

ON-LINE DIPLOMA
COURSE

email ocgd@ocgd.org
www.ocgd.org

OXFORD COLLEGE of GARDEN DESIGN

Prospectus 2016/17



“No other course gives you a better head start”

OXFORD COLLEGE of GARDEN DESIGN

Welcome



COURSE OUTLINE

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The Oxford College of Garden Design is widely regarded as one of the top contemporary design schools in the world and is the industry leader in on-line education

This innovative course is designed to equip you, with the skills necessary to set up and run your own design practice.

For those who wish to find paid employment, our students are considered to be the most employable of any graduate course and have been placed with award winning designers such as Anthony Paul, Luciano Giubbilei, Arne Maynard and Christopher Bradley-Hole to name but a few.

You can now train as a garden designer from home, where ever you are in the world via our virtual classroom which utilises the latest internet-based technology

The course comes with full interactive video tutorials as well as webinar led lectures,

allowing students to revisit lessons online all the time.

Unlike most other courses, this is NOT an online correspondence course, but a true virtual classroom with pre-recorded online video lectures, offering the same learning experience as those attending the class in person.

You will participate via weekly on-line video tutorials, download weekly assignments, have personal weekly webinars with your own personal tutor. In addition you will have daily contact with your fellow students and tutors via our virtual classroom where you can ask questions and share your work via the online gallery and forums.

Students will be allocated their own tutor and will follow the course timetable along side all other course students participating via the forum and with 1-2-1 tutor feedback.

“Different courses may look similar on paper but vary significantly in content”

COURSE OUTLINE

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THE DIPLOMA COURSE is student led and modular in format, with ongoing evaluation over 2 semesters, and a third research led semester.

DESIGN PROJECTS make up 60% of the possible marks, project work accounts for 30% and a final exam makes up the final 10%. Design work, carried out through studio projects and taught by tutorial, form the heart of the course.

Student effort, feedback and profiling

The current course, designed after consultation with Oxford Brookes University, is based on a minimum of 15hrs a week of your effort to complete each semester including all class/studio contact-teaching-time. This is a very inexact science but is based on years of experience. The time required to complete tasks will vary according to your personal organisation, ability and application. Feedback mechanisms are used regularly to monitor all aspects of the course including levels of effort required to successfully complete each section.

Aims of the course

The aims of the course may be summarised by the following strategic learning outcomes. These should enable you to demonstrate:

The knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to undertake a period of professional practice and further professional education.

A design philosophy creatively and successfully communicated.

The ability to provide written and drawn instructions, the skills to oversee the development of projects and the confidence to play a key role in the construction processes.

Course structure

Our diploma course is delivered over 3 semesters with an option to extend the course for a further 12 months if required. The course is delivered via the Internet employing the latest interactive learning technique and supported by tutored backup.

Throughout the course of study, the core curriculum is arranged in 3 broad strands of design, construction and horticulture. In the study of garden design, the design studio is inevitably the primary focus. But to design successfully, you need knowledge and understanding of the cultural, historical, technical and practical subjects which are integrated – often implicitly – in the design process and explicitly in the construction module. Each semester, students will complete two major design assignments based on a real site and client, plus additional projects

to be completed in their own time.

They will also attend lectures outline in the curriculum starting with design philosophy, progressing to construction and specification and finally concentrating on planting theory, professional practice and business skills.

Other elements of the course consist of a range of associated subjects of which, garden history, CAD and portfolio presentation are the most important. These are taught through lectures and seminars and are expected both to provide a wider design understanding and to facilitate project work.

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CURRICULUM

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Module descriptions

GD100 3D spacial Design

You acquire a structured approach to designing space. You will learn to manipulate simple shapes into coherent patterns and use this approach as a tool for designing in three dimensions. You will be encouraged to exploit art as a basis for expanding your own repertoire of responses to design assignments.

GD200 SketchUp Make Essential Training

This covers computer modelling. You will cover the fundamentals of the application including the sandbox extension.

GD300 Evolution of the modern landscape

This module explores man-made landscapes from early agricultural societies in the Middle East until the present time. Trends in design are noted, their relation to art, architecture and socioeconomic activity in different societies explored.

GD400 Photo Manipulation

Learn to manipulate photos and share them via email, the Web, and order prints online.

GD500 Technical design aspects 2. Urban spatial development

In two separate design exercises you will survey a courtyard and a small garden using running dimensions and triangulation, making note of all relevant site details. Site data will be evaluated, including the potential for fulfilling the client's brief.

GD600 VectorWorks Essential Training

CAD training from the ground up giving you the expertise and skill to work in a busy design office

GD700. Design detail and creative planning

This module covers hard landscape construction. Lectures cover working drawings, surveying, construction details and setting out, as well as the properties of construction materials. Students make a

scale model of a garden they have designed.

GD800 Garden Photography

Comprises a series of photographic lectures and practical exercises. The emphasis is very much hands on, with the core teaching revolving around creating photo of plants and gardens suitable for your web presentations, portfolio and magazine publication.

GD900 Soft landscape form and colour

The relationship between plants and their optimal environment is explored. Plant physiology, form and structure are considered as inter-related variables. Different plant assemblages used by leading designers are studied. Established practice for plant procurement and supply are outlined.

GD1000 VectorWorks Advanced Training

Advanced CAD training Introducing 2D computer modelling, soft landscaping and plan presentation

GD1100 Technical design 3. Rural spatial development

You will apply your design knowledge to drawing up a proposal for a large rural garden in excess of two acres

The drawings and documents associated with this project will employ the full range of skills required to see a project through to completion, including planning applications, tendering and site & contract administration.

GD1200 Business and professional practice

This covers the fundamentals of contract law governing the relationship between designer and client and between client and contractor. Lectures on setting up, marketing and sustaining a design business are given by practitioners who are able to explain the incremental steps required to improve the chances of success. The etiquette of business letters and administration are also covered.



TUTOR PROFILES

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GUEST LECTURERS

John Brookes CBE
Garden Designer
Anthony Paul
Garden Designer

Luciano Giubbilei
Garden Designer
John Marriott
Garden lighting

Tamsin Slatter
CAD tuition
Tim Freeman
Tennis Court Construction

Duncan Heather

Principal

Duncan Heather is one of Europe's foremost garden designers, to-date having won five gold, one silver & one bronze medal and three best of show awards for his design work.

He is co author of the Garden Design Specification and has been a regular lecturer for the Society of Garden Designers.

He originally trained under, top international designer and author John Brookes and was subsequently offered a directorship in 1991, which he declined to concentrate on his own design practice in Henley-on-Thames.

He lives in Oxfordshire where he both lectures and works. Born in Britain, he travels extensively and undertakes a very wide range of projects around the world, from tiny courtyard gardens to large country estates.

ocgd@ocgd.org

Vincent Marley

Course Tutor

Vincent was the former head of design at Writtle College (one of the top agricultural colleges in the UK) and an external examiner for several UK degree courses. He has extensive teaching knowledge and is a passionate teacher and designer.

He now combines his teaching skills and design interests in his role as tutor for the College's innovative on-line course as well as running a highly successful design practice. Based in Essex, Vincent works on commissions both at home and abroad.

lacey.marley@virgin.net

Susan Dunstall

Course Tutor

After a background in project management consultancy - essential skills to make sure projects are delivered to time and within budget, Susan qualifying as a landscape designer with distinction.

She set up her own design practice based near Burford in the Cotswolds and now designs gardens for private clients and undertake commercial designs and planting schemes for hotels and schools working with Architects, Property developers and Landscape contractors.
susan.dunstall@btinternet.com

“A course is only
as good
as the people
who teach you”

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Martin Kelley
Pond construction
Peter Thomas
Professional Practice

Jo Chance
Graphical presentation
Peter Lang
Swimming pools construction

Ian Humby
Land surveying

Michael Reed

Professional Practice
Michael is a practising architect who combines building design with landscape. Having worked in a design partnership after leaving University, he now runs his own busy practice concentrating primarily on private residential homes.
reedarchitects@bopenworld.com

John Heather

Construction &
Professional Practice
Trained as an architect at the AA before joining a private practice and eventually working for a local authority. He is now a visiting lecturer at several design schools around the country and is widely respected as being the foremost expert in his field.
john.heather@tesco.net

Svend Rumbold

Course Tutor
Is the founding partner in Rumbold-Ayers a landscape and garden design practice, based near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Svend holds a postgraduate diploma in landscape design and is also a chartered engineer, having studied at Oxford University and UMIST, and has a broad background that extends from clean energy to agriculture.

svend@rumbold-ayers.co.uk

ASSIGNMENT 1

OXFORD COLLEGE of GARDEN DESIGN

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SIZE
Urban design 100-500m²
courtyard garden

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
Students will complete the above project, chosen by the college, using the following acquired skills:

- _ Site surveying
- _ Client brief
- _ Outline/sketch plan
- _ Section/elevation &
- _ Single point perspective
- _ Planting plan

Urban courtyard module

Students work on real gardens throughout the course. They will be given a site survey, photographs and a client brief and will be asked to design the garden and explore both contemporary and traditional solutions.

Three dimensional spatial design module

Students will be taught to design both two and three dimensional space. They will study both Pattern Analysis and SAD techniques and will explore the relationship between art, architecture and landscape.

Drawing workshop for garden design

Students will take a drawing workshop to teach them to produce three dimensional graphical representations of their design using both single and two point perspective sketching techniques.

CAD for garden designers

Introduction to VectorWorks Industry standard software for the garden design profession.

History module

Garden history pictorial timeline

In a time line format, students will discuss with the aid of photographs and diagrams the main political, social, technological and economic influences (to include the world of art, music and architecture) that effected the creation of the modern landscape. They will discuss the philosophy, expression and patterns behind the most famous landscapes and describe how history had influenced their evolution.

Students will refer to the main figures of the time to include writers, artists, landowners, designers and plant collectors. The thesis will discuss world trends in landscape design and the role seen for the

profession in the coming decade.

Computer Model making

Students will be required to build a scale computer model of the Assignment courtyard garden.



ASSIGNMENT 2

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SIZE

Urban design 2, 100-500m²
Large town garden/small commercial site

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Students will complete the above project, chosen by the college, using the following acquired skills:

- _ Site surveying
- _ Client brief
- _ Site evaluation plan
- _ Functional diagram plan
- _ Outline/sketch plan

- _ Section/elevation
- _ Specification document
- _ Layout plans
- _ Key plan
- _ Contour plan

Assignment 2

You will complete design project 2 in the same manner as project 1 with the additional use of Survey Analysis and Design concepts (S.A.D). Students will again be given a site survey, as before but produce an additional site evaluation plan. Using this information, they will produce functional diagrams for the site and its layout and with this information produce a sketch plan. Having completed this they will produce a Key Plan and layout drawings containing spot heights and dimensions and will include specification on paving materials and construction detailing.

They will produce a section elevation at the survey stage and use this as a design tool to aid them in producing a workable sketch plan. Finally, they will produce a series of perspectives of the house and terrace area and a planting plan on completion of the sketch proposal.

CAD for garden designers

Vectorworks Intermediate course covers importing survey information, producing technical drawings for use by a contractor to include importing hand drawn sketch plans and specification information.

Students will produce a hard landscape portfolio comprising 10 constructions with full accompanying specification and 20 bespoke constructions for tender purposes.

Aim

To develop an understanding of how landscape elements are constructed and to enable students to provide the contractor with specific graphical design instructions.

Garden elements will be organised in the following categories:

Surfaces

(vehicular, pedestrian, in-situ, flexible, rigid)

Enclosures

(walls, fences, trellis, gates)

Level changes

(steps, ramps, retaining walls)

Structures

(pergolas, arbours, gazebos)

Landscape materials used will be brick, stone, concrete, timber and/or others (glass, plastic, metal, canvas).

ASSIGNMENT 3

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SIZE

Rural design project 7000m²+

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Students will complete the above project, chosen by the college, using the following acquired skills:

- _ Site surveying
- _ Client brief
- _ Site evaluation plan
- _ Functional diagram plan
- _ Outline/sketch plan
- _ Section/elevation

- _ Specification document
- _ Layout plans
- _ Key plan
- _ Contour plan
- _ Planting plan
- _ Full correspondence

Design Project 3

You will produce full plans and details for a site in excess of 2 acres (1 hectare) to include construction details, specification documents, costing and schedules of work. Full planting plans will be required to include plant lists containing descriptions and maintenance information and plant numbers to facilitate ordering.

Photography Workshop

Learn to photograph plants and gardens for your Portfolio and how to sell your work to magazines and book publishers.

Research Project 3

Soft landscape portfolio
Comprising different plant groupings for different environments.

Your portfolio will demonstrate the importance of plants, not as individual horticultural species, but the effect they have when planted in complementary groups. It will act as a reference source for your future professional practice.

Business

Correspondence

Student will be able to produce full business correspondence for a project, including all contract documentation, business letters, fee quotations, letter of tender and specification documentation.

Advanced CAD VectorWorks

Plants and planting schedules, presentation and printing.

“Our promise to you is to make you the best designer you can be”

APPLICANT PROFILE

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Student Profile

Candidates are advised that this is a professionally oriented course and is aimed at those who wish to start a new career as landscape designers. Applicants will benefit from previous experience in art/design/architecture based or horticultural related subjects.

Having said this, the university consider this to be a crossover course so we will accept students with no prior experience.

Regulations

The college reserves the right to change the course dates, and structure without notice.

During the registration process, a non-refundable admin fee of £500 is required to guarantee your place, with the balance due no later than 2 weeks prior to the course

start date.

It is regretted that no fees can be refunded for whatever reason including non attendance once the course has started.

Duration

Our online diploma course is taught over two semesters with lectures throughout the week (see time-table) and an additional 3rd summer home-study semester.

Both the diploma and the Professional CBP Course are Full/Part-time courses with upto 24 months tuition included.

NEW Professional CBP Mentored Course

New online course for working designers who require additional construction, professional

practical and business training. On-demand video lectures, business mentoring, marked assignments, personal tuition, feedback and design support.

Course work is based on your own current design projects.

You work and study at the same time and at your own pace, accessing lectures on-demand to suit your project requirements.

Mentoring will be given on a job by job basis

Duration: Approx. 400hrs of study.

Student Profile: Working Landscape Contractors and Garden Designers.

Additional skills required: 2D Vectorworks

See website for further details

START DATES

April 28th 2017

September 28th 2017

COURSE COSTS

Full Diploma Course

£6995-00 +VAT

NEW Construction Design & Professional Practice (CBP) Course

£4995 + VAT

