

FRESH GARDENS

# Creative thinking

The conceptual Fresh Gardens offer food for thought from designs inspired by volcanoes, Bermuda, cancer, city living and even Mexico

**T**hese conceptual gardens often create the biggest talking points of the show and this year they include a design for an urban apartment block and a representation of a volcanic landscape.

The work of Mexican architect Luis Barragan has proved an inspiration for Manoj Malde's garden **Beneath a Mexican Sky** for Inland Homes Plc. Backed by brightly coloured walls, the garden will contain a fusion of Mediterranean and cottage garden style planting, while concrete slabs will float across a large aquamarine pool. Ian Price's **Mind Trap** garden is supported by the Northern Ireland Association for Mental Health. With a mix of shade-tolerant and sun-loving plants in a garden enclosed by metal walls, it is a physical manifestation of the designer's own experience of depression, with the aim of assuring other sufferers that they are not alone.

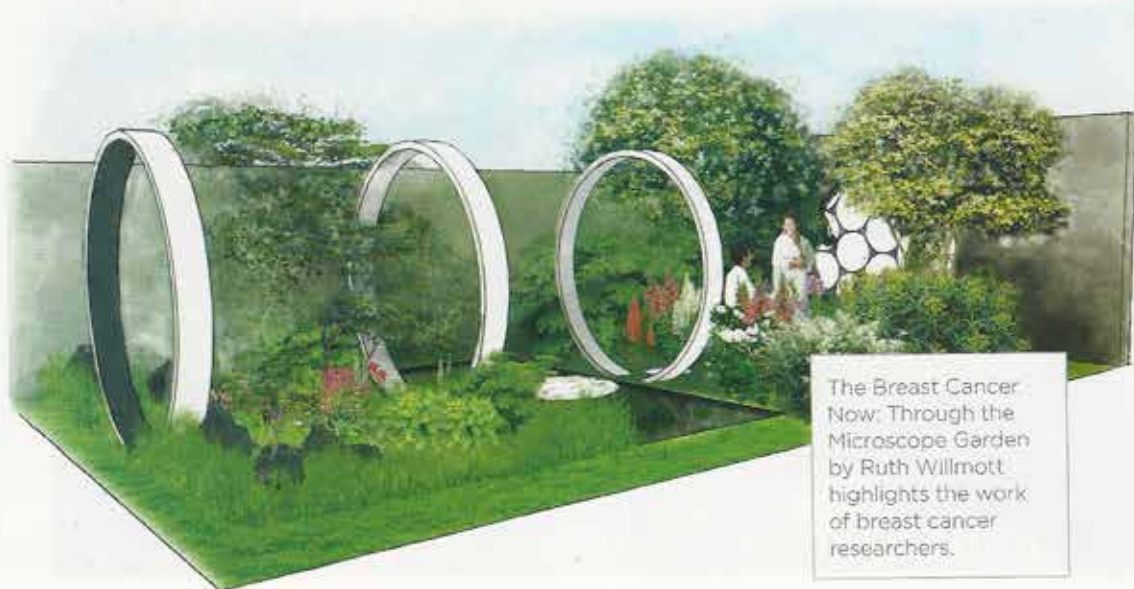
The **Breast Cancer Now: Through the Microscope Garden** by Ruth Willmott will feature plants that show the difference in scale of plants within the same genus. This symbolises the work researchers are conducting to reduce the number of lives lost to the disease.

Kate Gould's **City Living** is a garden based around three levels of an urban apartment block

and argues that much urban construction could easily be greened up if more priority were given to planting. The **Bermuda Triangle** garden by Jack Dunckley aims to represent the topography and climate of Bermuda. Depicting an active volcanic landscape, the garden will be planted in the centre, with laser-cut aluminium sheeting below, to represent fragments of lava and volcanic rock.



The Mind Trap garden by Ian Price includes shade-tolerant and sun-loving plants.



The Breast Cancer Now: Through the Microscope Garden by Ruth Willmott highlights the work of breast cancer researchers.



## GREENING GREY BRITAIN

This year's Greening Grey Britain garden is the work of Professor Nigel Dunnett. A garden to meet the challenges of climate change and urban development it is focussed on providing creative solutions for small spaces. "Gardens are no longer optional and decorative, they're essential," says Nigel. The garden will feature wetland areas to deal with flash flooding, and the planting is designed to create long-lasting colour with minimal maintenance needed. 'Creature towers' will provide homes for wildlife and the garden will also contain recycling and composting facilities, bicycle storage and a communal meeting table. "In uncertain times, and when community spirit is deteriorating, there has never been a greater need for us to engage with each other and with nature," says Nigel.