



'When I saw Arabella's plan for the first time, I put it on the table and imagined I was a bird flying over it. Every house and garden has its perfect angle, like a person's face. The key is to be able to discover it and express all its beauty in the most flattering way'  
Jonathan Myles-Lea

# Making the dream come alive

To produce the perfect estate and its components, we assembled the best possible creative team to design, describe and depict Dream Acres

## Arabella Lennox-Boyd

OF ITALIAN BIRTH, Arabella has been a landscape designer for more than 30 years, designing six Gold-Medal-winning gardens for the Chelsea Flower Show, including the winner of the Best Garden Award in 1998. Her projects include garden at Ascott House, Berkshire, and Eaton Hall, Cheshire; roof gardens in London and Hong Kong; and a garden and park in Dallas, Texas. Arabella also served as a trustee of Kew Gardens for nine years, and has written three books, *Traditional English Gardens*, *Private Gardens of London*, and *Designing Gardens*. She has been awarded an Honorary Doctor of Design (HonDDes) by the University of Greenwich, the Premio Firenze Donna prize in Italy, and the Torsanlorenzo International Prestige Prize.

## Jonathan Self

ONE OF COUNTRY LIFE's most established contributors, and the author of our On the Money column, Jonathan Self is also the author of *The Teenager's Guide to Money* and his autobiography, *Self Abuse*. He sits on the Council of the World Land Trust and lives in Cork, where he has built his stables by hand.

## Jonathan Myles-Lea

AN ENGLISH-BORN PAINTER, Jonathan is known principally for his highly detailed oil paintings (occasionally using a single hair to apply paint) and drawings of notable country houses and landscapes. Since 1992, he has executed more than 60 commissions across 10 countries, including The Laskett for Sir Roy Strong, Blickling Hall, three views of Burghley House, Somerleyton Hall, Daylesford House and Highgrove, commissioned by The Prince of Wales himself. Jonathan has also created portraits for Evelyn H. Lauder (of Estée Lauder) and Miranda Rock. His work has been exhibited at Sotheby's and the British Library, and, in 1997, Jonathan was named a Living National Treasure in COUNTRY LIFE.

*Note: We have not worked to a budget at Dream Acres, because we are aiming for perfection and, naturally, prices vary hugely according to individual specification. As an example, we found that quotes for building rendered block stables with a slate roof, three stalls, a tack room and a covered work area, including all preparation, fittings and decoration, ranged from £78,000 to £226,000.*

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Design: Arabella Lennox-Boyd Landscape Design—Arabella Lennox-Boyd, Libby Russell, Jonny Griffiths, William Peel, Christopher Jordan, Emma Mazzullo (020-7931 9995; www.arabellalennoxboyd.com)



## The creative team

*Above:* Jonathan Myles-Lea, an artist, painted the 3D version of the estate's design. 'For the painting of Dream Acres, I used the sweep of the main drive to lead the eye to the house, and then on to the stream at the end of the lawn. I wanted to make the composition as dynamic as possible so that the viewer's eye travels through the picture—as if they were taking a stroll through the garden'



*Left:* Landscape designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd is the creator of Dream Acres. Jonathan Self, a writer, explains how to realise the dream for yourself