



**MELBOURNE  
INTERNATIONAL  
FLOWER AND  
GARDEN SHOW**

**2025**

**BOUTIQUE  
GARDENS  
COMPETITION**

**A Show Garden Competition for Emerging and Establish  
Landscape Designers and Architects**

**Proudly presented by:**



**LANDSCAPING  
victoria®**



## Introduction

**Landscaping Victoria** (LV) presents this unique opportunity for established and emerging Landscape Designers and Landscape Architects to participate at The Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. With thanks to show owners IMG and NGIV, the Boutique Gardens competition offers five (5) finalists an opportunity to showcase their design talents, push design boundaries, gain valuable industry experience and promote their business to the 100,000+ visitors to the Show, as well as capitalise on post-event publicity.

## Who can enter?

The competition is open to all:

- All members of Landscaping Victoria
- All members of TLA, LQ, LIAWA, and MLSA
- All members of LDI (formerly AILDLM)
- All members of AILA
- Landscape Design Students\*
- Landscape Architecture Students\*

\*NB: Student entrants must be enrolled in a recognised course as of February 1st, 2024

## Design Brief

### Site dimensions

Each site is 5 x 5 metres, viewing from the front and the two sides and should be aesthetically pleasing and functional. Site locations will be randomly allocated and there is no flexibility to relocate or adjust dimensions.

### Budget

Finalists will be contracted to IMG who will provide sponsorship of \$9,250 +gst to each of the five (5) competitors. Sponsorship money can be put towards the design, materials, construction or labour costs, and site pack-up. Any additional expenses over the allocated sponsorship amount will be at the cost of the finalist. The finalist is encouraged to outsource additional sponsorship to cover any other expenses.

Additional sponsorship will need to be cleared through application to LV who will report such applications to MIFGS/IMG with the express intent of avoiding any clashes with existing show sponsors.

The finalist is permitted to promote their own sponsors via site signage (parameters will be provided to each finalist) and **MUST** include logos and reference to Competition Sponsors also.



## Construction Restrictions

The Boutique Gardens are to be built within the grounds of the Heritage listed Carlton Gardens and it is vital that the construction of the garden does not impact on the grounds<sup>1</sup>. All of your plans should take this into consideration and not have any construction that will penetrate the soil. You will need to build a 'box' to surround the perimeter of your site to conceal your pots and any sub-structure, this will need to be included in your budget. This will give you a level site<sup>2</sup> from which to start your designing. The public are not able to enter your site, but the judges may.

## Construction Team

Each finalist is responsible for sourcing their own construction team. Victorian finalists are required to use a Landscaping Victoria member who is a Registered Building Practitioner for all their landscape works. Interstate finalists must also use an affiliated landscape industry member who is a Registered Building Practitioner in their state for all their landscape works. Details of the makeup of your construction team should be included in your application. If you do not have a construction team, Landscaping Victoria will assist in sourcing one for you. An agreement must be in place with your construction team to fit within your budget. During the design process, consideration must be given to how long it will take to construct your garden.

## Bump Out

The finalist is responsible for the removal of all elements from their garden and returning the site back to its original condition. City of Melbourne will inspect each site and you may be liable for fines if the site is left in poor condition.

## Theme

There is no theme for the Boutique Gardens Design Competition. Challenge your creativity and come up with original design elements that will make your garden a standout at the 2024 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

## Sponsored Materials

To help make your budget go as far as possible, Landscaping Victoria have arranged sponsorships with several suppliers who are prepared to give you product to use on your garden build. These sponsorships could potentially save you hundreds, or even a few thousand dollars; money that can be put towards other elements such as prop hire, labour, or other materials. You are encouraged to take advantage of these offers and finalists will be put in touch with the suppliers in due course.



## Sponsored Materials

### Plant Material



Your design should hero plant life which should, where possible, be sourced from Warners Nurseries. At the initial design stage, it is not necessary to identify plant species specifically. Finalists will work directly with Warners Nurseries to complete the actual design process, selecting specific and available plants for the show. Remember that you are creating a show garden and that it needs to look finished for the show, so you may need to use plants at a denser planting than for a permanent garden e.g. plants may have to sit pot to pot. It is recommended that the finalists keep in regular contact with Warners Nurseries regarding your stock supply and make the effort to visit Warners Nurseries to check on your stock, especially in the lead up to construction commencing.

### Garden Lighting



Gardens at Night are proud to shine a light on the finalist Boutique Gardens. Although the Show is predominately a daytime event, there are also several after-hours opportunities where your garden will be in the spotlight including dusk photography sessions and private functions along with the popular LVML Industry Night and Friday Twilight Session. These opportunities are great for your exposure and quality lighting that highlights the features and plant life within your design will help bring your Garden to life after dark.

You'll work closely with Gardens at Night to produce a lighting plan using your design renders, in the lead up to the Show and during bump in, to make sure the installation of your lighting runs as smoothly as possible. From the many years of lighting MIFGS Show and Boutique Gardens, we know that designs may change slightly and it's important that we have lighting allocated for your design early. Visit [www.gan.com.au](http://www.gan.com.au) to browse our comprehensive lighting range, making a note of the lights and finishes to complement your design. We recommend you also consider any changing levels and features of your garden along with any important elements that may require a focused illumination.

### Bio Gro



Thanks to an ongoing partnership between the Show and Bio Gro, a selection of mulches will be made available free of charge to finalists. All final order quantities may require Show approval.

Bio Gro will also take away suitable construction rubbish to recycle during the pre-show build, as well as used mulch and suitable construction rubbish at the completion of the show.

For more information on the role of Bio Gro at the show, visit the following link.

<https://biogro.com.au/news/2022-melbourne-international-flower-and-garden-show/>



## What to Submit

### Entry Form

This should include all your contact details including an email address, postal address and mobile and answer the included questions.

### Description (or Brief)

Your garden will need a name, and you should also include an explanation of what you have designed and why. This should be creative and fully explain your design to the judges. This should be no more than 250 words, submitted with your entry form and will form part of the judging criteria.

### Plans

Initially, to make an entry into the Competition, you should submit as many plans as necessary to explain your design to the judges. As a minimum this should include:

- a plan view
- a perspective drawing or elevation
- planting plan
- construction overview
  - Note 1: for the initial entry this can be a simple section with basic information however if chosen as a finalist, you will be required to submit copies of all plans, full working drawings, elevations and plant lists to City of Melbourne for approval prior to commencement of construction.
  - Note 2: All final working drawings should provide your landscape builders with enough detail to build your design. Stage Two of the judging will take your detailed construction drawings into account.



## The Judging Process

Judging will be conducted in two stages:

### Stage One - Selection of Finalists

A panel made up of representatives of Landscaping Victoria Master Landscapers will select six (6) finalists from all submitted entries based on the following criteria.

**1. Brief 10%**

An overall statement of the purpose of your design.

**2. Overall creativity and design 50%**

This is about the originality of your design and how well you have managed to push design boundaries. The unity, scale and balance of your design will also be assessed.

**3. Construction 20%**

Practicality of your design; can it be built to achieve your intentions and within the guidelines of the Carlton Gardens

**4. Planting 20%**

Design, colour, texture, seasonal interest, scale and harmony

### Stage Two - Selection of the Winner (at the completion of the build)

#### Stage two

A panel of independent landscape industry professionals organised by Show organisers will be responsible for determining the overall winner. Stage two looks at how well your planned design translates to the finished constructed garden and whether your intentions were achieved.

From the five (5) constructed gardens there will be three placegetters – first, second and third. A copy of the Judging Criteria will be provided to finalists.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners of this competition and the overall winner will receive a trophy. Promotion and publicity opportunities may be available for the award winners via print, TV and radio media.



## Key Dates

- Entry submission closes 13th September 2024
- Construction Bump In: March 17 – March 25, 2024 Tools down at 3pm
- Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show: March 26<sup>th</sup> March – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- Construction Bump Out: 30th March – 02<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

**If you have any further queries regarding the competition, please contact**

### Landscaping Victoria

Online: [www.landscapingvictoria.com.au](http://www.landscapingvictoria.com.au)

Email: [events@landscapingvictoria.com.au](mailto:events@landscapingvictoria.com.au)

Phone: 03 9566 7284



1. A copy of the 2024 Exhibitor Manual is available for you to view on request as an indicative example of the restrictions you will need to work within. By entering the Competition, you will be bound to abide by the restrictions. Manuals for 2025 will be circulated to finalists when available from the Show Managers, IMG.
2. The levels of each of the 5 sites vary and finalists will not know their site location until they meet with the organisers in the gardens to be allocated a site. At that time, site levels may be taken, or at any time afterwards as convenient to the finalist.

*Presented by Landscaping Victoria*

**BOUTIQUE  
GARDENS  
COMPETITION**



## BOUTIQUE GARDENS COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

### YOUR DETAILS

Name			
Company Name			
Email		Mobile	
Address			
State		Postcode	
Member of	<input type="checkbox"/> LV	<input type="checkbox"/> LDI	<input type="checkbox"/> AILA <input type="checkbox"/> LQ <input type="checkbox"/> TLA <input type="checkbox"/> MLSA <input type="checkbox"/>
Type of Entry	<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Emerging	<input type="checkbox"/> Student
If Student entry: course, location, type and year			

### CONSTRUCTION TEAM DETAILS

Name			
Company Name			
Email		Mobile	
Address			
State		Postcode	
RBP No. (VIC) or state equivalent building certificate			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tick if you do not have a construction team and need assistance to source one		

### CHECKLIST

<input type="checkbox"/> Completed cover sheet/entry form	<input type="checkbox"/> Perspective drawing/elevation(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan view(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction drawing(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant list	



