

# Dream

Inspiration of the month

Long-stem flowers, like cosmos and wild fennel, catch the light and dance with the slightest breeze. "They add height without heaviness," Cordelia says.

# Bucolic BEAUTY

We're smitten with this English-inspired garden where layered perennials come together like artwork—creating a space that balances order with a touch of wild romanticism.

There's an enigmatic quality to the garden of Cordelia de Castellane, author of *Flower Couture* and artistic director of Dior's home and baby lines. The garden, located in the French countryside, has a formal four-square layout that's softened with lavender-edged beds that contain an utterly romantic mix of cutting flowers—foxgloves, peonies, delphinium, and David Austin roses. "I told [garden designer] Milan Hajsinek that I wanted a garden that felt like a painting, structured but never stiff, with movement and charm," Cordelia says.

# The Dream LIST

From subtle borders to soaring climbers, Cordelia's garden offers plenty of design ideas for creating layered interest, no matter where you live. Here are four design tips to try at home.

## 1 SOFTEN THE BORDERS

Swap manicured hedges for fragrant drifts of lavender (as Cordelia uses) or nepeta. These wispy plants gently blur the lines of garden beds, creating a relaxed feel. Lavender's movement in the breeze and soothing scent add more sensory layers to the space.

## 2 ANCHOR THE CORNERS

Ground your garden's corners with focal plants—shrubs, mounding perennials, or trios of smaller annuals. White-flowering cistus plays that role in Cordelia's garden, where it's planted in corners on either side of the central pathway to enhance symmetry.

"FOXGLOVES ARE A FAVORITE. I ADORE THE WAY THEY TOWER GENTLY, LIKE ELEGANT SENTINELS."

—CORDELIA DE CASTELLANE

## 3 ADD VERTICAL ARCHITECTURE

Incorporate obelisks within beds to guide trailing plants. Here, handmade chestnut-twig tuteurs give sweet peas and climbing roses a place to ramble. "They add a vertical flourish," Cordelia says, noting objects like these draw the eye while providing structure.

## 4 PLANT FOR HEIGHT

Stagger plant heights to create rhythm and depth in borders. Begin with tall spires like delphinium or foxglove, then graduate to midheight and smaller varieties such as stock and snapdragons. This layering mimics the painterly composition of classic English-style gardens. ■



COSMOS

PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) DEAN HEARNE, KINDRA CLINEFF, JONATHAN BUCKLEY/GAP PHOTOS, NICOLA STOCKEN/GAP PHOTOS, BILLAL TARIGHT, CAMERON SADEHPUR. LOCATION PHOTOS FROM FLOWER COUTURE FROM MY GARDEN TO MY HOUSE BY CORDELIA DE CASTELLANE (RIZZOLI NEW YORK). ALL PHOTOS © BILLAL TARIGHT



FOXGLOVE



SWEET PEA



DAVID AUSTIN ROSE