

Belgium: New Ways of Garden Design

Allotment garden design has evolved over time, and new approaches and ideas continue to emerge.

Here are some new ways and trends in allotment garden design:

Vertical Gardening

Vertical gardening is gaining popularity in urban areas where space is limited. This design technique involves growing plants vertically on structures such as trellises, walls, or stacked containers. It maximizes space utilization, allows for more plants to be grown in a smaller area, and creates an aesthetically pleasing vertical garden.

Permaculture Design

Permaculture design principles are being increasingly applied to allotment gardens. Permaculture aims to create sustainable ecosystems that are self-sufficient and require minimal external inputs. Design elements include companion planting, water catchment systems, composting areas, and creating habitats for beneficial insects and wildlife.



Bee-Friendly Gardens

With the decline of pollinators, allotment gardens are being designed to support bee populations. Incorporating bee-friendly flowers, providing nesting sites for solitary bees, and minimizing pesticide use are essential aspects of this design approach. Bee-friendly gardens promote biodiversity and enhance pollination within the allotment.

Raised Bed Gardening

Raised beds are becoming a popular design feature in allotment gardens. Raised beds provide several benefits, including improved soil drainage, better control of soil quality, and easier access for planting, maintenance, and harvesting. They also create defined spaces for different crops and can be aesthetically pleasing with the use of attractive borders.



Sensory Gardens

Sensory gardens are designed to engage all five senses—sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound. These gardens include a variety of plants with different colors, fragrances, textures, and flavors, as well as elements such as wind chimes or water features. Sensory gardens offer a multi-dimensional experience, promoting relaxation, mindfulness, and sensory exploration.

Community Spaces

Allotment gardens are increasingly being designed as community spaces where people can come together and interact. Design features may include communal seating areas, shared tool sheds, gathering spaces, and areas for social events or workshops. Creating spaces that foster community engagement enhances the social aspect of allotment gardening.

Edible Landscaping

Edible landscaping combines ornamental plants with edible crops, creating visually appealing gardens that also provide food. This design approach incorporates fruit trees, berry bushes, and colorful edible flowers alongside traditional vegetable beds. Edible landscaping adds diversity, aesthetics, and practicality to allotment gardens.



Smart Garden Technology

Advancements in technology have led to the development of smart gardening tools and systems. These include automated irrigation systems, soil sensors, weather monitoring devices, and smartphone apps for tracking and managing garden tasks. Smart garden technology helps gardeners optimize resource usage, increase efficiency, and monitor plant health.

These are just a few examples of new ways and trends in allotment garden design. Ultimately, the design of an allotment garden can be customized based on individual preferences, available space, and local environmental conditions. The key is to create a design that maximizes productivity, promotes sustainability, enhances aesthetics, and suits the needs and interests of the gardeners involved.



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