

the cotswold gardening school

Garden Design Courses

Prospectus





We are extremely proud of our past students' success

Many of our graduates have set up successful businesses, as well as winning some prestigious awards.

Steve Williams graduated as top student in 2017 and went on to be short-listed for two coveted Society of Garden Designers' awards in both the commercial and residential categories. Steve rejoins us at the school to share his expertise in 3D computer modelling and to inspire current students with his impressive portfolio.

Martyn Wilson graduated in 2015 and has gone on to win a string of RHS medals including gold at both Hampton Court RHS show and at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival.

Kate Durr won an RHS gold medal and the Best Festival Garden award at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival in 2015. She has gone on to be creative director at Highgrove House, the country estate of HRH The Prince of Wales. She has plans for building a show garden at RHS Chelsea and we wish her every success.

Jessica Makins, Gary Bristow and Julie Bellingham all graduated in 2018 and each went on to win various RHS medals at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. 2019 graduate Nick Leitch won silver gilt at the RHS Tatton Park Flower Show.

Briony Doubleday created show gardens at Blenheim Palace, RHS Tatton and in 2019 The UK Expo Garden for the Department of International Trade in Beijing, China.



One Year Professional Garden Design Diploma

(part-time course)

Professional garden design training by industry experts in small friendly groups

Feedback on all practical work is offered in class on a regular basis. A private tutorial is also available each term to discuss your personal progress and career path.





Our Setting

Set in the grounds of historic Gossington Hall in the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside we are an independent design school offering quality learning in a supportive and friendly atmosphere. We are supported by Bridgwater & Taunton College for our One Year Diploma in Professional Garden Design and our carefully selected tutors are industry experts.

The lead tutor is Caroline Tatham, our school Principal who is an experienced, qualified lecturer and award-winning, practising garden designer. Caroline has built strong links between the school and the garden design industry.

Creativity is at the heart of everything we do and we welcome those with no previous experience. Support and guidance is offered throughout your professional course and we even guide you through the challenges of setting up, marketing and running your own business.





Four Live Projects

The One Year Professional Diploma course includes four live projects, designing a range of sites for real clients with expert guidance and regular feedback.

This is to ensure that you will graduate with invaluable experience and real work in your portfolio.

There are also lots of ongoing garden and planting design examples on hand from Caroline's busy design practice. She will regularly share progress on her own client work with you so that you can get a sense of how the industry works.

By the end of the course you will be able to produce competent garden plans, three dimensional visuals, mood boards, surveys and planting plans. You will also understand the vital importance of sketchbook work in the creative process and that this can be achieved by gathering found images as well as drawing.

Meet some of our tutors

Industry experts out there practising what they teach



Steve Williams
CAD



Lorenzo Volpini
Visiting tutor



Elly West
Garden writing



Rupert Keys
Hard landscape



Andy Ball
Hard landscape



Sarah Fletcher
Visiting tutor

Caroline Tatham

is the founder and Principal of The Cotswold Gardening School. She is a qualified lecturer with many years experience teaching professional garden and planting design as well as practical horticulture.

She graduated as top student from the highly regarded English Gardening School where she has also taught and externally assessed student work.

Caroline is a well-recognised and award-winning garden and planting designer as Cotswold Garden Design. She has mentored aspiring garden designers in the Festival Show Garden category at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival.

Her aptitude for garden design has also shot her to stardom on the television where she built a show garden for the Eden Project in Cornwall, which featured on the TV series 'A Garden for Eden'.

Caroline is lead tutor mainly on the one year diploma courses. All courses at the school have been written by Caroline and are taught using her methods with real life examples from her busy garden design practice.



Eleanor McArdle
Visiting tutor



Nick Woodhouse
Business
practice



John Law
Business
practice



Sarah Lowe
Visiting tutor



Jessica Makins
Visiting tutor



Elliott
Wingfield
CAD

We invite a broad range of experienced lecturers into the school to offer you the benefit of their years of experience. Some visiting tutors will be with you throughout the course whilst others will come to offer specialist tutoring on specific topics.

Andy Ball is an RHS judge who runs Big Fish Landscapes and has won many RHS medals from Malvern to Chelsea. Andy will be joining you on site as well as in the classroom. Rupert Keys runs Keyscape Design and won an RHS gold medal and 'Best in Show' at the RHS Malvern Spring Festival. He also undertakes a broad range of domestic client work.

Nick Woodhouse and John Law are founding directors of Bath-based interior and garden design company Woodhouse and Law. They bring their experience of establishing and running a busy and extremely successful garden and interior design practice to the course.

Steve Williams graduated from The Cotswold Gardening School in 2017 and has since set up his own successful practice. He uses a wide array of approaches in bringing his designs to life, from hand drawn illustration to fully rendered digital images, and he will share an insight into how to use these techniques to your advantage.

Our teaching methods and student work are externally assessed by Bridgwater and Taunton College who help us to ensure our academic quality.

Building industry links



We encourage students to get out there and get as much real experience as possible

Caroline is keen to offer her students volunteering opportunities wherever possible.

In the past students have been able to come on site with Caroline and experience planting up some of her clients' projects.

Students have also been involved in building RHS feature gardens and celebrity stages for RHS shows, as well as building stages for festivals at HRH The Prince of Wales's Highgrove House.

Past students who go on to build show gardens often request volunteers from our current cohort.



Getting your career off to a flying start

We pride ourselves on our industry links. Caroline has built the school up on the foundation of her experience running Cotswold Garden Design and she works hard to incorporate as many industry contacts as possible into the course.

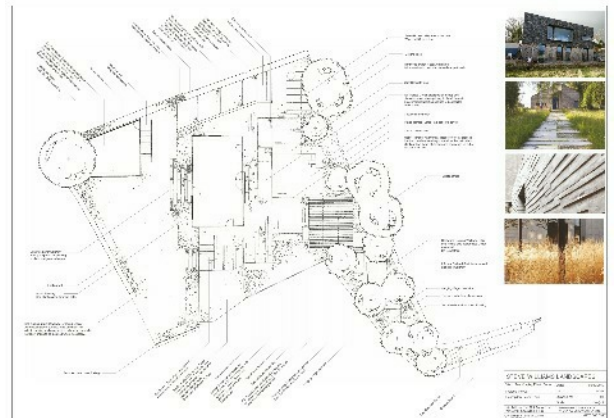
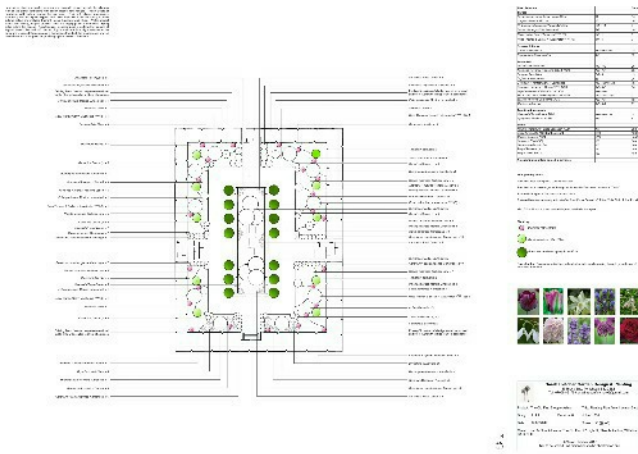
This means that you will have useful introductions to trade suppliers such as nurseries, specimen mature tree specialists, lighting and irrigation suppliers and many other experts in fields relevant to your future career.

Many of the project gardens offered to the course come as a result of Caroline's garden design business and in the past we have been able to offer sites such as the Corinium Museum in Cirencester, Slimbridge Wetlands Centre, The Heritage Hub in Gloucester and The Gloucestershire Police Constabulary as well as a broad range of private client gardens from small courtyards through to large, quintessential Cotswold estates.

You will start with a small level plot and build up to more complex and challenging sites through the course and all with Caroline's expert guidance.



A professional approach



Successful applicants

We interview applicants for this course so that we can help ensure that we are the right college for you. Our One Year Professional Garden Design Diploma Course is suitable for those serious about a career in garden design. We also offer various online courses for those more interested in simply learning the process of garden and planting design or designing their own garden.

Our One Year Professional Diploma is a very intensive course covering all aspects of garden design. It requires at least one day per week of homework in addition to your time spent at the school to ensure that you get the most out of your time with us - ideally more.

If you are serious about garden design, we would love you to come and learn how to think and present like a designer. Together we will explore drawing, both by hand using the correct equipment and using the right software on a computer.

There are plenty of inspirational slide shows and informative handouts. Throughout the course you will track your own progress with an individual learning plan and you will receive regular feedback via group & private tutorials as well as written feedback on your work.

After you graduate we love to keep in touch and support you with your new career.



One Year Professional Garden Design

At a glance

START DATES
each year in September

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
basic computer skills
be career motivated

COMPULSORY LEARNING HOURS
150 hrs at the school
250 hrs at home
(~ a total of 14 hrs per week)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS AVAILABLE
3 day gateway course
guided CPD day courses

STUDY DURATION 30 weeks

Online One Year Professional Garden Design (part-time course)



This course is an online version of our Professional One Year Garden Design Diploma and has been created for those who wish to learn the basic skills involved in the creative process of being a professional garden designer. It embraces communication technology whilst still delivering our tried and tested course content, high quality feedback, supportive style and industry contacts. Its structure allows for the flexibility needed to fit around existing commitments.

Our diploma courses have always included a lot of home study, but now we are really excited that the same course content that we have perfected over the past ten years will be accessible to anyone, including those that may not be able to travel to visit the school at all.

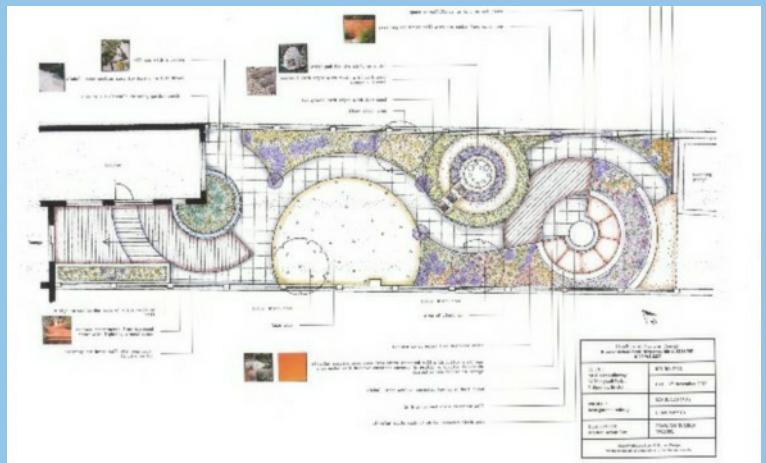
All tutor content is delivered through videos and digital handouts and is yours to keep, meaning it can be watched and read again and again.

The pre-recorded videos comprise lectures delivered by professionals who are visiting tutors at the school, as well as Caroline Tatham our school Principal and lead tutor.

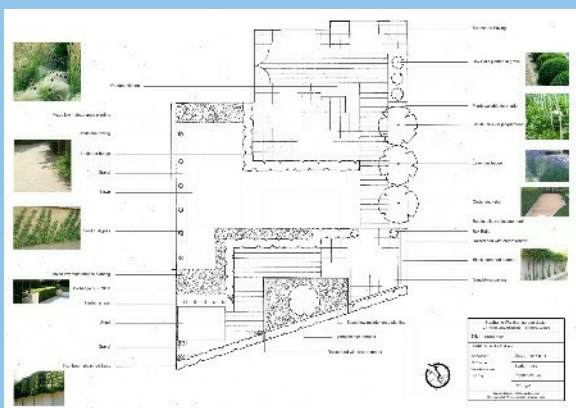
The timetable structures 30 home study days for academic content throughout the year, 10 days per term. In addition, students will be required to complete practical project work for at least one additional day per week.

Together we will undertake three archive projects throughout the academic year, one project per term. The three projects will build to offer a range of garden styles to challenge your creativity and build up your portfolio.

Feedback and tutor support will be offered via a closed Facebook group.



Your knowledge and experience will build throughout the course and over the three projects. Each project brief will be packed with information about your exciting garden design challenge, including: drone videos, site surveys, client briefs, detailed site photos and a clear academic brief that sets out your learning objectives and outcomes.

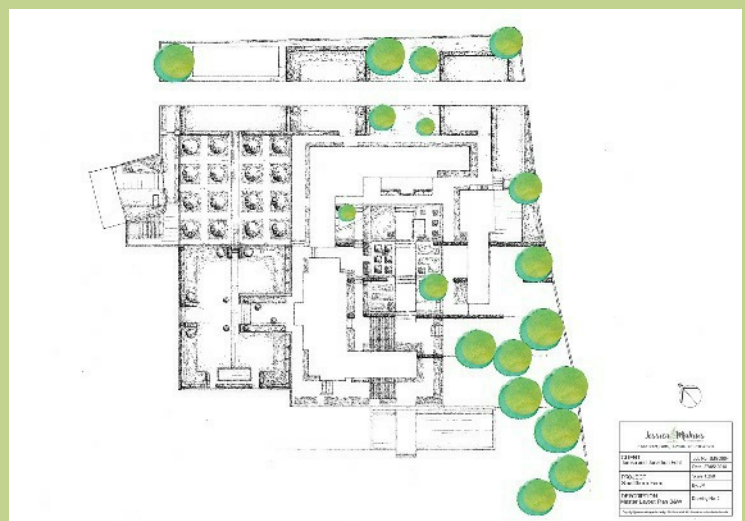
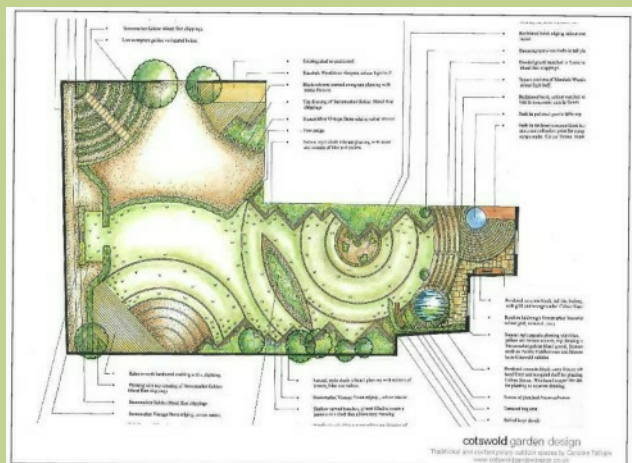


One Year Professional Garden Design courses

main points of difference between the face-to-face course and the online course

	Face-to-face course	Online course
course delivery	in person lectures & digital handouts	pre-recorded videos & digital handouts
Caroline Tatham lead tutor	guidance throughout the course in person	pre-recorded videos & guidance via closed Facebook group
visiting specialist lecturers	personal contact & opportunities for questions and feedback	pre-recorded lectures only
software student licences included in the course fee	Affinity Publisher & SketchUp	no
course duration	30 tuition weeks in 10 months	30 tuition weeks in 11 months
projects	4 live projects with real clients	3 archive projects
average time available to complete a project	8 weeks for projects 1, 2 & 3 13 weeks for project 4	14 weeks for each project
feedback on project work	in person group tutorials	via closed Facebook group
plant portfolio	50 plants in 10 categories	25 plants in 5 categories
nursery visit	yes	no
volunteering opportunities	yes	no
access to library for reference only	yes	no
Caroline's case studies and studio work	variety of archive and current projects included in the course	archive selection included via pre-recorded videos
assessment	written assessment with marks & feedback for each project	feedback only - no marks pass or fail based on project 3
termly private tutorials	yes	no
internally moderated	yes	no
externally assessed	Bridgwater & Taunton College	no
diploma	CGS and BTC logo Diploma	CGS Online Diploma

Three Day Gateway to Garden Design



This three day course gives an insight into the process of garden design and provides some practical experience of working in a creative design studio.

There will be lots of opportunities to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about drawing, using a computer, your plant knowledge and any other worries you may have if you are dreaming of a career change to garden design.

Suitable for anyone considering attending our One Year Professional Garden Design Diploma course. If you apply and are accepted on the One Year course, we will deduct the cost of this three day course from the fees. Can also be studied as a stand-alone course.

The course is delivered on three consecutive weekdays .



Twelve Week Design Your Own Garden Online course

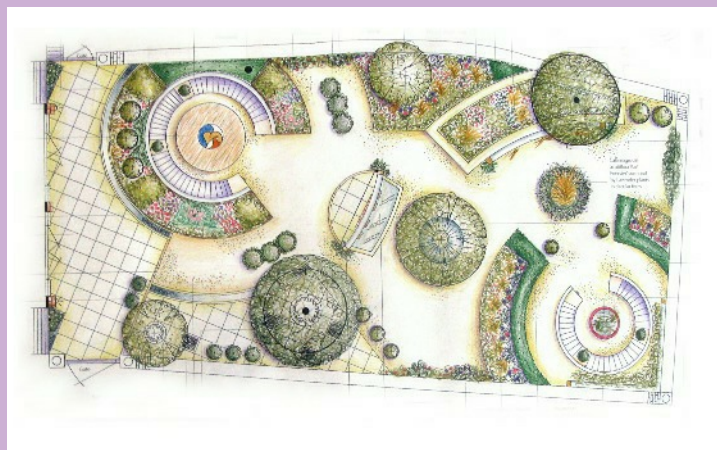
This online course is suitable for anyone wanting to know more about how professionals design the whole garden rather than just its planting (although we do include planting too) and work on ideas for their own individual outdoor space.

Learn how to make the most of your garden space and draw up professional standard master layout plans. Learn how to gather your thoughts using mood boards and ensure that all your wishes for your garden come together in the creation of a cohesive space that relates to your house.



We love students to ask questions and now, for the first time, we can help you to design your own garden with feedback from our school Principal, Caroline.

Let us help you to create the perfect design for you and your garden style with Caroline's professional guidance underpinned by her over twenty years of garden design and teaching experience. Caroline will discuss your project with you in advance to ensure that it is suitable for the course.



The course has a high level of student participation and includes step by step PDF handbooks, informative slide shows, videos and a closed Facebook group for interactive feedback.

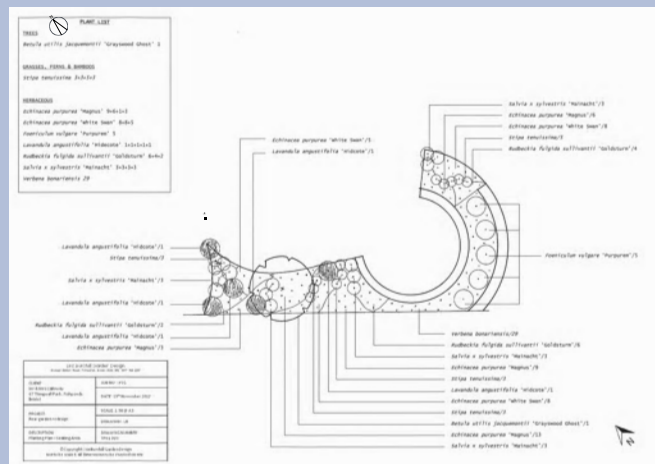
All course materials are yours to keep and revisit over and over again as you perfect your ideas and practice your new skills.



Shorter Online Courses

Planning and Planting Borders Online - Introduction to Garden Design Online

These courses deliver the same content as our tried and tested popular day courses and include pre-recorded presentations delivered by Caroline Tatham. There are also digital course handbooks that summarise everything you need to design your own planting or rethink your whole outdoor space. All course content is yours to keep to revisit time and again.



Creative Planting Design Online

A three week guided online course.

This is a more guided and intensive course that includes a closed Facebook group for interactive feedback with our Principal, Caroline Tatham. The course will guide you and inspire new ways of thinking about your planting ideas and process. This course includes a daily mini project from Monday to Friday each week, and a main weekly project each Saturday. There are three main projects to complete.

For further information

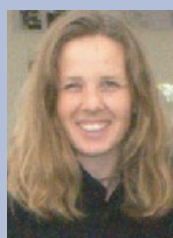
Please call Becky, Helena or Topsy on:
01453 899018 or email us at:
info@cotswoldgardenschool.co.uk

You would be most welcome at one of our open mornings, please see the timetable on our website for further details

www.cotswoldgardenschool.co.uk



Becky
Ketley



Helena
Radford



Topsy
Borthwick

