



FERNANDO MARTOS

GUADALAJARA, MADRID, SPAIN

Fernando Martos is a young landscape designer based in Madrid. In Spain, gardens are often created in the more formal style typical of Italy, but Fernando is quickly being recognised for his talent and innovation. After studying at the School of Landscaping and Gardening in Madrid, he worked as a gardener in Yorkshire and fell in love with the seasonal changes and the English style of gardening. Inspired by Beth Chatto, who utilises drought-resistant plants, he began experimenting at his family's property in the south of Spain.

This stunning garden, created by Fernando for his friends near Guadalajara, central Spain, experiences long, hot, dry summers and freezing winters. He has responded by selecting plants from countries with similar Mediterranean climates, and combined perennials, grasses and shrubs that connect the garden to the wider landscape. It's a wonderful example of right plants, right place. Fernando has achieved his goal of creating a garden that is highly aesthetic, but also has a looser, more naturalistic feel incorporating movement, seasonality and excellent use of colour. It was the perfect sunset garden. Golden light backlit the feathered *Stipa gigantea*, which was a strong contrast to the sculptural shapes of clipped *Escallonia rubra* var. *macrantha* (Chilean gum box). I'm looking forward to keeping an eye on Fernando's work in future.

