

Davide Groppi's luminous journey to Chelsea

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(UK) – Davide Groppi lights A Suffolk Retreat project at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2016.

Chosen by Chelsea Gold Medalist Frederic Whyte, Davide Groppi designed the lighting scheme for his project, A Suffolk Retreat, sponsored by The Pro Corda Trust and built by Living Landscapes.

Inspired by the formality of Arts and Crafts gardens, A Suffolk Retreat offers a secluded space with a small summerhouse where children and young people can engage with music. The garden is inspired by the work of the Pro Corda Trust, a Suffolk-based musical and educational charity that provides ensemble training across the UK for talented young musicians. In addition, it has pioneered an innovative course for children with special education needs.

The idea behind the lighting design of this project has been focusing on creating a natural illumination that blends in with the environment and creates magical and calming atmospheres that encourage children's creativity and passion for music. Sustainability is an important theme for Davide Groppi, in particular when it comes to illuminating outdoor area: light is dotted only where necessary in order to enhance the beauty of nature and particular features.

At intervals, ensemble music will fill the garden from the speakers of the Cicala lamp. Mirror-paneled Belladinotte and Grillo lamps blend in perfectly and mimic the bluish-green colour of the water feature. Mira spotlight is the ideal solution for the illumination of the summerhouse by creating the right setting for music rehearsals.

Davide Groppi commented: "Music is a great passion of mine since I was young and I still use my inclination towards music now when I think about new lights and lighting projects.

Landscape designer Frederic Whyte commented on the collaboration: "Working with Davide Groppi has introduced a contemporary, artisan element into our traditional Arts and Crafts design. Davide Groppi's external lights reflect the elegance and craftsmanship of the company's products. RHS Chelsea Flower Show is the perfect place to showcase such high-quality pieces."

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