

THE MOR EDIT

WINTER 2026



DESIGN | BUILD | MAINTAIN



Welcome

Winter has a quiet kind of beauty - still, structured and thoughtful, it invites us to see our gardens differently, to notice form, texture and space long after the last blooms have faded.

The MR Edit marks the beginning of a new chapter for MRLandscapes. This inaugural Winter edition introduces our seasonal journal: a curated reflection of our design philosophy, horticultural expertise and the considered details that make outdoor living feel effortless throughout the year, including winter.

As this first issue arrives in late winter, it sets the tone for what's to come. Thoughtful design, timeless materials and gardens shaped to evolve beautifully with the seasons.

Thank you for joining us at the start of this journey. Here's to fresh perspectives, seasonal beauty, and gardens designed to inspire every month of the year.

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Outdoor Living
Where considered design meets everyday comfort.



Featured Garden
A refined suburban garden designed for modern living.



Recipe
A simple seasonal indulgence from the MR kitchen.

A Garden Designed for All Seasons

Some gardens shine brightest in their quietest moments. This Elm Road design was created with one intention: to feel as breathtaking in winter as it does in summer.



Design Vision

Strong architectural shapes. Elegant evergreen structure. A layout that invites calm, even on the frostiest mornings.

Materials

Natural stone, chosen for its soft winter texture. Warm white lighting designed to highlight form, balance and silhouette.

A Garden for Living

The sheltered dining space becomes a winter retreat. The morning coffee spot feels tranquil even beneath bare branches. And as winter light shifts, the garden reveals details you miss in summer.

A truly year-round garden - thoughtful, resilient, and quietly luxurious.



How We Create Gardens That Endure Winter

by Anna Kolarska, MRLandscapes Garden Designer

The MRL approach is built on longevity. Winter isn't a challenge; it's part of the design brief.

Winter interest in a London garden can turn what's often thought of as a dull, grey season into something surprisingly uplifting. With the right plants and a few thoughtful design touches, a winter garden can be full of colour, structure and beautiful little moments that brighten even the coldest days.

A good starting point is choosing plants that really shine in winter. Look for evergreens, strong shapes, glossy berries, scented flowers or even eye-catching bark. Some of our favourite winter performers for London gardens include hellebores (the much-loved Christmas or Lenten roses) with their early blooms; winter jasmine with its cheerful yellow flowers; and witch hazel, which offers bursts of rich colour and fragrance just when you need it most. Winterberry holly is brilliant too, especially for birds, thanks to its bright red berries.

To build up layers of interest, you can mix in reliable evergreen shrubs like *Skimmia japonica*, sweetly scented *sarcococca*, and *Mahonia japonica*, which flowers right through the colder months. For structure, ornamental trees with standout bark - such as the paperbark maple (*Acer griseum*) or Chinese birch (*Betula utilis* var. *albosinensis*) - add year-round shape and texture.

Design features make a huge difference as well. Clever garden lighting can bring warmth and drama on



dark winter afternoons, while simple hard-landscaping - stone paths, raised beds or natural bark mulch - helps the garden feel grounded and intentional even when many plants are resting. A bit of winter kit also goes a long way: frost fleece, sharp secateurs and something to clear icy paths will keep everything in good shape.

The Winter Jewel Camellia

Poised, elegant and quietly dramatic, the camellia is winter's true jewel. Its glossy evergreen leaves and sculptural buds bring structure and polish to the garden at a time when much of the landscape is resting. A moment of winter beauty captured on the cover of this edition.





Natural Stone

Natural stone is the designer's favourite winter material.

Subtle, durable and naturally frost-resistant, it comes into its own during the colder months, when planting recedes and form takes centre stage.

In winter light, stone surfaces soften and deepen in tone, revealing texture, veining and character that can be overlooked in brighter seasons. Paths, terraces and retaining walls become sculptural elements, grounding the garden and giving it quiet architectural strength.

Beyond its visual appeal, natural stone is highly practical. It weathers beautifully, ages gracefully and requires minimal maintenance, making it a long-term investment that enhances a garden year after year. Used thoughtfully, it brings a sense of permanence and calm, a material that feels as considered in the winter months as it does in midsummer.

Why Professional Garden Design Is an Investment

A beautifully designed garden is more than planting and paving. It is structure, flow, light, longevity, and a space that works effortlessly with the way you live.



It ensures materials are specified correctly, budgets are allocated intelligently, and the garden evolves with purpose rather than guesswork.

Good design also considers lifestyle: how the space is used, how light moves through it, where privacy matters, and how planting matures over time. The result is a garden that feels intuitive, balanced and timeless, not one that needs constant correction.

Ultimately, professional design creates gardens that belong to their homes. Spaces that age gracefully, function beautifully and add long-term value, financially and emotionally.

At MRLandscapes, we believe a design-led approach is what transforms a garden from a collection of features into a cohesive, lasting landscape. Professional garden design not only elevates the final result, but also protects your investment by reducing waste, avoiding costly mistakes and ensuring every decision is considered from the outset.

A clear design prevents unnecessary changes during construction, often the most expensive stage to rethink.



The New Winter Luxury

Modern luxury isn't about the weather. It's about how well a space is designed.

Heated Seating

Comfort is a luxury that transcends seasons. Heated seating allows outdoor spaces to remain functional and welcoming throughout winter - creating warm pockets of calm where you can unwind, host, or simply enjoy the crisp air without the chill. It transforms the garden into a space you can truly live in year-round.



Year Round Entertaining Places

Entertaining doesn't stop when the temperature drops. Clever zoning, efficient heating, and layered textures create beautiful winter-ready hosting areas that feel both luxurious and practical.

Sheltered Garden Lounges

A thoughtfully designed pergola or covered lounge extends your usable living space into the colder months. With the right materials and positioning, these spaces feel cocooned, atmospheric, and inviting - perfect for morning coffee or evening gatherings.



A MRLandscapes garden build in collaboration with harringtonporter.com



Soft, layered lighting

Winter light is naturally dramatic, and the right illumination turns this into an asset. Layered lighting enhances silhouettes, highlights planting structure, and brings warmth and depth to the garden after dark - creating a magical, sculptural atmosphere.

The Winter Protection Edit

Your garden in winter requires simple but essential care.



1 Wildlife-friendly feeding
Winter food sources are scarce. A simple feeding station supports birds and pollinators while helping maintain a balanced garden ecosystem.



2 Drainage checks
Clearing gutters, drains and surface channels prevents waterlogging — one of winter's most common causes of root stress and lawn decline.



3 Frost fleece for tender plants
Protect the most delicate plants from overnight frost damage with breathable fleece that keeps roots and foliage insulated without trapping moisture.



4 Pot insulation
Wrap pots with fleeces, hessian or bubble wrap, or raise them slightly on pot feet to allow water to drain freely. This helps prevent frost damage and reduces the risk of cracking. Clay, terracotta and ceramic containers are particularly vulnerable during prolonged freezing conditions, as trapped moisture can expand and cause structural damage. A little protection now helps preserve both your plants and containers through winter.

5 Avoid footfall on frozen lawns
When grass is frozen, the blades become brittle and easily damaged. Walking on a frozen lawn can snap the grass, compact the soil, and disrupt root systems, leading to thinning, bare patches and uneven growth in spring. Keeping foot traffic to a minimum during icy spells allows the lawn to recover naturally and ensures a healthier, greener return once temperatures rise.



6 Cleaning patios to prevent algae
Winter dampness creates ideal conditions for algae and moss to form on patios, paths and steps. A light clean during the colder months helps prevent slippery surfaces, maintains the appearance of your hard landscaping, and stops buildup becoming stubborn and harder to remove later. Regular attention keeps outdoor spaces safer, brighter and ready to enjoy as spring approaches.

More essential winter garden care tips to make sure your garden is ready for spring..

7 Leaf Clearance
Clearing fallen leaves is about more than appearance. Left to sit, they can smother lawns, compact borders and encourage fungal issues. Regular clearance keeps air circulating, supports soil health and allows your garden to breathe through winter.



8 Structural Pruning
Winter is ideal for restoring shape to deciduous trees and shrubs. With foliage gone, the structure is easy to read, and plants respond beautifully come spring.

9 Soil Preparation
Mulch and organic matter added now will break down slowly, enriching the soil and supporting the spring growing season.



10 Lifting & Dividing Herbaceous Plants
Dormant plants can be lifted, divided, and replanted to improve vigour and reshape borders ahead of spring.



11 Clearing Diseased Foliage
Removing affected leaves and stems now reduces the risk of pests and diseases overwintering in your garden. It's a simple preventative step that protects plant health and promotes stronger, cleaner growth when spring arrives.

12 Mulching for Insulation
A generous winter mulch helps regulate soil temperature, protect roots from frost and retain moisture. It also improves soil structure over time, creating healthier conditions for planting in the seasons ahead, particularly in young or newly planted gardens.



13 Spring Building
Winter is the best time to plan upcoming garden projects. Hard-landscaping work often continues through colder months, ensuring your space is ready for spring planting.



Designing for Flow and Function

A well-structured garden works beautifully in every season. Here, clean geometry, softened by layered planting, creates a landscape that feels calm, cohesive and deeply connected to the home. Each zone has purpose, from entertaining areas to quiet morning spaces, all linked through thoughtful pathways, proportion and sightlines.



A Garden Transformation



A once underused lawn has been reimagined into a warm, atmospheric winter retreat. Sculptural lighting draws the eye along curved pathways, illuminating evergreen structure and mature trees. This garden demonstrates how clever lighting, thoughtful planting, and high-quality materials can completely transform a space, even in the darkest months.

Mulled pear and rosemary drink

A gently spiced winter warmer designed for slow evenings — aromatic, comforting and perfect to enjoy after a crisp garden walk or beside the fire as the light fades.

Ingredients

4 cups pear juice or high-quality pear nectar

2 cups water

2-3 fresh rosemary sprigs, plus more for garnish

1 orange, sliced (can also use clementine or lemon)

2 cinnamon sticks

4-5 whole cloves

3 star anise

Optional: 1/4 cup brown sugar or 3 tbs maple syrup, to taste

Optional: A splash of gin, vodka, or rum for an alcoholic version

Instructions

Combine ingredients

In a large pot or saucepan, combine the pear juice, water, rosemary sprigs, orange slices, cinnamon sticks, whole cloves, star anise, and sweetener (if using).

Simmer

Bring the mixture to a simmer over medium heat. Reduce the heat to low and let it simmer for at least 20-30 minutes, allowing the flavors to fully infuse and meld, stirring occasionally. Avoid boiling the mixture vigorously, as a gentle simmer is best for mulled drinks.

Strain and serve

Strain the mulled drink through a fine-mesh sieve to remove the solid ingredients before serving. Add alcohol (optional): If making an alcoholic version, add a splash of your spirit of choice to each mug or add it to the pot after removing from the heat.

Garnish

Serve the warm drink in mugs, garnished with an additional fresh rosemary sprig, a slice of pear, or an orange slice. This drink is perfect for cozy evenings or festive gatherings during the cooler months.



The Spring Edit Preview

As winter gives way to spring, gardens begin to shift - softer, lighter, and full of movement. Our Spring edition explores a refined balance of structure and natural flow, with designs that feel relaxed yet considered.

Expect sculptural hedging softened by meadow-style planting, warm Mediterranean textures layered with natural stone, and understated garden kitchens designed for effortless outdoor living.

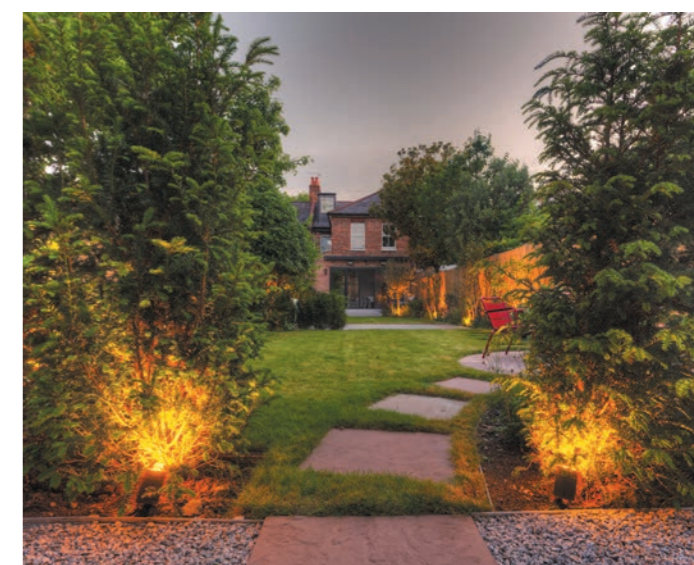
Keep an eye on your inbox, our Spring edition arrives soon, bringing fresh inspiration for the season ahead.



Meadow-style luxury planting



Refined garden kitchens



Naturalistic lighting



Mediterranean textures



The rise of sculptural hedging



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Start your journey with MRLandscapes today, and together, we'll craft a garden that transforms your home and life.