

**Quintessence  
of Home**  
*Clay Heritage III*

# Pelham Place — *London*



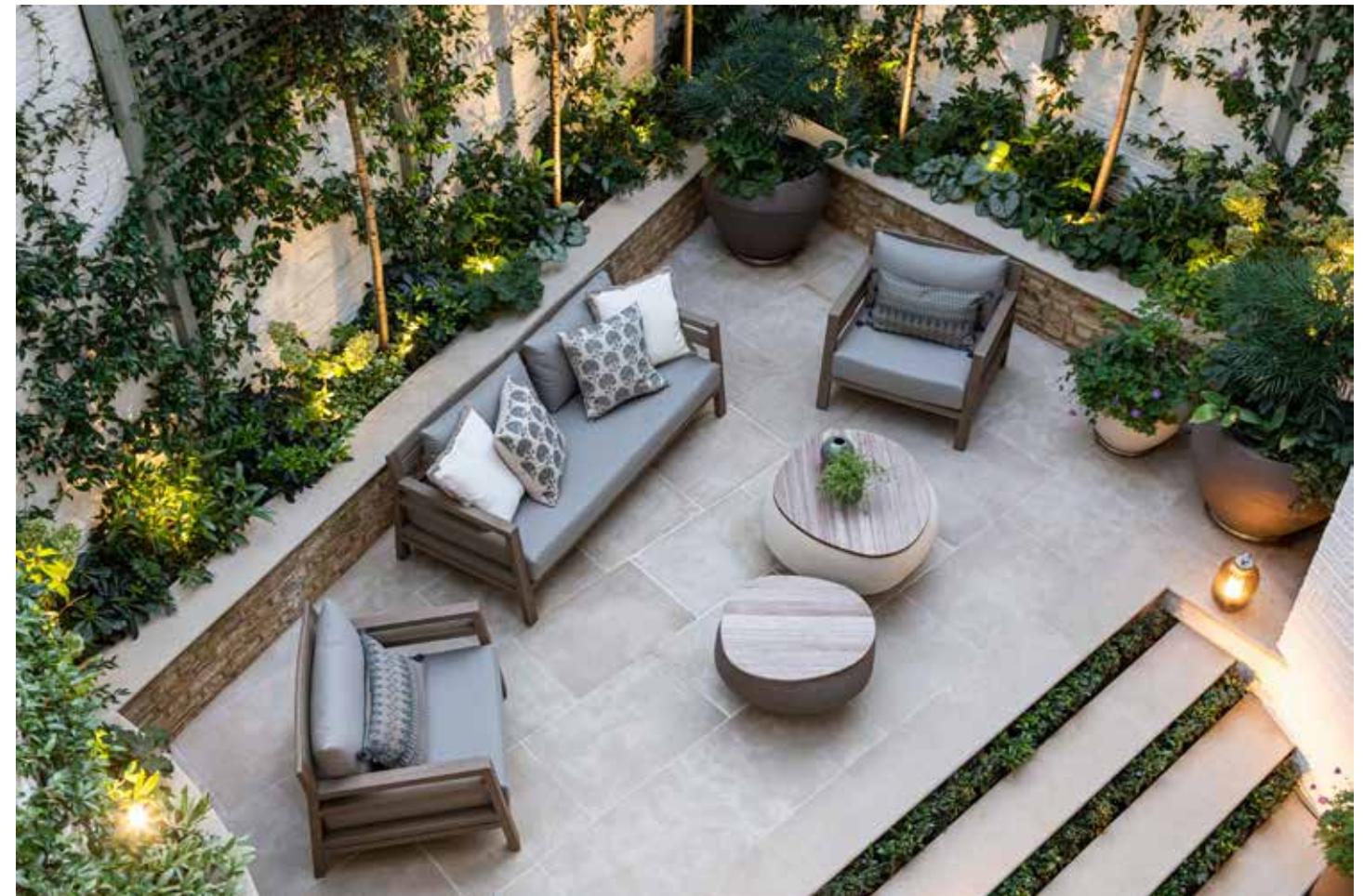
Whether she is the owner returning home or a first-time visitor, anyone stepping into the front garden of this South Kensington townhouse will be welcomed by the rich scents of jasmine in summer, and of *Sarcococca confusa* on even the darkest winter day.

With its weathered paving and stone-edged beds, the space already displayed the old-fashioned formality you might expect in the garden of a Grade II listed building. The house has been fully renovated, however, and we have brought the same fresh thinking to its garden. Now dense *sarcococca* hedges surround a mono planting of *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Lime green', so that the garden seems submerged by a profusion of cool, green flowers in late summer.





The wonderfully elegant and intimate space we have created behind the house is comfortably furnished with sofa and chairs. Our lighting makes it as welcoming after dark as it is during the day. We have planted an enfilade of *Quercus ilex* to line the walls, and their bare trunks and clipped heads produce a familiar touch of formality. This is offset by the rich mix of shrubs and perennials beneath the trees, which fill the garden with colour and scent all year. As always we have included one novelty in our planting. This time it is a new variety of mahonia, *M. eurybracteata* subsp. *ganpinensis* 'Soft Caress'. Its delicate fern-like leaves add another texture to the planting, and its flowers fill the garden with their honey scent in late summer.





Architect: *Jo Cowen*  
Interior designer: *Gordon Duff & Linton*

### Stefano Marinaz

The seeds for Stefano's future were planted 70 years ago in northern Italy, when his grandfather opened a nursery and a shop selling vegetables, garden tools and seeds in Trieste. People often learn to appreciate plants as they grow older, but his love and understanding dates from his childhood, when he used to follow his grandfather around as he worked in the garden and glasshouses, tending plants and sowing seeds. When his parents took over the family business, they expanded it and were soon selling to farmers and gardeners all

over Italy and abroad. Seeds have always been at the core of the family business, and Stefano has inherited a love for them. He is ever more fascinated by their microscopic beauty, their ability to generate new life, and the endless possibilities they offer in the garden.

After completing degrees in both Agronomy & Landscape Architecture in Italy, Stefano Marinaz studied for an MA in Landscape Architecture at London's University of Greenwich. After a stint as a horticultural intern at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, Stefano joined Arne Maynard's studio to

work on a range of private gardens in Britain, the USA and the Middle East. Since establishing SMLA in 2012, Stefano and his team have worked on a rich mix of projects, often collaborating closely with architects and engineers. SMLA creates elegant and secluded outdoor rooms for London clients, and rural gardens designed with exceptional sensitivity to the surrounding landscape. The studio also specialises in the historical restoration and reconstruction of landscapes surrounding listed buildings.

