



Green Thumb 园之谊

Husband-and-wife team Terry and Vanessa Winters single-handedly transformed their 1,350 sq m plot from a neglected farmyard into a romantic English garden that has been featured in magazines around the world. Amazingly, the couple, who run a design company in Winchester, Hampshire, had never gardened before moving to the property. *LP* spoke to Terry Winters about his design inspiration and newly-awakened passion for gardening.

Terry Winters和Vanessa Winters夫妇将自家的1,350平方米土地从废弃的农家庭院变成为世人所称颂的浪漫的英式花园。令人意外的是，这对在汉普郡的温彻斯特经营设计公司的夫妇搬到这里之前从未搞过园艺。本刊采访了Terry Winters，就他的设计灵感和新近对园艺产生的兴趣展开了探讨。



My wife Vanessa and I moved into our newly converted barn in 1998. Back then, the garden was a scrubby, barren wasteland as it had been a working farm for 200 years. We had no clue about gardening at all – our previous home had just a postage stamp of a garden.

Faced with a blank canvas, we decided to plant a wild flower meadow in the style of Dan Pearson. In the summer of 1999 we had an absolutely beautiful array of colour in the garden. It looked like something out of a Monet painting. By the next year, however, the flowers had all been choked out by weeds and it was a bit of a mess.

In 2000, we visited the gardens at West Green House designed by Marylyn Abbott, and fell in love. West Green House has a quintessential English garden, complete with topiary, herbaceous planting, box borders and lollipop shapes.

We decided that our garden would be romantically English with a modern twist. We designed around the longest line of sight, with a seating area at the far corner of the garden and a gate on the opposite end. From there, we planted big trees to screen off a derelict village hall, and put down our pathways, hedges and borders.

Our garden ebbs and flows with the seasons – the end of May is my favourite time of year, when it is lush and green and full of promise. In April, the flowers bloom in pastel shades, while in the autumn there's a riot of hot, tropical colours. Even in winter there's still structure and beauty to the garden, especially when it snows.

I love gardening because you can really get away from all the stress and strain of everyday life. After five minutes in my garden I get into the zone – it's like a decompression chamber. Some of my favourite gardens to visit include Sissinghurst in Kent, Hidcote in Gloucestershire and Rousham in Oxfordshire, which is one of the earliest examples of a natural landscape garden. Even though it was designed in 1740, it's still amazingly modern.

My advice to someone just starting out is to get as much advice as possible from as many people as possible. Before you begin, you have to understand the soil – get a simple testing kit and research what you can grow. Draw up a plan and make sure you have a good layout before you start planting. A garden is really an extension of the taste and personality of the owner.

The biggest trend at the moment is prairie planting by designers like Piet Oudolf and Arne Maynard, which mixes grasses in amongst perennials in big sweeping borders. Another style that's popular is a contemporary take on the English cottage garden, which traditionally features foxgloves, geraniums and delphiniums. Instead of a "one-of-everything" approach, I love planting big drifts of a single variety in a single the same colour – the effect is incredible.

After more than 12 years in our home, we're thinking of moving on – we'd like to find somewhere with a bigger garden. The good thing is that all of our work has added a substantial amount to our property value. Of course, we'll continue to garden for the rest of our lives. It really is an awakened passion for us. I think if you can discover something that you're really passionate about, it's a great thing to have in life. **LP**

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Terry Winters

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我和妻子Vanessa在1988年搬进了由谷仓改建成的新居。那时候花园还是一片贫瘠的土地，两百年来它一直被当做农场用。我们对园艺一点想法都没有，因为之前的家只有一个非常小的花园。

我们打算在花园里种植一片Dan Pearson风格的点缀着野花的草坪。1999年的夏天，花园里五颜六色，美不胜收，看上去就像莫奈的画作。然而，第二年，由于野草疯长，花都死了，花园里乱七八糟的。

2000年，我们参观了由Marylyn Abbott设计的West Green House的花园，并为之深深陶醉。West Green House有一座典型的英式花园，包括修剪造型的灌木、多年生草本植物、花坛和棒棒糖形状。

我们想让自家的花园成为具有现代风情的浪漫英式花园。设计满足了景观最大化的要求，花园的最远端有座位，另外一端有一扇门。我们在那里种了很多大树，遮住了废弃的乡村礼堂，还设计了人行道、篱笆和花坛。

随着季节的变化，园中呈现不同的景象——五月末是一年中我最喜欢的时节，树木葱翠，充满希望。四月，花儿竞相开放。秋天来了，花园里到处是鲜艳的热带色彩。即便在冬季，花园中的景色仍然很美丽，尤其是下雪的时候。

我喜欢园艺，因为它可以让人从日常生活的压力中解脱出来。在花园里待上五分钟，我就进入状态了，就像待在减压室里一样。我常去参观的著名花园包括肯特的Sissinghurst、格洛斯特郡的Hidcote和牛津郡的Rousham，后者是最早的自然景观园林的典范。它虽然建于1740年，但是到现在仍然很摩登。

我建议初学园艺的人从尽可能多的人那里得到尽可能多的意见。开始之前，必须了解土壤——准备一套简单的检测用具，研究一下可以种些什么。拟定一份计划，并确保种植之前有良好的规划。园林可以说是业主品味和个性的延伸。

目前比较热门的趋势是像设计师Piet Oudolf和Arne Maynard一样种植草原植物，也就是在面积广阔的花坛上将多年生草本植物和草混种。另外一个热门趋势是为英式乡村花园增添现代化元素，传统的英式花园中通常有毛地黄、天竺葵和飞燕草。与其什么都种，我更倾向于种植大片同样颜色的植物，效果非常醒目。

打理花园超过12年之后，我们已经在考虑搬家——想找一处有更大花园的房子。好处就是之前的工作增加了房产的价值。当然，我们会继续从事园艺，因为它确实激发了我们的热情。我想如果一个人可以发现自己非常感兴趣的东西，那实在是很不错。 **LP**

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