

**Why so Special?** The last six of the FOLAR and the GARDENS TRUST talks are on landscapes to private housing, and private gardens. They start on Feb 15.

Tickets are available to be purchased individually or as a group ticket

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-private-housing-and-gardens-tickets-182781794267>

## PRIVATE HOUSING LANDSCAPES

15 February **Fieldend, Teddington (1961), a Span Housing Development: an International Context** by Jan Woudstra and James Stride

When a group of young, well-informed and idealistic architect-designers and developers founded Span in the early 1950s their vision was to 'span the gap between the suburban monotony of the typical speculative development and the architecturally designed,



individually built residence that has become (for all but few) financially unattainable'. It set out to create an inspiring environment and provide an alternative way of life that promoted a community spirit. While the British context of this has been well explored in Barbara Simms's *Eric Lyons and Span* (2006), by selecting one of their developments at Fieldend, Jan Woudstra compares and contrasts some selected international theories and examples regarding landscapes for housing, and the way they foresaw design for community development. This is contrasted with some remarks on present-day housing.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-fieldend-tickets-166992590333>

22 February **A Water Garden and its lost Landscape Architect** by Dominic Cole, Jan Woudstra and Cristina Refol



Image: Kate Harwood

When trying to understand the history of the tiny courtyard at the Sanderson Hotel, Dominic Cole found out the planting had been designed by Philip Hicks and that another of his schemes was the water gardens in Edgware Road, so had to visit - it was a revelation to discover this remarkable landscape of levels, planes, water and delightful planting. The use of space, textures and light was amazing. Attempts to 'update' paving and planting have begun to erode the simplicity and beauty of the original design.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-burwood-place-water-gardens-tickets-166993282403>



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## PRIVATE GARDENS

8 March **Beth Chatto Gardens Past Present and Future** by David Ward and Chris Gibson



Gravel Garden Image Elain Harwood

Who was Beth Chatto and what inspired her to create a series of gardens and a perennial plant nursery? David Ward has been working at these gardens for 38 years, and has witnessed and been hands on shaping the growth and development of the different garden zones - from wet to dry, open to exposed. How will the character and dynamics of this garden continue without its original maker? What difference does it make to this garden having it on Historic England's register?

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-beth-chatto-gardens-tickets-166993404769>

March 15 **Saving Denmans** by Barbara Simms and Gwendolyn van Paasschen



John Brookes Loose plantings complement structural plantings and strong lines throughout Denman's Image: Gwendolyn van Paasschen

In 1980 John Brookes moved to Denmans, a West Sussex property that became not only his home but also his garden design school and experimental garden. The first part of this talk details the early history of the nineteenth-century site, once the home of the Denman family, and then the development of a market garden and later an ornamental garden by the Robinsons in the early post-war decades. Mrs Robinson's innovative gravel garden formed the basis of Brookes's garden, which introduced a stronger design, a pool to culminate the dry gravel streams and additional native and exotic plants. These experiments paralleled the design and planting concepts used in his clients' gardens and those he outlined in articles, lectures and his books. In the four years before Brookes's death in March 2018, Denmans went through a critical and potentially high-risk period. The second part of this talk focuses on the efforts to restore the garden starting in December 2017, how these efforts evolved after Brookes's death and, looking to the future, what historic resources will be used to help create a conservation plan for the future.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-denmans-garden-tickets-166993962437>



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## March 22 York Gate Garden – the Spencer Legacy by Ben Preston



Image: Historic England

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/why-so-special-iconic-c20-landscapes-york-gate-garden-tickets-166994550195>

The history of York Gate begins in 1951 when the Spencer family bought a 6-acre farm on the edge of Leeds, and now its current status is as one of the finest post-war small gardens in the country. Ben will share his philosophies on the importance of moving the garden forward while being true to its origins and the spirit of place. Once a family garden that opened occasionally for the National Garden Scheme to a busy garden open 5 days a week. He will look at how the garden has evolved to deal with these challenges. A wonderful Arts and Crafts style-garden that has become a Yorkshire treasure.

## March 29 The Garden at Shute House by Kate Felus



Image: Historic England

The garden of Shute House on the Wiltshire / Dorset border is one of the best known of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's private commissions and regarded by many as his finest work. He worked there for almost 25 years. The garden is divided into a series of spaces, but water is the defining element. Fundamental to the design was the splitting of the water into two separate courses of contrasting characters, one formal and one more natural. The garden is renowned because of its designer, but it was truly a collaboration with his clients. Michael and Anne Tree shaped the original design more than has been previously acknowledged and this talk focuses on Anne Tree's contribution in particular.

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## FUTURE HISTORY: Teaching history in landscape schools

Jan Woudstra and Robert Holden are planning a 2 day conference at **University of Sheffield** with **FOLAR** on 8-9 Sept 2022.

Details and call for papers <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/landscape/events/future-history-teaching-history-landscape-schools>

15 Feb 2022 deadline for ideas and abstracts.