

CREATING AN ANGLO-MOROCCAN GARDEN

RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW (DISCOVERY ZONE), 2015

This garden celebrated horticultural, intercultural and interfaith exchange in Morocco and Britain. Its form recalled both Islamic garden design and gardens that could be found in Elizabethan England. It was based on the design REEP created at Cadi Ayyad University Marrakech in 2014. The gardens are similar in concept but each uses plants and materials that are sensitive to the local environment, illustrating that this simple, universal structure can be adapted to any location. Students from the University were inspired to create a video to show the importance of the garden.



SHARED PATTERNS Islamic gardens are characterised by symmetrical pattern, water, shade and enclosure. In Arabic, 'garden' translates as 'Paradise', and the foursquare Char Bagh form, representing the four rivers that flow through Paradise in the Quran, is also found in the Eden of Jewish and Christian traditions. Christian courtyard gardens, especially in monasteries, show this form in cloistered areas with a fountain at the centre and glimpses of the tradition can be caught in later renaissance gardens in Europe. In Britain, it was celebrated by the Arts & Crafts movement of the 19th-20th centuries.



Of the 150 plants mentioned in Shakespeare's works over 40 can be found in both Britain and Morocco today. They are often mentioned in the Bible and Quran too, illustrating the long connection between the two countries. Plants such as roses, herbs, aloes and citrus are traditionally cultivated in both cultures for food, healing and the senses.

REEP's Chelsea garden included plants which are: emblematic in cultural use able to survive different climates; easily available in natural species; easy to grow with limited resources



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