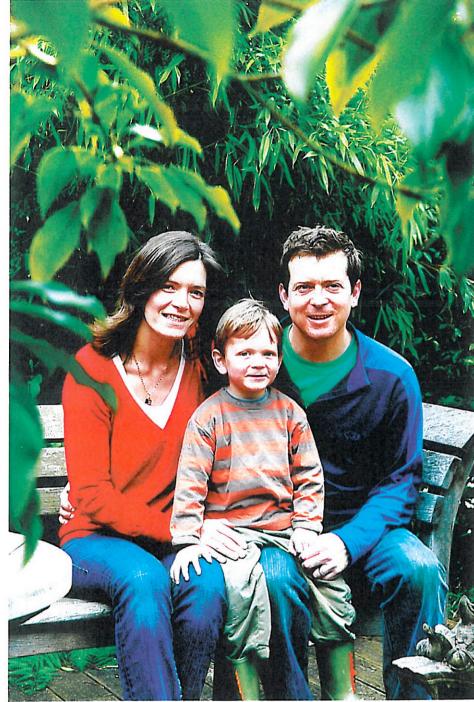
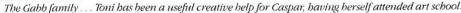
Chelsea Flower Show ea Flower Show





any show in the world to exhibit at, it is Faulks and Kathy Lette, as well as Robbie Will-Chelsea.

"It's going to be a tight squeeze to get there, but I think it'll be a tight squeeze for everyone else as well.

It's not as though he should really be lacking in confidence for the credentials are there. Since completing a degree in architectural and interior design in 1993, going to work at a garden design company in central London, he set up his own business, Natural Elements, in

has been responsible for designing gardens in accepted into the small city category. London for the likes of writers Sebastian

iams and Lloyd Webber.

Even though Caspar had never given serious thought to entering the show before - "it always appeared to be so much work" - he changed his mind back in August and phoned than those other exhibits in the same cateup for an application form thinking that he'd gory, and less modern – even though it does already missed the boat for this show and have a faint contemporary feel to it. would have to wait for next year's.

more to work on the application forms, the sustainable so long as water is available (not a plans and three-dimensional image of the given by any means, given the current short-Since then word has spread quickly and he design. I found out in November that I'd been age in the South East).



was reasonably confident it was still fantastic when I was told I had been accepted - all incredibly exciting. There have been times since, though, when I've just thought I won't be able to get it ready in time!"

Things are beginning to come together and it doesn't take much imagination to envisage how the intention to create a sheltered clearing with mature specimen trees, tree ferns, driftwood totems and five hanging tower baskets will be achieved.

The space, Caspar explains, is designed to provide a feeling of seclusion to escape busy city life and is perhaps more wild and natural

The garden should be able to maintain con-He explains: "I actually had two months tinued interest through the year and will be

There is a pathway of irregular paving and "I was over the moon, and even though I the boundaries are made from an open, curvy

and vertical woven willow design with discreet sections of mirror to hep create a feeling of distance.

And there it is, in a very brief summary.

"It is inspired much more by a concept, creating an atmosphere inspired by a rain forest which I picked up when walking in Australia. New Zealand and Madeira," says Caspar, now relaxing with a cup of tea in his London home which he shares with wife Toni and three-yearold son, Theo.

Tropical

"The plant life is quite similar to what is in rainforests, with a slightly tropical effect. However, it is a space that makes it feel like a garden, rather than a jungle."

The Gabb family makes a handsome trio, and Caspar admits that while he hasn't been helped practically by his wife, she have been



will become even more of a help nearer the thing of a Chelsea widow!"

When Chelsea's all over, we could be seeing a good deal more of the Gabb family in Shropshire. They have bought a house near Castend to fade away in the winter," he explains. par's parents' home, where he spent much of his childhood, and the nice, juicy prospect of transforming their rural garden lies in store.

Although the capital has been responsible for the lion's share of Natural Elements' comhugely supportive, being "great to bounce" missions, Caspar has had plenty of practice ideas off; she went to art school herself and is designing gardens in Shropshire, not least at his parents' home near Glazeley where he Then, adding nervously: "I'm sure that she transformed a border and created a water pool.

"The bed, called the Billiard Bed, is a bit of time even though she may become some- a mid-summer bonanza, with all the flowers coming into bloom then, while the bog garden, or Pitt's Pool as we now prefer to call it, is more seasonal simply because water plants

> The next garden Caspar will be working on in this county is his own, by which time, if all goes well, there is every possibility that he will have joined an elite club as the winner of a fabled Chelsea Gold Medal.

This year's Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show takes place between May 23 and May 27.