

Gifted Gabb reaps gold

Caspar Gabb (Interior Design 1995) has reason to celebrate.

A first-time exhibitor at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, his garden, The Green Room, yielded an impressive crop of accolades. It was awarded a gold medal, as well as being judged best in the Small City Garden category.

Caspar describes The Green Room as "compact, urban, lush – a design vision bringing about the synthesis of glass and driftwood with hosta and fern – mirroring the instance of stepping through the wardrobe into Narnia." Inspired by places he visited while travelling through New



A clever contemporary twist on two of gardening's biggest clichés.

Zealand, Australia and Madeira, the garden was designed to recreate the atmosphere of a clearing in a sub-tropical forest, using hardy plants.

The design lent a clever contemporary twist to two of gardening's biggest clichés – the hanging basket and crazy paving. Caspar's 1.3m "tower baskets" were suspended from a sweeping pergola made of rusted steel, while the paving was created using reclaimed York stone, arranged to suggest the texture of natural ground.

Work began on The Green Room in November of last year, the moment Caspar heard that his design had been accepted for the show. The preparation was hard work, and he says, "there were times when I thought it just wouldn't be ready in time". So, he couldn't be happier about his win: "Getting gold was totally brilliant, but getting best in category went the extra mile! After the hours my team and I invested in every detail, we were more than satisfied."