

# Why I... #lovehorticulture

Childhood enthusiasm for gardening led **Ruth Willmott** to a career in garden design that combines many of her passions, including being creative, learning new skills and connecting people with nature

**I** have always been interested in horticulture, in part because my paternal grandfather involved me in his allotment and my mum has always been a very keen and capable gardener. I was lucky to be introduced to horticulture at a very young age, although this is not the only reason I love it. I believe people can develop a love of horticulture at any point in their lives. I am very grateful to my family for opening my eyes to the magic and enjoyment of horticulture at an early stage. This meant that later in life I was able to turn a passion into a career and leave my city job to retrain as a landscape designer.

Having now spent over a decade as a designer I realise that the reason I love horticulture is that I am able to immerse myself in so many different ways for so many reasons. Nothing has been more accessible or flexible than horticulture in embracing me, whatever my circumstances.

I can quietly lose myself for a short while at my allotment, which provides me with important respite from the demands of my other responsibilities. Sometimes I have much more noisy company as my children help me with planting, weeding or checking on the bug hotel we built together.

I also really enjoy practicing horticulture in a team and love the buzz of working with talented colleagues to select new plants and push the boundaries of our plant knowledge to find the perfect plant for a situation. The breadth of plants available from specialist nurseries provides so much inspiration as a designer.

Sometimes I'm learning more about horticulture, reading books, attending courses or speaking with the many brilliant experts in our industry to improve my knowledge. What I love most however, is creating spaces that allow our clients to connect with nature and develop their own love of horticulture whatever their abilities.

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## RUTH WILLMOTT

RUTH WILLMOTT GARDEN DESIGN ASSOCIATES



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