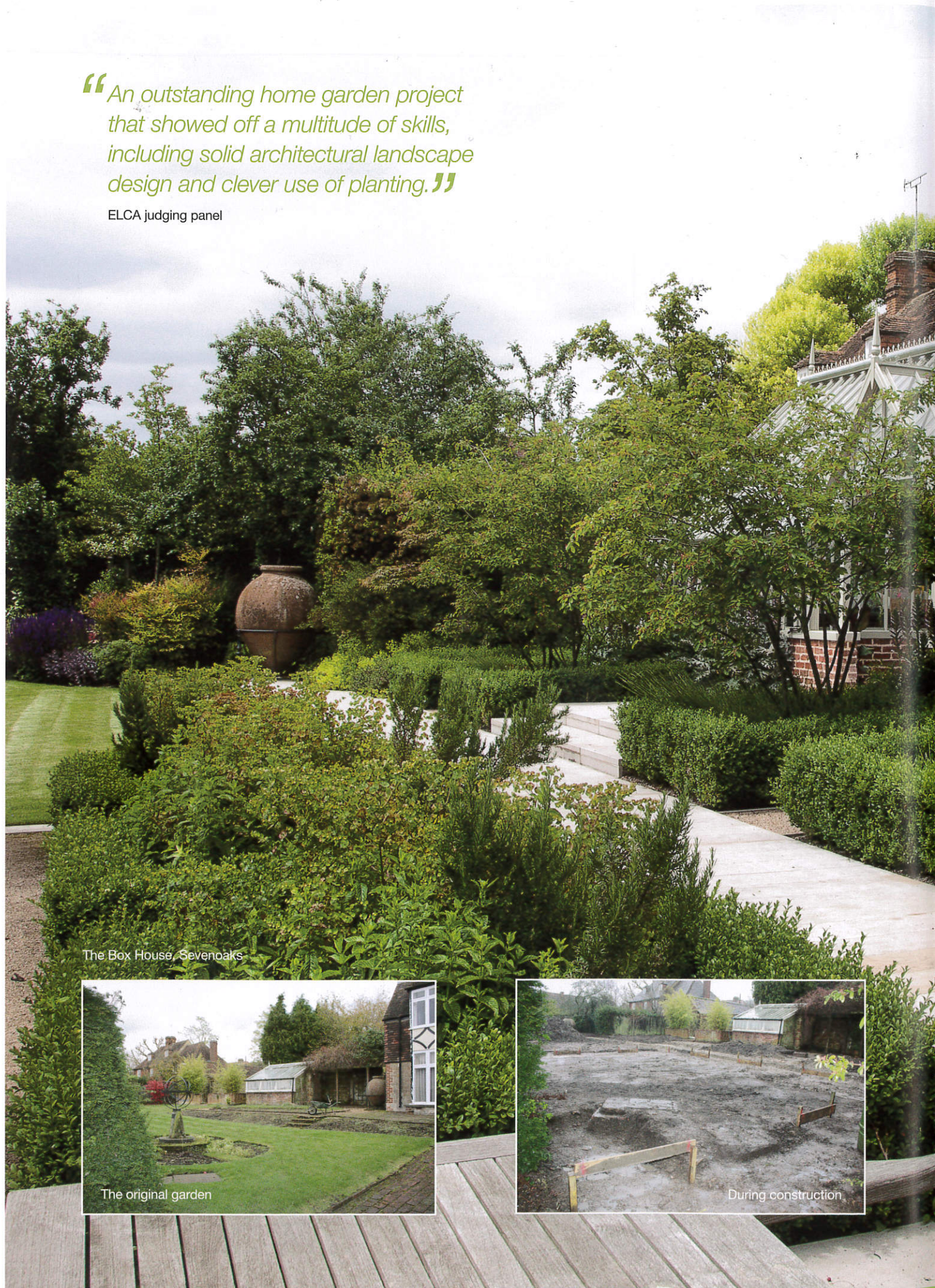


“An outstanding home garden project that showed off a multitude of skills, including solid architectural landscape design and clever use of planting.”

ELCA judging panel



The Box House, Sevenoaks



The original garden



During construction

Linden Landscapes wins prestigious European award for green construction

BALI Registered Contractor Linden Landscapes has won the coveted ELCA International Trend Award for green construction. Owner and Managing Director Mick Callahan was presented with the award by the President of the European Landscape Contractors Association, Emmanuel Mony, in September in front of hundreds of European landscape contractors, architects, suppliers and the media at a ceremony at the biennial GaLaBau exhibition held in Nuremberg, Germany.

Every two years ELCA works closely with BALI's equivalent trade body in Germany, BGL (Bundesverband Garten-, Landschafts-, und Sportplatzbau e.V.), to recognise the achievements of landscape designers and contractors by awarding the International Trend Award for green construction. The successful scheme must have particular distinctive design qualities and structural, plant and landscape features, and demonstrate good interdisciplinary cooperation. This year BALI, as the UK's representative trade body within ELCA, was invited to submit entries for the 2016 competition, which featured UK domestic landscaping.

BALI received eight entries from BALI Registered Contractors who had all won a prestigious Principal Award at either the 2014 or 2015 BALI National Landscape Awards for their domestic projects. The entries were subsequently put forward to ELCA at the start of 2016 for shortlisting. An expert European judging panel travelled to the UK and visited each of the four shortlisted schemes on 6th and 7th July 2016. The winner was announced in August.

The winning scheme - The Box House in Sevenoaks - was designed by Andy Sturgeon MBALI and won a Principal Award for Linden Landscapes at the 2015 BALI National Landscape Awards in the Domestic Garden Construction: Construction Cost over £250,000 category. It was a challenging scheme that had to incorporate a modern swimming pool building into an existing older character property. Andy's contemporary design incorporated a new greenhouse, hardwood decking area, firepit entertainment area, mature planting and a remote controlled lighting system. Linden Landscapes' attention to detail and the expertise they demonstrated across a range of landscaping disciplines in implementing the design swung the judges and led them to describe the scheme as "an outstanding home garden project that showed off a multitude of skills, including solid architectural landscape design and clever use of planting."

Mick Callahan was joined at the presentation ceremony in Nuremberg by his client Keith Roberts, who was accompanied by his daughter Lucy. BALI was represented by board director Neil Huck, who is also ELCA Vice President. In his [translated] speech at the award ceremony, ELCA President Emmanuel Mony said: "This garden is an outstanding example of sophisticated landscape design in a home garden. The garden planner and landscape contractor succeeded in a special way to bring together a number of related historical and modern building elements to an holistic appearance. At the same time, very aesthetically pleasing garden proportions were redefined. From the perspective of the European industry association, this project is a role model. With



Mick Callahan, centre, with his award

the award, ELCA is simultaneously underlining the importance of private home gardens as a valuable green space and an important location factor for a high quality of life."

After the event, a delighted Mick Callahan said: "We were delighted when we heard we had been shortlisted from a list of eight other BALI Principal Award winners for the ELCA International Trend Award for green construction and pleasantly surprised to be informed we had won. I was very pleased to be able to attend the award ceremony with my clients at International GaLaBau and thank BGL and ELCA for their invitation.

It was a true honour for Linden Landscapes Domestic Gardens Ltd to be chosen for a Principal Award at the 2015 BALI National Landscape Awards. It was gratifying for me and my team to receive recognition from our peers for the quality of our work. I would particularly like to mention our landscapers, Graham and Adrian, who worked on this project from start to completion. Linden Landscapes Domestic Gardens Ltd has been building gardens for many years now and we understand the importance of ensuring that the standard of workmanship remains high and that attention is paid to the finest detail. To now have this recognised by our European colleagues is particularly exciting."

BALI's Chief Executive, Wayne Grills, said: "This result is a true reflection of the commitment, professionalism and expert skills demonstrated by Mick and his team at Linden Landscapes and designer Andy Sturgeon. They have made BALI incredibly proud and this has certainly raised the bar for what can be achieved by the UK landscape industry."