

THE HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW 2011

ENGLISH POET'S GARDEN - PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY'S

MONT BLANC

Inspired by the majestic beauty, serenity and power of the mountain Shelley composed this passionate poem, challenging the theories of its creation and the powers of nature. Intrigued by witchcraft, he introduced the witch Poesy in a still cave behind the waterfall. The sight and sounds of the mountain, the quiet beyond the constant rush of the water produced an atmosphere to cause Shelley to reflect on the vagaries of life and the social injustice of the time.

The everlasting universe of things
Flows through the mind, and rolls its rapid
waves.....

The source of human thought its tribute brings
Of waters, with a sound but half its own.....

Of the ethereal waterfall, whose veil
Robes some unsculptured image, the strange
sleep.....

A loud, lone sound no other can tame
Thou art pervaded with that ceaseless motion
Thou art the path of unresting sound....

...and when I gaze on thee
I seem as in a trance sublime and strange
To muse on my own separate fantasy.
One legion of wild thoughts, whose wandering
wings
Now float above thy darkness, and now rest
Where that or thou art no unbidden guest,
In the still cave of the witch Poesy,
Seeking among the shadows that pass by
Ghosts of all things that are, some shade of thee
Some phantom, some faint image till the breast
From which they fled recalls them, thou art there....



These excerpts from the poem show how moved Shelley was by the scenery before him. The garden tries to convey some of this emotion.

Far, far above piercing the infinite sky
Mont Blanc appears, still, snowy and serene....
...all seems eternal now...

So solemn, so serene, that man may be
But for such faith with nature reconciled.
Thou has a great voice, great mountain, to repeal
Large codes of fraud and woe - not understood
By all, but which the wise, and great, and good
Interpret, or make felt, or deeply feel.....

All things that move and breathe with toil and sound
are born and die; revolve, subside and swell.
Mont Blanc yet gleams on high, the Power is there,
The still and solemn Power of many sights
And many sounds, and much of life and death.....

The secret strength of things
Which governs thought, and to the infinite dome
of heaven is as a law, inhabits thee! ...

And what were thou, and earth, and stars and sea
If to the human mind's imaginings
Silence and solitude were vacancy.

SITE LOCATION : PAL 343

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JAYNE THOMAS GARDEN DESIGN



I am a garden designer based in Thames Ditton in Surrey. This is my second year at the Hampton Court Flower Show. In 2010, I won the People's Choice for my Shakespeare Garden - A Midsummer Night's Dream. This year's entry is a very different garden. A pretty outcome was always the main aim but harder to achieve this time. Creating a beautiful garden out of bare rock furnishing it with trees and plants has been a challenge. Hope you like it.

PLANT LIST:

The three main trees are *Cedrus deodar* with two small *Pinus nigra Austriaca*.

Shrubs include - *Calluna Alba*, *Juniper horizontalis Blue Chip*, *Juniper squam. Blue Star*, *Picea mariana Nana*, *Pinus mugo Nana*

Herbaceous and alpines include:- *Alyssum*, *Arenaria montana*, *Athyrium felix mas/femina*, red Calla lilies, *Catananche caereulea*, *Cerastium tomentosum 'Snow in Summer'*, *Cosmos atrosanguineous*, *Delphinium alba*, *Digitalis*, *Erodium Album*, *Eucharis amazonica*, *Gallium oderatum*, Holly fern, *Hymenocallis harrisiana*, *Hymenocallis Sulphur Queen*, *Leontopodium coreanum*, *Lobelia white Lady*, *Meconopsis betonicifolia*, *Molinia Karl Foerster*, *Osmunda regalis*, *Pleione formosana*, *Saxifraga Tumbling Waters*, *Sidalcea*, *Verbena bonariensis*, *Viola Emperor White*
Alpine meadows include:- *Bishops flower*, *Black eyed Susan*, *Californian poppy*, *Candytuft*, *dwarf Cornflower*, *Corn Marigold*, *Fairy Toadflax*, *Larkspur*, *Nigella*, *purple Tansy*, *red Flax*, *red Orache*, *Shirley Poppy* and *Tickseed*.

I have to thank Harvey Stone for lending me all the rock, Windsor Fountains for the waterfall equipment, Mark Blunden (MPB Landscapes Tel 07957 281748), Kiwa, Carolyn, Gary and all the other helpers.

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