

The selection process

Preparation for DIGC 2014 actually begins from February 16, 2014 when the designers will submit a brief to the DIGC about their planned garden. The brief is crucial, as the final garden will be judged on how well the designer has managed to fulfil their original proposal. All DIGC garden exhibitors are asked to complete a technical brief that outlines the:

- Theme and purpose
- Soil conditions
- Aspect
- Hard landscaping
- Special features

The judging criteria

On the opening day of the DIGC begins, as the designers complete their gardens, a team of assessors will make notes on each garden, for the judging panel. The gardens have to be finished by 8am on the Thursday 03rd April 2014 morning, when a panel of six, judge the gardens and award medals. The results aren't officially released until Sunday 06th – 04 – 2014, evening.

The gardens are judged on the following criteria:

- **Brief** - scope, realization, practicability - is the garden true to the original proposal? A garden with a simple theme can still be a gold winner if the execution is good, but innovative gardens are more likely to score better in this category.
- **Overall impression** - Impact, Unity, Balance and style, Design, Colour and texture, Finish, Edging and labelling
- **Overall design** - unity, balance, scale. Invention and creativity may also be rewarded.
- **Construction** - quality, finish, special features. Has the garden been well constructed? It's important to get the balance right and overuse of hard landscaping can count against the designer.
- **Planting** - design, colour, texture, association, relevance to the overall design, quality and finish. Plants must be horticulturally accurate and perfect specimens. Planting accounts for the largest number of points and is a crucial factor when judging.
- **Scale of endeavour** - Levels of difficulty in creating display, use of props, difficulty in growing plants, creativity
- **Sustainability** - Sustainability is about ensuring ecological functions, processes, biodiversity and productivity can be maintained and only using resources at a rate at which they can be replenished naturally. You should therefore take into consideration the balance of permanent/ perennial planting vs. seasonal/bedding plants and the timing of displays.

Special awards

- Best Show Garden Award
- Best People Choice Award
- Special Show Garden Award
- Best Large Garden
- Best Medium Garden
- Best Small Garden
- Best Florist Display

Every exhibitor is entitled to speak to a judge about the medal they have been awarded and ask for critical feedback about their garden.