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SUMMER REVIVAL

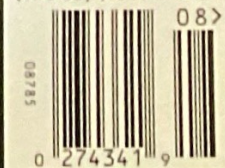
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A grand sycamore and David
Watkinson's Sycamore Seed
kinetic sculpture overlook
the misty landscape of the
Arun Valley, near England's
southern coast.

PRODUCED BY GRACE HAYNES WALL • WRITTEN BY STEPHANIE HUNT

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A Secret Rose Garden

Landscape designer Miria Harris reimagines a former London garage as a flower-filled sanctuary.

ROSES UPON ROSES TUMBLE FROM beds, scale weathered brick walls, and cascade from a 14th-century French font, where they "overflow like water," says landscape designer Miria Harris. She transformed this historic Spitalfields home's former garage into a courtyard haven for her clients, one of whom was seriously ill. "It's absolutely jam-packed—there are climbers, ramblers, and [ground cover] roses, all having this playful dance with herbaceous perennials. It's like a secret garden that's been left to wild abandon but has the spirit of someone in it."

Who or what that spirit might be is part of the mythmaking that inspires Harris. "The garden is a starting point for imagination. It's a place to invent different scenarios," she says, pointing to the pathways leading from a central oval to nowhere, or everywhere. A trio of espalier pear trees "appears as if they've always been there," Harris adds,

summoning the spirit of fruit-ripening rooms that lined nearby Spitalfields Market centuries ago. A gnarled mulberry tree nods to the Huguenot silk weavers who settled nearby. "Your head starts going in different places. A garden sparks the imaginative, the romantic," Harris says. The wall dividing the productive garden from the ornamental garden "suggests, perhaps, the ruins of something that once stood here. I'm leaving these sensual teasers," she says.

But it's the roses, fragrant and unruly, that take center stage. "I love partnering roses with fennel. It's like a soft, fluffy embrace that buffers the rose's thorns," Harris says. She planted salvias, jasmine, and other scented flowers, too, but they're supporting actors. "White Pet, Boscobel, Smarty, American Pillar, Generous Gardener—I may love the rose names as much as the blossoms," she admits. "Especially for a garden designed for storytelling and mythmaking."

London

...

DESIGN BY
MIRIA HARRIS



White Smarty roses spill from the font, mingling with other roses, salvias, Oriental poppies, geraniums, and Mexican daisies. Espalier pear trees climb the "ruined" wall. INSET, FROM TOP: A gate leads from the productive garden to the ornamental garden. • Constance Spry roses.

