

AWARD WINNING GARDEN

Sullingstead house is one of architect Sir Edwin Lutyens' most celebrated country houses, dating from 1897, but best known as a project he returned to with later (1903) additions. The current owners, working with architects Frances and Michael Edwards, who has extensively studied Lutyens work have completed a stunning refurbishment of this home. However it is the work that they completed landscaping the garden that won the Brick Development Association award for the Best Outdoor Space last year.

The outside space features a rose garden with a pergola on one side and an octagonal garden house overlooking the valley both built using the Freshfield Lane clamp fired stock bricks. The central feature is a fountain laid with brick and stone which is itself a feat of geometry, based on the whorl-like, four centre disks that Lutyens often used. Here they revisited the geometry, this time to create 6-centred spirals around a seventh and these allowed the arrangement of a much extended circular form. Working with their regular mason, Phil, they set out the brick spirals and then filled in the shapes with tiles and stone elements. Michael comments "Phil achieved an outstanding result displaying some of the best craftsmanship I have ever seen" The clay tiles used are Michelmersh creasing tiles.

With over 30 years of experience Phil was the perfect choice to work on this project with the architects as he knew that he had the craftsmanship skills to achieve the high quality finish that was required for the project. Phil explains "The biggest challenge with this project was the accuracy of the geometric design, it was a complex job but I enjoyed it and I am delighted with the finished result."

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