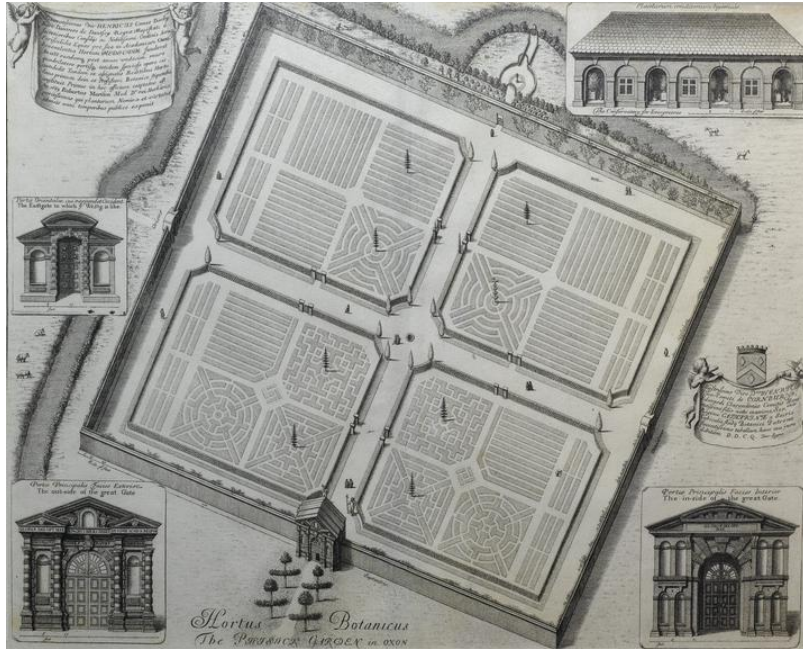


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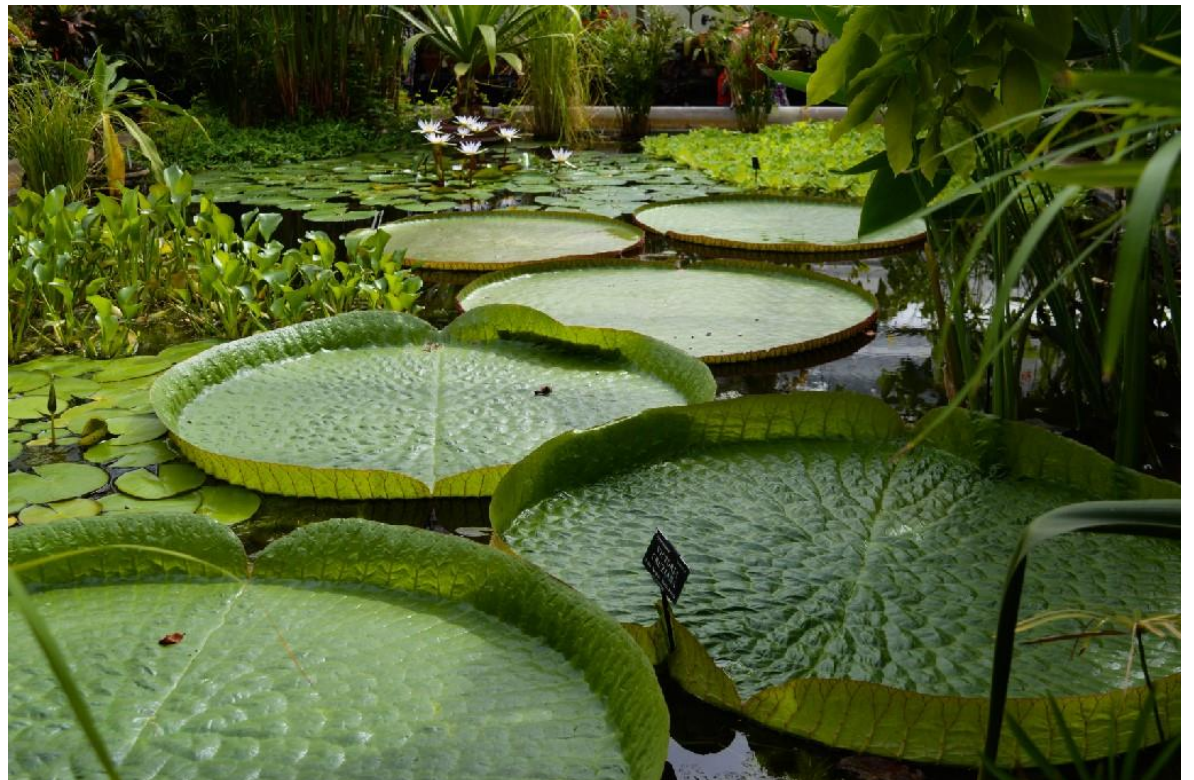
10 February 2022

Presenter: Timothy Walker

Paradise Lost and Restored: 400 years of garden design



The history of English garden design can be told in different ways, but rarely can it be told ‘through the lens’ of one garden. The Oxford Botanic Garden was founded at the beginning of the 17th Century and its design bears all the hallmarks of 17th Century design. Through the last 400 years successive *Horti Praefecti* (head gardeners) changed the features reflecting the art of gardening, and very occasionally the science of botany. This talk looks at how the art of gardening has changed, or perhaps has not, in four centuries in Oxfordshire, and how the Oxford Botanic Garden now reflects garden design at the beginning of the 21st Century.



The title of the lecture refers to the fact that one of the motivations for garden design remains the desire to create paradise on Earth. The meaning of paradise may be less rooted in the Biblical account of the rise and fall of Man, but there is still a clear vision of what we would like the world to resemble. Timothy Walker was the director of Oxford Botanic Garden for 26 years until 2014. Since then he has been a lecturer & tutor in botany at Somerville College Oxford.