

Beneath a Mexican Sky

Manoj Malde celebrates modern colour



“MY INSPIRATION came from seeing the work of Mexican modernist, Luis Barragán. His work is so bold and colourful,

I thought he must be a young, up-and-coming architect, so was disappointed to learn that he'd passed away in 1987.

“I'm of East African and Indian descent, born in Kenya, and some of my earliest memories are of Mum's beautiful saris, so Barragán's use of colour really drew me in. Here I've juxtaposed orange and pink walls to reflect his use of colour.

“Barragán struggled for recognition, so I've chosen drought-tolerant, mostly Mexican plants that can succeed against the odds, just as he did. For rhythm, I'm using agaves – *A. americana*, *A. parryi truncata*, *A. attenuata* and *A. parrasana*, which are all very different but share a family resemblance.

“For height I'm using beautiful multi-stemmed *Arbutus unedo* trees from Italy, which have a very sculptural look. The flowers are mostly in pink and orange to bring out the wall colours. People are reluctant to use colour in the UK, so I want my garden to encourage them, by saying: don't be scared!”



Brighten up a colourless corner by painting the walls to create a more vibrant backdrop. Choose flower hues to match, then use bold architectural plants to complete the look

Key facts

DESIGN Manoj Malde
SPONSOR Inland Homes Plc
CONTRACTOR Living Landscapes

PLANTING STYLE

Drought-resistant Mexican plants in orange, pink, purple and lilac, with accents of dark red

KEY PLANTS

Verbena rigida (1), *Lantana camara* (2), *Cleome hassleriana* ‘Violet Queen’ (3) and cosmos ‘Big Orange’ (4)

HARD LANDSCAPE

Large pavers made of Topcret microcement for a metallic finish

FINISHING TOUCHES

Furniture from Roberta Rattan; cushions from Botanical Cushions; concrete planters with iroko rims; horse sculpture by Rupert Till

