

## Japanese Garden, Burley, Hampshire, UK

completed June 2004

A small leaf-shaped rockery had become overgrown with weeds and beech saplings. The rockery was a key focus of the patio at the rear of this rural property and boasted a large rock water feature.



Over the years it had suffered from being situated under the deep shade of the canopy of a beech tree and had become an eyesore. The design challenge was to give this small space a new theme, using brighter materials that would counteract the gloomy conditions and still retain the rockery feel.



The water feature was to remain as there was a deep reservoir beneath it and it wouldn't have been practical to move it. I opted for a Japanese dry garden (*karesansui*) theme for low maintenance, clean lines and maximum impact.

I selected individual local Purbeck rocks for their size and character and cleaned, graded and arranged the existing cobbles and shingle to form a dry river bed. A long piece of Purbeck stone became a simple bridge linking the outer dry river bed with the inner water feature area. Shade-loving plants were then set in the 'river's edge'

Finally, a *Kasuga* style lantern was added to provide a counterbalance to the natural rock water feature and a lotus shaped bowl (*Tsukubai*) and bamboo dipper provided a focal point at the head of the dry river bed.

