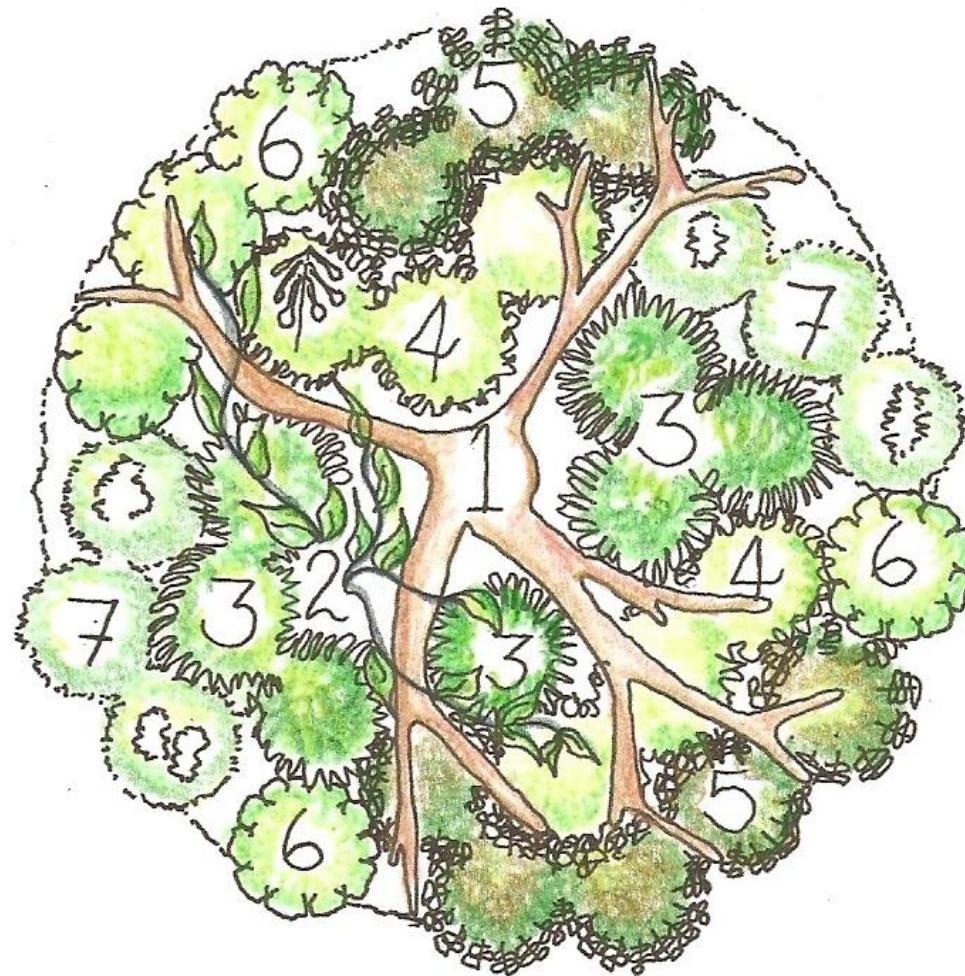


Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Takeaway design idea: a shady woodland garden

from *As You Like It* designed by Anthea Guthrie



A shady woodland garden



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The romantic atmosphere of a forest garden is captured in this cool, understated green-and-white planting full of mossy ferns nestling under the dappled shade of a hazel tree.

1 - *Corylus avellana* (x 1)

Among the loveliest of our native trees with its broad leaves and straight stems, hazel can be coppiced (cut back hard to the base) every few years to keep it in check.

2 - *Lonicera similis* var. *delavayi* (x 1)

This large-flowered yellow-and-white honeysuckle will scramble its way up an established tree in no time, scenting the air with its rich, sweet perfume.

3 - *Polystichum setiferum* (x 7)

The unfurling fronds of the shield fern are a fantastic architectural feature of the spring garden, and when they're fully opened are so shaggy and mossy you've just got to touch them. This is one of the easiest ferns to grow, and will be just as happy in dry or wet soil.

4 - *Nicotiana sylvestris* (x 6)

The stately tobacco plant will make big, hefty clumps of leaves before sending up tall, drooping spires of purest white tubular flowers. They light up a shady spot and release a rich perfume as evening falls.

5 - *Blechnum spicant* (x 8)

A superb low-growing fern with deeply-cut architectural evergreen fronds like tiny ladders. It's tolerant of both dry and wet soils as long as it's in a shady spot.

6 - *Alchemilla mollis* (x 5)

This lovely woodlander has pleated apple-green leaves which look incredibly pretty after rain, when they hold the individual jewels like droplets on their surface. Frothy lime-green flowers cover the plants in early summer: dead-head if you don't want it seeding everywhere.

7 - *Astilbe 'Weisse Gloria'* (x 6)

The feathery plumes of this pure white astilbe are held aloft above soft, ferny foliage which makes a great weed-suppressing ground cover frothing over the front of a border.