



Speakers

Jo Wakelin

John Little

Giacomo Guzzon

Stefano Marinaz

Ton Muller

Mark Gregory

Q&A sessions hosted by

Stephanie Mahon, Editor of Gardens Illustrated



Space to grow - How our gardens and open spaces can help us achieve a liveable future

For 28 years the GLDA has been bringing together speakers from around the globe to inform, educate and inspire those interested in maximising the potential of gardens and public spaces. This year's international seminar, which takes place on Saturday, 24th February 2024 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santry, Dublin, is entitled "Space to Grow" and will examine how our gardens and open spaces can help us all achieve a liveable future.

The impressive line-up of speakers from as far afield as New Zealand will explore how, in a world that is becoming increasingly urbanised, do we keep our cities liveable? How do we ensure people have what they need to ensure a good quality of life in urban settings? How do we lessen our impact on the planet and support biodiversity while improving our day-to-day experience of modern living?

The panel of speakers for the 2024 event has been expanded from the usual four to six to make the upcoming seminar even more informative and inspiring. Jo Wakelin from New Zealand, Stefano Marinaz and Giacomo Guzzon both from Italy, John Little and Mark Gregory from the UK, and Ton Muller from the Netherlands will each bring their unique perspective.

They will discuss innovative solutions to the challenges we face. Stephanie Mahon, editor of Gardens Illustrated, will host the event. Tickets are on sale now at www.glda.ie priced at €110 for GLDA members, €140 for non-members, €160 for Friends of the GLDA including 1 year's membership, and €60 for Students including 1 year's membership.

The six international speakers at the Seminar will challenge long standing practices and priorities in garden design and landscape architecture with the aim of creating more fulfilling spaces that are future oriented. They will examine whether inputs such as irrigation and nutrient-rich soil are necessary and suggest ways that good design can help our gardens and green spaces reach new levels of functionality.

Through their differing but aligning perspectives, the speakers, who have gained invaluable insights through their pioneering work, will show that we have the power to effect positive change. They will show how we can forge our way to a more liveable future - through fresh thinking and a new understanding of evolving approaches in garden and landscape design.

Tickets are on sale now at www.glda.ie.

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For further information or speaker images please contact:
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SPEAKERS

Jo Wakelin is a botanist, ecologist and garden designer who has worked for 32 years as a lecturer in horticulture. She believes that we must rethink our use of water in landscaping and has won international acclaim for her drought tolerant garden near Cromwell in Central Otago on New Zealand's South Island, in a valley surrounded by majestic mountains. She is passionate about low impact, environmentally conscious landscape design and her approach has caught the attention, and the imagination, of gardeners and plantspeople around the world. **The title of Jo's presentation is:** *"Low on H2O. Perspectives, challenges and experiences gained while creating a climate resilient landscape without additional water in a summer dry region of New Zealand."*

Ton Muller is head Landscape Designer at the Municipality of Amsterdam. He works as a designer and planting expert on a wide range of complex urban projects. For more than 25 years he has pioneered new habitat-based approaches to planting in public spaces and the built environment, in collaboration with urban planners, ecologists and architects. His work brings together themes such as biodiversity, city climate, community building and water management. **The title of Ton's presentation is:** *"Greening a city: the opportunities and challenges of creating a liveable Amsterdam."*

John Little is an expert in grass roofs and sustainable urban planting and landscaping. He has a deep understanding of how this relates to the horticulture industry, and he strives to change long standing protocol regarding public space to prioritise sustainability and habitat creation. Habitat trials at his home, Hilldrop in Essex, include a garden designed with spoil from the local road widening scheme, as well as industrial and construction waste. He believes that well designed greenspace is key to making places liveable and worthwhile and that the potential to change and improve towns and cities is huge and so underplayed. **The title of John's presentation is:** *"It's not all about plants. How structural complexity and gardeners are more important than plant choice in delivering biodiversity and joy."*

Giacomo Guzzon is a landscape architect, academic tutor, and lecturer in planting design at the University of Sheffield, the University of Greenwich, and KLC School of Design in London. In addition to his academic activities, he is a Senior Landscape Architect and Head of Planting Design at the international landscape architecture firm Gillespie's in London. He is passionate about planting and has a pragmatic approach to creating resilient and biodiverse plant communities in urban areas. He believes there has been a lack of emphasis on good planting design to date. "Planting design has not been a priority in the profession of landscape architecture for many decades. Fortunately, this period of neglect appears to be changing." **The title of Giacomo's presentation is:** *"Creating and nurturing public landscapes in times of climate change."*

Stefano Marinaz is a garden designer and landscape architect. He attributes his interest in plants to spending his childhood following his grandfather around as he worked in his nursery and shop in Trieste, northern Italy, tending plants and sowing seeds. Stefano's passion for plants grew and led him to pursue degrees in both Agronomy and Landscape Architecture in Italy, before studying for an MA in Landscape Architecture at the University of Greenwich in London. Ten years ago, he set up Stefano Marinaz Landscape Architecture, with the aim of giving as many people as possible the opportunity to have a beautifully designed garden. With offices in both London and Utrecht, he manages a rich mix of projects all over Britain, Italy and the Netherlands. **The title of Stefano's presentation is:** *"Gardens for a sustainable and biodiverse future."*

Mark Gregory is Managing Director of Surrey based Landform Consultants Ltd, a well-known landscaping firm in the UK. The company takes a client-focused and proactive approach to the design, construction, planting and maintenance of high end residential and upmarket commercial projects. A proud Yorkshireman, Mark lectures widely in the UK and overseas. He is totally immersed in the industry and is renowned for his in-depth technical knowledge. He and his company have been awarded a string of accolades and awards for consistently attaining exemplary high standards of work. He is a familiar face due to his appearances at the Chelsea Flower Show where he has been involved in the design or construction of over 100 gardens. He is also a regular advisor and garden judge at Bord Bia's Bloom Festival. *(Title of presentation not yet available).*