

The triple spiral sunken garden, bounded by pleached hedge, stone wall and slate pathway on 3 sides, with bench under mature flowering tree in the north east, and overlooked by another bench on the slate pathway. This is a space of inspiration and delight... The centre of the triple spiral represents some kind of hub or still point around which the universe (the spiralling arms of the motif) turns. It has a feeling of enclosure, but there are also interactive elements with the world outside – in particular, the public footpath to the river beyond the wall. I like this. It's a cross-fertilisation of worlds, and that's how life thrives best, I believe... Intersections create richness and diversity (and force us to be tolerant and to learn!)... But still, one should be able to sit under the tree in the north east corner with one's back against it for support and be able to read a book in dappled shade, and in relative seclusion.

The Sanctuary A square building, of robust, rustic-looking construction – to this end unplanned timber to be used as decking to avoid a suburban look! I imagine the interior could be quite dark, almost womb like perhaps? ...Because it won't be huge, and might be used for groups of maybe 6 to 8 people, furniture should be kept to a minimum – large beanbags and cushions, and maybe unobtrusive back rest type chairs that sit on the floor. There could be a stable door to adjust light levels in summer and for ventilation, and perhaps the eaves could project out over the door? One or 2 feature stained glass windows would help create a special atmosphere, and maybe a roof light in the shingle roof on the east side, (so it's not visible from other parts of the garden). This space could be used for seclusion, for giving and receiving massage, for reading, and for therapy sessions. I imagine the atmosphere to be cosy, feminine and nurturing. The building should be well insulated to this end... A rocking chair on the deck would allow a space to look over the vegetable garden, to the greenhouse, and maybe even some chickens pecking around beyond that.

Oil Tank and Storage Shed Area. Sorry – not a very romantic name! This garden can provide privacy for people on retreat to have a quiet cup of tea or chat. It's not entirely private, but almost. This garden could also go with the adjacent retreatant's flat, if for example you ever decided to rent it out for a 6 month winter let, for example. It would then give you the option to demarcate the whole rest of the garden as private, should you feel the need yourself to retreat at some future date!

The Southern Sculpture This should add a timeless air of serenity to the garden. The plants behind will provide a pleasing and dramatic backdrop that changes with the seasons.