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SGD

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IN INDIAN GARDEN DESIGN

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Compiled by Veronica Peerless

Education & career advice plus the latest on SGD members and projects



The kitchen terraces at Batcombe House in Somerset



Emma Mazzullo (left) and Libby Russell

PRACTICE PROFILE: MAZZULLO + RUSSELL

Having worked for Arabella Lennox-Boyd MSGD for many years, Emma Mazzullo MSGD and Libby Russell set up their own company in 2014

How was the practice formed?

Mazzullo + Russell Landscape Design was founded in March 2014. We had worked for Arabella Lennox-Boyd for a combined 35 years, and it was time to establish our own voice. The practice has now been going for over two years and we employ two people.

Is there a practice style?

The 'place' and the client's wishes are paramount in determining the direction of a project, with our style varying according to whether we are working on a modern building or a historic estate. We usually use a structured design, softened by imaginative planting and detailed design of all elements, from paving patterns to trellis. We try to bring out the existing qualities of the site to achieve a harmonious whole.

What projects do you work on?

We both have wide experience of designing high-quality projects, on private, public and commercial projects. They have ranged from large private estates to commercial developments and gardens through Europe, Russia, the US and further afield. After so many years in practice, we can work on almost any site anywhere, so no project is too large or too small.

What completed projects are you most proud of?

Many of our current projects are still under construction but Libby is most proud of her garden in Batcombe, Somerset. It is purposely in keeping with the rural surrounding landscape, which has wildflower meadows and ancient hills. Sweeping banks echo the striations made by sheep on the overlooking hills, while the kitchen terrace borders are a riot of colour.

What are the challenges in running your own practice?

The buck stops with us and there are bills to pay each month. We have been very fortunate, however, in that we have found support from day one.

What are you working on now?

Current projects range from larger country gardens in Somerset, Devon, Sussex and Kent to a historic garden renovation also in Somerset, a cutting-edge contemporary house in Devon, several projects in London, and properties in Ireland and Greece.

What software do you use?

We use Vectorworks, Sketch Up and InDesign, but clients still appreciate hand sketches and hand-coloured plans.

What do you look for when recruiting new staff?

Great design ability combined with technical expertise and the ability to draw by hand. Above all, the candidate must be able to fit into the team. We do not look for qualifications from one particular place but training in landscape architecture/design is preferred, along with good horticultural knowledge.

How do you envisage the practice growing in the next five years?

We hope to grow steadily to enable us to do more of what we love best – creating beautiful landscapes. We see ourselves growing from a small to medium-sized practice, enabling us to control the quality of our work.

What's the best thing about working at Mazzullo + Russell?

Everyone is involved and part of the team. We try hard to train, educate and bring on younger members, with lots of CPD, site experience and challenges. It's great to be able to develop our own projects. Nothing beats the satisfaction of seeing a finished landscape ready to mature into something special.

www.mazzullorusselllandscapedesign.com

INFO

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Get in touch and tell us about what makes your practice, course or work worth shouting about.

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