CONDÉNAST

House & Farden

SOUTHAFRICA

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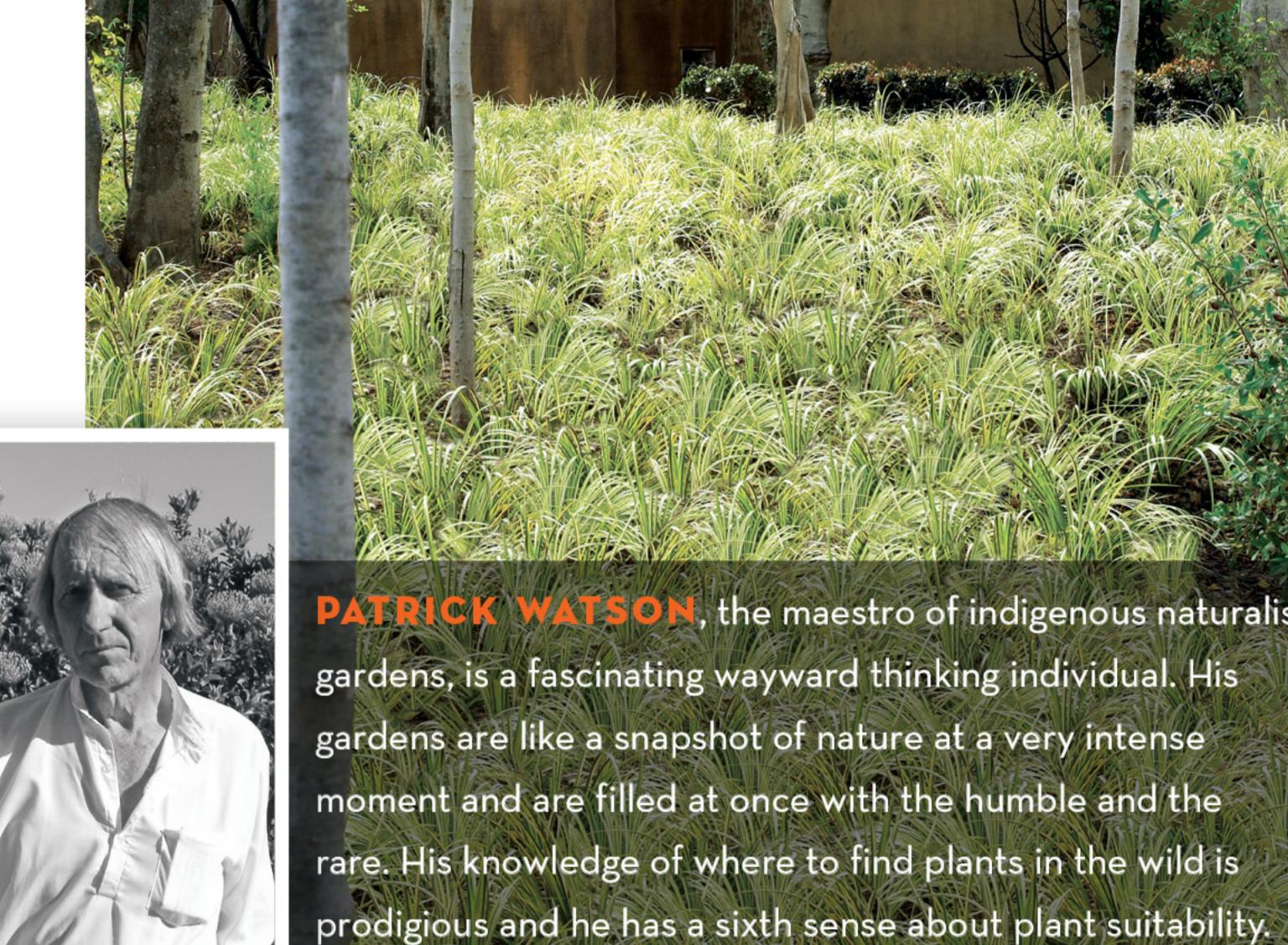
KNOW HOW

Master tardeners

Franchesca Watson salutes the style makers on the South African landscaping scene



OVER THE YEARS I have learned so much from other gardeners, some have been clients and some were friends and colleagues. Most have very distinct personalities and can be a bit wacky after all one has to speak a little Latin! Modesty is an advantage as total perfection is out of the question when dealing with nature. So only those with persistence and a philosophical streak prosper.



SANDY OVENSTONE is

the creator and curator of the breathtaking Stellenberg Gardens, which have rightly taken their place among the great gardens of the world. Sandy has a lovely unrushed manner and thoughtfully formulates ideas and solutions that are a distillation of her own flair, her travels to gardens around the world and her immense gardening



Patrick advised me to make an experiment in every garden I create

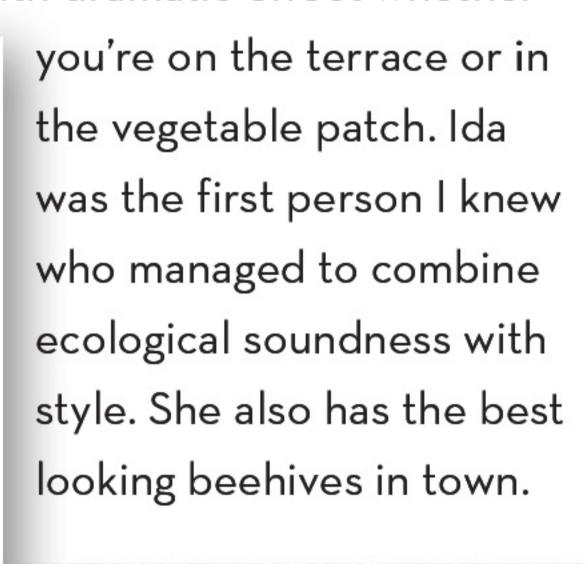
, the maestro of indigenous naturalistic

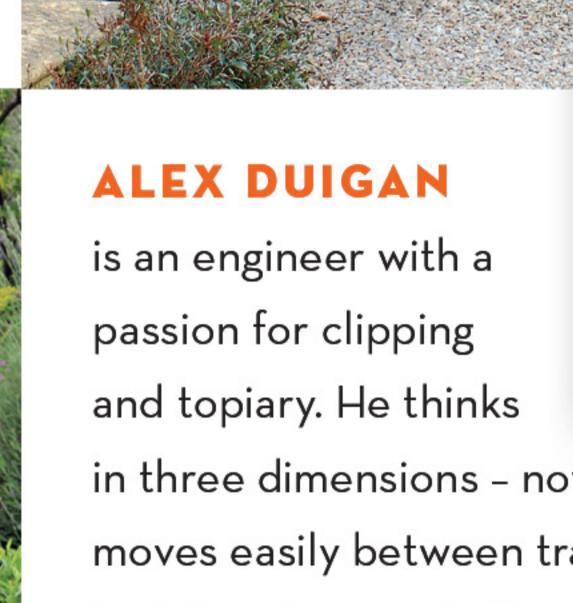


HYLTON **APPELBAUM** is so passionate about gardening that he can literally generate sparks. His extensive garden at De Morgenzon in Stellenbosch has

a wild-flower meadow under the olives that makes me hyperventilate. It's the colours of the annuals he's chosen that are pure genius – a pulsating shimmer of pinks, reds and oranges, offset by a little cornflower blue. His bravery is breathtaking.

IDA RAIMONDO speaks in a breathless enthusiastic rush and has a house and garden that have a dreamlike quality of la dolce vita usually found only in Italy. She has dropdead class, fully extended to her garden, which is filled with dramatic effect whether





in three dimensions – not a common talent – and moves easily between traditional and modern hedging shapes whether forming the backbone of a garden, special topiary features or the patterning of small hedges. His enquiring mind is full of relevant information for the perfect maintenance of hedged plants and others that will provide the foil for his beloved pruned material.

PAUL ALBERTS is a gynaecologist by training and an obsessive gardener by nature. He's a master of unexpected combinations, prone to breaking all the rules with generally fabulous results. He planted a row of mop-head Robinias two metres from

the edge of his long verandah because the evening sun was too hot. I thought he was mad at the time but the effect is spectacular and



aised in Natal, her marriage in 1939 to Peter Barlow – younger of the two highly successful and charming polo-playing brothers - brought her to the Cape when he purchased Rustenberg at Stellenbosch shortly after the outbreak of the Second War.

Unlike her sister-in-law who had the good fortune to take over Lady Phillips' treasure-filled house and established garden at Vergelegen, she was faced, at Rustenburg, with a house that was semi-derelict with no garden to speak of.

Married to a man whose taste and clear vision matched her own, theirs would prove to be a formidable partnership. Happy to employ the best professionals to assist them, it was nevertheless always her discerning eye that so deftly supervised the restoration and extension of the existing bones of the home and then went on to choose the colours, stuffs, patterns and plantings to achieve the effect she wished to create. It was to be a task of a lifetime.

what many newcomers fail to appreciate, that the Cape's best guise is a timeless one and to this

PRE-EMINENT SOUTH AFRICAN GARDENER AND TASTEMAKER OF HER ERA, WRITES GRAHAM VINEY

ne interior at Rustenburg

THE DEATH OF PAM BARLOW RECENTLY SEES THE DEPARTURE FROM THE CAPE SCENE OF THE

unfolded with the lie of the land, the compartments or 'rooms' leading one to the other. Its sensitivity to the surrounding landscape was unique. Rustenberg rapidly became the cynosure of the international cognoscenti who marvelled at the

subtle skills which had created such unsurpassed loveliness. They marvelled too, at the formidable strengths belied by her habitual Liberty prints and pearls as well as at the justly famous bon mots - all the more devastating for being delivered in the fluted tones of Old Natal and which added greatly, it must be said, to the gaiety of the Anglo-Cape of her day. Less documented were her significant efforts in the field of conservation, Jersey-cattle breeding and countless charitable causes.

with a mixture of fine Cape and English pictures and Advanced years and a retiring nature furniture, presently glowed with an aura of roses and means that there are not now many to mourn her but those who do, will mourn her very much. With her passing she joins a distinguished rank of Cape chatelaines and tastemakers in direct descent from Lady Anne Barnard, Lady Charles Somerset, Lady Herschel, Lady Phillips, Dorothea Fairbridge and others who have preserved and enhanced the Cape's unique beauty and charm.



end the obvious and the flash were resolutely

eschewed. The homestead and outbuildings, filled

imitation. At once appearing centuries old - the look

of always having been there - their plan effortlessly

beeswax. And if her extensive garden pioneered in this country the horticultural ethos of the two most influential gardens of the day - Lawrence Johnston's Hidcote and Vita Sackville-West's Perhaps more than anything else she understood Sissinghurst - there was no question of slavish

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