

CONDÉ NAST House & Garden

SOUTH AFRICA'S FINEST DECOR MAGAZINE

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Meet Durban
Tastemaker
Vanashree Singh



**GARDEN
SPECIAL**

21
PAGES
OF IDEAS,
INSPIRATION
& KNOW-HOW

SPRING STYLE

Fresh Interiors to Love, from Jo'burg to Aspen

**CLASSIC
COASTAL
BLUE AND
WHITE**

**GLAMOROUS
MODERN
RETRO
DECORATING**

**FLOORING'S
HOTTEST
PATTERN
TRENDS**

Debby's recent foray into 'scanography' – creating images using a flatbed scanner, resulted in this beautiful image of Ranunculus from her garden

The Online Gardeners

Open the digital gate to garden inspiration (you won't even get your hands grubby). *H&G* picks the best feeds to follow

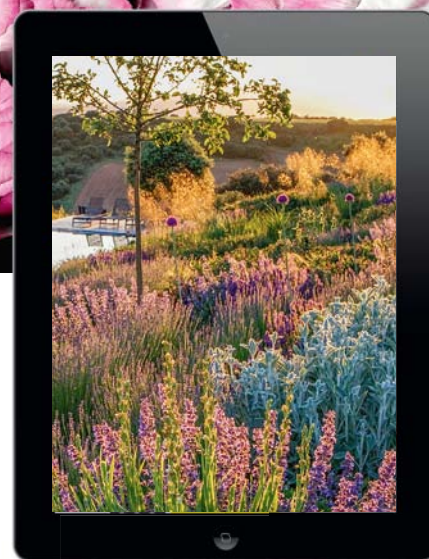
Debby Tenquist

LANDSCAPER AND
TEXTILE DESIGNER

Start your day with a therapeutic shot from the Instagram feed of Debby Tenquist, formerly a decorative art expert for Sotheby's. Based in Jo'burg, she shares sumptuous views of gardens from her travels as well as updates on her latest projects, and anything floral that catches her eye. Be it blooms from her garden, plump peonies in a Parisian flower shop or bespoke designs from her Botanica Trading range, every post is homage to the art of creating a great garden.

Instagram is an exciting platform for sharing my garden tours and textiles, the gardens I've designed and inspiration for new gardens I'm working on. **My account has evolved into a curated vision of** what I admire most about gardens, outdoor living and all things botanical.

Great gardens, stylish verandahs, plant portraits and botanical art are the chief subjects. I write about the who, when and where, and anything interesting I've unearthed. I aim to create a visual narrative of how we experience nature. **What I value about Instagram is** the remarkable international connections I've made. Among my followers I can count well-known authors, journalists, editors, photographers, landscapers, florists, architects, botanists, artists, decorators, nurserymen and even a famous chef. **My followers, many of whom have become friends,** have an aesthetic sensibility closely aligned to mine. I have immense admiration for the beauty of the world and great respect for the talent and creative energy out there. Instagram is a powerful, dynamic way to connect with leading figures in their creative fields. Every day I have a tantalising glimpse into such lives and it has been the source of much inspiration for my own creative endeavours. [@debbytenquist](#) ▶



Top IG tip? Develop your own style and post consistently.

Favourite person to follow? Robbie Honey, for his visually rich, flower-centric IG account. Think stunning dissections of flowers. **Social-media phobia?** Twitter. Being visually orientated and accused of writing in paragraphs, I simply don't get it!

Phobia? That I will never be able to stop blogging. **Most hits?** My post 'Cucumber Molds from Japan' got nearly a million hits. **Favourite gardening app?** As a weather geek, I love the app Dark Sky. **Top blogging tip?** Be original with your content, and honest.



Green App-eal

Gardening with Babylonstoren, by Babylonstoren

Gardening just got easier with the help of the free app Gardening with Babylonstoren.

The app connects you to an extensive database of gardening information, tips and advice.

Tap into the knowledge and experience of the South African gardening community and learn how to grow and harvest your own fresh fruit and vegetables – no matter your level of skill or the size of your garden. This is a great multipurpose app that allows you to post photos, share your tips and consult with a like-minded green-fingered community.

Download Gardening with Babylonstoren free of charge from iTunes or Google Play.



Matt Mattus

DESIGNER AND PLANTSMAN

The retro feel of Matt's blog, Growing with Plants, brings to mind a 19th-century gardeners' almanac. It is a treasure trove of tips on everything from growing exotic bulbs to getting sweet-pea stems 'as thick as a knitting needle'. Accounts of his latest activities get you itching to grow your own produce. His garden and greenhouse in Massachusetts are packed with rare plants and his zeal is infectious: who else has grown a patch of the Western Cape in a snowy greenhouse half a world away?

My parents kept a large garden and as children we all had to work weeding, planting and harvesting. (I am the third generation gardening on the same property.) The constant queue of delights a garden delivers keeps your soul alive in a way no TV reality show ever could. **I began blogging** in 2006. I'd been documenting

my gardening narrative for about five years, so I had an amazing library of images I didn't know what to do with – I knew no big magazine would ever be interested in wild Gladioli from South Africa raised in snowy Boston, but maybe a few people around the world might. I post two to three times a week; I write from my heart about everyday garden events and projects I'm working on. **Today, I can't imagine life without** this digital connection. Maybe there are only 200 people worldwide who may bother to raise a certain plant from seed, but those of us who do eventually will find each other. **I find Facebook ideal** for meeting other plant people. I grow exhibition Chrysanthemums, along with a small group of people worldwide, yet we connect on Facebook groups. I also trade seeds with a secret closed group. growingwithplants.com [@mattmattus](https://twitter.com/mattmattus)

David Marsden

PROFESSIONAL GARDENER

Blogging as The Anxious Gardener, David is, in fact, anything but. Tending two large gardens in Sussex – The Priory in the Sussex Weald is the star of his blog – he's genial and very English (think Noël Coward with stubble and a rake). His witty asides and rugged honesty about the pains and pleasures of horticulture have earned him a clutch of blog awards. A favourite post is titled 'I Hate You': 'I could not believe my ears. Had she really just said that? I'd only known Margaret (the local farmer) for a few hours.' Actually, it turns out, 'Margaret was glaring at the Priory yew hedge and muttered again, "I hate yew."'

I started gardening for a living 10 years ago. After working as a postman, IT consultant and loads of other jobs, I wanted a change. **One of the reasons I started blogging** is that The Priory



has very few visitors. Much of what I plan and plant seemed to be for my benefit only, and I wanted to show her off. **There's a real thrill** to blogging. I came late to social media when I noticed how much traffic they were directing to my blog. When one of my photos had been pinned over 16 000 times, I started a Pinterest page, which is now a top referrer. I also get to attend interesting events, such as exhibition press days at Buckingham Palace.

📧 theanxiousgardener.com

📱 [anxiousgardener](https://www.instagram.com/anxiousgardener)



How many followers do you have?

1 000 followers on my blog, 3 300 on Twitter, 681 on Facebook. **Your digital phobia?** Seeing something amazing, but failing to capture it. **Favourite app?** The BBC Weather app – I'm English. **Favourite person to follow?** Writer Stacy Moore – her gardening blog is irritatingly brilliant. **Pet peeve?** The viral use of the word 'passionate'. Must everyone be passionate?



Non Morris

GARDEN DESIGNER AND WRITER

Based in London, Non interweaves poetic musings on plants and gardens with art, photography and design on her blog, The Dahlia Papers, recommended by *The Sunday Telegraph* as one of three 'gardening bloggers you should be following'. It's the botanical-travel factor of her blog we love, along with her sensitive plant observation, a sense of enchantment for flora and the blog's distinctly feminine air. With

a background in art history, film and TV, Non writes about anything from botanising with her family in Peru to the 'must have' shopping list for viewing cherry blossoms in Japan (including a plastic picnic sheet and two types of disposable body warmers).

My blog is a personal approach to thinking and writing about gardens. In May I wrote about plants in the wild after a trip to the Italian Apennines; last December I was inspired by Renaissance paintings of angels in the National Gallery in London.



Followers? 1 000+ **Digital phobia?**

Time absorbed by IG and Twitter.

Equipment? Canon Eos 50D and iPhone.

Pet peeve? Ads that disrupt blogs.



For more online garden inspiration, visit houseandgarden.co.za

I love how I can use images to support my thinking. I learn so much writing the blog; it disciplines me to look more closely and work out why a combination of plants is so effective. **I enjoy the chain of events** and the support I have had from email, Twitter and Instagram conversations. The blog has also led to commissions to write for *The Telegraph* and *The Guardian* – I hope that in time it will lead to a book commission.

📧 thedahliapapers.com

📱 [@thedahliapapers](https://www.instagram.com/thedahliapapers) [@nonmorris](https://www.twitter.com/nonmorris)