

WORDS VANDRA COSTELLO

# A good grounding

LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN DESIGNER KATY TERRY'S COMPANY, GOOD GROUNDING, AIMS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO GET IN THEIR GARDENS AND ENJOY THE GREAT OUTDOORS.



ABOVE AND BELOW RIGHT One of Katy's first Irish projects, this family garden in Sydney Parade, Dublin, transformed their use of space. BELOW English garden designer, Katy Terry returned from Australia to set up her new business in Dublin.

Growing up in Surrey close to Munstead, the home of the famous plantswoman Gertrude Jekyll, it seemed natural that Katy Terry would have a love of gardening. In fact, it is in her genetic make-up – both sets of grandparents were keen gardeners; her paternal grandmother grew up at a Chelsea award-winning nursery while her maternal grandfather was a keen kitchen gardener.

Before becoming a garden designer, Katy worked in the art and textile business, which gave her an appreciation of colour and texture. This was followed by a brief spell in information technology, which took her to Australia. On the other side of the world, the dot-com bubble burst and Katy found herself unemployed. Undaunted, this was just the opportunity she needed to make a life-changing career move, and she decided to throw herself into learning all she could about horticulture and garden design. Katy did a number of courses and worked as a jobbing gardener, finally landing a plum job as assistant to Australian garden designer Hugh Main, who she credits with being “hugely influential” on her work.

After several years working for Hugh's company, Spirit Level, Katy returned to England and set up Good Grounding. Business started with a few small commissions for private gardens and was just beginning to take off when Cupid's arrow struck and she fell in love with an Irishman, who whisked her off to start a new life in Dublin, where she re-established her company.

Once in Dublin, Katy designed and installed several substantial gardens predominantly in the Ballsbridge and South Dublin area and currently has interesting projects on the go in London and Dublin. The underlying philosophy of Good Grounding is to make the very most of outside space and utilise it as part of the living area of the house. “One of my first Irish projects was on Sydney Parade, which has proved a great success with the family who rarely previously used their garden as part of their home,” Katy says.

Using her creative flare and plant knowledge, Katy says she offers her clients “the very best design solutions for their gardens – I insist on using the best quality tradespeople for a finer, longer-lasting finish, and will seek out the most exquisite plants.”

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