew Halksworth](#)  
B.Sc. M.Sc. M.Inst.Hort

[Anne Jennings](#)  
MSGD MBALI

Click on each name link  
to read more

Having been shortlisted with two other practices, we are delighted that [Viridian](#) has recently been appointed as the landscape design practice for Cheltenham Ladies College. We are looking forward to beginning work in the autumn, initially on refurbishment of areas within the main college site, before moving onto the first of the Houses in early 2016. We will include updates on the work in future editions of our Newsletter

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### What's Happening

Looking ahead to the end of summer, the following September trade shows are worth a diary note:

[GLEE](#) - 14-16 September, NEC Birmingham - the long-established leading garden retail event in the UK

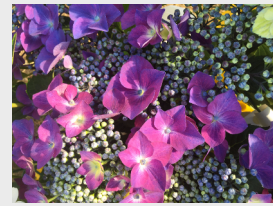
[LANDSCAPE](#) - 22nd & 23rd September, Battersea Park London - a new show aiming to be one of the leading trade gatherings for design, sourcing, building & maintaining gardens

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### Views on News

The Big Tree Debate held at the [Garden Museum](#) in June highlighted concerns about city landscapes in the future when many of the mature 'big trees' trees planted in urban areas - some being over 200 year old - will reach the end of their lives. Of particular concern is the fact that local authorities are choosing as an alternative to plant 'safer' small species such as *Prunus* which may only have a 30-50 year lifespan. The luxuriantly tree lined urban rivers and major city roads may soon be a memory of the past and our cityscapes and quality of lives will be the poorer for that.

It was argued that unless planning authorities, architects, engineers, highways departments and landscape architects could all work together in partnership from the



**Lacecap  
Hydrangea -  
Kardinal Violet**

As plants-people at heart we are always keen to extend the use of soft landscaping and quality planting design in all our schemes.

Flowering shrubs have been neglected by many designers over the last decade or so as the move toward perennial and prairie planting gathered momentum, arguably having peaked over the last couple of years.

We maintain that the most sustainable planting style is the mixed border which offers a range of habitat and nectar rich plants throughout the year and also avoids many of the Pest & Disease problems associate with mono-culture planting.

Shrub borders in particular offer long-term planting solutions with little requirement for replacement plants or lifting and division of perennials and grasses every 3-5 years.

earliest stages of large projects, there would be few opportunities to plant 'big trees'. New tree pit technology allows trees to be planted in paved areas with a multitude of utility services running beneath, but these must be designed into schemes from the outset.

All is not gloom and doom however, and urban planner Anne Jaluzot, speaking on behalf of the [Trees and Design Action Group](#), presented an inspirational overview of a major project in Lyon where a 7-lane urban freeway is being transformed into tree lined boulevards. Pedestrians, cyclists and motor vehicles all move freely and safely within dedicated spaces defined and separated by planting that provides aesthetic, environmental and social improvement.

## Useful Resources

[Trees in Hard landscapes: A Guide for Delivery Greater Lyon Tree Charter](#)

## Market Research

Thanks to all who took part in our Landscape Trends Survey that aimed to identify who needs landscape design, at what stage of a project the work is commissioned and how designers are selected.

[Click here to see the results](#)

Any feedback or comments by email to [studio@viridian.uk.com](mailto:studio@viridian.uk.com) would be most welcome.

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At this time of year well-designed borders can spring back to life as later flowering shrubs take over from the often worn-out perennials that perform so well through May and June

[Read more on our Blog](#) about one group of late summer flowering shrubs - hydrangeas



### Small but Perfectly Formed

In contrast to some of our larger projects, we are excited to have been commissioned to create a small but highly detailed garden in central London.

We are currently working our way round architectural salvage yards sourcing historic urns, reclaimed paving and ironwork, and commissioning bespoke 'mis-en-scen' oak door features.

More of the story will follow in our next newsletter