

**Right** The aviary fits neatly into the courtyard garden's chequerboard design.

**Below** Garden forks feature in the Kitchen and Cutting Garden gate.

#### GARDEN INSPIRATION

### Beauty in Repetition

In his previous East Lothian garden, Rob noticed how a pairing of *Cotinus coggygia* 'Royal Purple' and *Euphorbia wallichii* looked good for an exceptionally long period. "It was an easy thing to repeat this, alternating them down the longest bed in the garden – a narrow south-facing strip against the house." The same principles have been applied to the Thug Bed in the Lower Courtyard.



## Broadwoodside

**WHERE** Gifford, East Lothian, EH41 4JQ **WHEN** Year round for the structure  
**WHAT** A classical design interpreted along simple, contemporary lines with quirky twists

In 1997, when Robert Dalrymple was persuaded by his wife Anna to look at Broadwoodside, he found a derelict farm steading among fields of wheat. It was the "beautiful outlook and the buildings' potential" that convinced him of what it could be.

With the help of Edinburgh architect Nicholas Groves-Raines, Rob and Anna began to plan the garden that had started to form in their mind's eye. For Rob, a book designer, the articulation of a two-dimensional space came easily. Much harder was the planting. "To get a group of plants to give a pleasing display over successive seasons, and from one year to the next, is a demanding skill," he says. Happily, gardener Guy Donaldson took over and, on his retirement, Nanette Wraith.

#### ELEGANT SIMPLICITY

The heart of the garden is the Upper Courtyard, where the aim was for green structure that would look good during the long Scottish winters. The answer was a chequerboard design, with eight square beds planted with a single contrasting evergreen: yew and box, germander speedwell, pachysandra, purple-flowering *Ophiopogon bodinieri*, the grass *Sesleria autumnalis*, rosemary, and box balls. A wooden aviary in the centre of the courtyard is home to William, the grey African parrot, while the south-facing courtyard byre was opened up to create a covered entertaining area. Furnished

with a slate tank and terracotta pots, the effect is "surprisingly Italianate for southern Scotland". A perimeter border in the Lower Courtyard – described by Rob as a "Thug Bed" – is where *Macleaya cordata*, *Eutrochium purpureum*, and Japanese anemones "have been slugging it out for more than twenty years", to great effect.

Outside of the courtyards, a flagstone path leads to the ochre-washed old farmhouse. The walkway is flanked on either side by pollarded limes and box balls underplanted with a naturalistic palette of aquilegia, brunnera, and *Euphorbia polychroma*. In the Walled Garden to the south, cutting flowers and vegetables are grown in raised beds, and mixed borders flank a rectangular pond fed from rainwater.

Beyond the steading, grass paths lead through the orchard and informal woodland, punctuated with quirky sculptures, including a trio of apples, each one progressively bitten into. An old lime avenue leads to the Temple, the Victorian portico salvaged from Strathleven House, Dunbartonshire, when it was restored – one of a number of follies and installations within the farmland that make a stroll around Broadwoodside inspirational all year round.