

Made in Chelsea

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Trailfinders' Australian Garden with Studio 505's Waratah Studio

The 100th Chelsea Flower Show to be held in the grounds of Christopher Wren's Royal Hospital opens today.

Let Building Design's newsdesk take you on a whistle-stop tour of the highlights.

First up is the Australian Garden (above and below) which showcases sustainable design with features including water capture.

The focal point is the startling geometric Waratah Studio perched on the top of the bank of indigenous plants. It was designed by Melbourne architects Studio 505 whose founders worked on that city's Fed Square scheme. The digitally assembled petals are made from wood and let in a dappled light to the eyrie-esque structure.



Trailfinders' Australian Garden with Studio 505's Waratah Studio



Trailfinders' Australian Garden with Studio 505's Waratah Studio

Rubberneckers can see the studio from Chelsea Embankment even without a ticket.

Inside the vast marquee there are a couple of stands worth a mention. I was surprised to find one of the largest was created to celebrate Mecanoo's £189m Library of Birmingham which opens in September.

Library of Birmingham stand

Libraries and gardens are both good places to sit and contemplate but trying to combine the two makes for a rather bizarre display.

Library of Birmingham stand – with a video of Mecanoo's design

The other three sides were devoted to Birmingham writers including poet Benjamin Zephaniah, who helpfully wrote Nature Trail in 2003, and JRR Tolkien whose Two Towers were depicted.

The Library of Birmingham's stand – one of Tolkien's Two Towers



The Library of Birmingham's stand – one of Tolkein's Two Towers



Turn around and you find yourself in Thailand. The stand has a similarly fantastical feel, although it has a greater grounding in reality.



Thai stand

Outside, Stoke-on-Trent council's landscape department was attracting a crowd for its potteries-themed stand.

Stoke-on-Trent's kiln garden

Finally, here's Prince Harry's Forget-Me-Not garden, designed by Jinny Blom for his Sentebale charity in Lesotho.

Prince Harry's garden

Despite all this, the real highlight was getting a closer look at Wren's grade I listed Royal Hospital.

Wren's Royal Hospital Chelsea

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