

Gold Medal Winning Garden, Hampton Court Flower Show.



Perspex® Cast Acrylic

Garden Designer Tony Smith wins Gold Medal at the world's largest flower show.

Perspex® was specified by garden designer Tony Smith for his entry in the conceptual garden category of Hampton Court, the world's largest flower show. While Tony's initial question of "how does it respond when you hit it with an axe?" was not covered in the approved processing guidelines, we soon discovered the answer to be exactly as he had hoped.

The Royal Horticultural Society judging panel also agreed, confirmed with a Gold Medal and Best in Show award.

While Perspex® has been specified for many

applications, none have been quite so curious as this. With coloured glass eschewed in favour of Perspex®, the random pointed Perspex® shards were 'produced and planted' into a bed made of one million lettuce seeds. With planting some 14 days prior to the show, to allow for time to germinate before judging, the acid green lettuce bed appeared as though spilled onto the unrolled tarmac floor and set around the coloured shards.

Surrounded by a wraparound, black outer wall, unadorned with anything other than keyhole windows, the brightly coloured contents of the garden, entitled Ecstasy in a Very Black Box, could only be viewed in sections. Designed by Smith as a visual representation of bipolar disorder, a condition characterized by extreme mood swings, "the dual nature of the condition was reflected in

the sharply contrasting textures, colours and shapes”.

With the form and placing of the Perspex® shards something akin to a Zen sand garden, this is where any resemblance to a garden would end, with critics covering Hampton Court for the BBC having “a hard time considering it a garden, more a work of art”. The Royal Horticultural Society agreed, confirmed with a Gold Medal and Best in Show award.

For more details on this project and the properties of Perspex® cast acrylic for your design project, please contact your local branch.

For more details on this project and the properties of Perspex cast acrylic for your design project, please contact your local branch.

Photos courtesy of Tony Smith.

