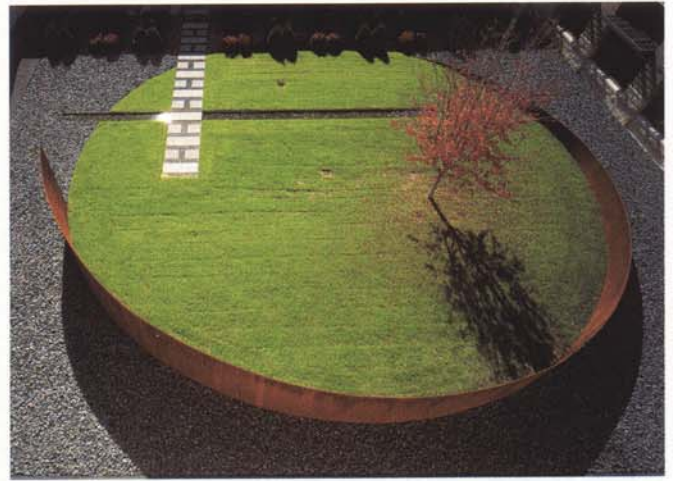


BREAKING NEW GROUND

RAE SPENCER-JONES LOOKS AT SOME OF THE DESIGN PROJECTS THAT ARE TRANSFORMING TOMORROW'S LANDSCAPES

OSLUND AND ASSOCIATES, based in Minneapolis, have created a quirky, contemporary garden for local clients Medtronic Corporation – world leaders in developing medical treatments for chronic diseases. The 30-square-metre Patent Garden was created as a quiet outdoor space for creative contemplation and a celebration of the company's success in saving lives all over the world. The simple geometric design consists of a circular lawn set within a square and is punctuated with vertical elements, including a steel wall, which wraps around the circle, and a single red maple tree.



The spiralling wall not only represents the company's rate of innovation, but it also acts as a canvas for a series of stainless steel buttons. Each button is engraved with a Medtronic patent number and provides a visual record of the company's innovative ideas. Visitors can measure the number of patents by tracking the number of buttons as and when they are added to the wall. The lawn is dissected by a rill filled with pebbles, and a stone path made from New York Bluestone pavers. A hedge, planted alternately with *Thuja occidentalis* and *Euonymus elatus*, defines the gateway to the square. Call Oslund and Associates on 001 612 359 9144 or visit www.oaala.com

Oslund and Associates

LONDON-BASED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS WHITELAW + TURKINGTON take pride in their reputation for creating urban designs that focus on 'memorable places with a distinct identity' and take the needs of the community into account at every stage of the process. Over the course of the next three years, Whitelaw + Turkington will oversee the development of Dublin's Balcurris Park, 11 acres of parkland that lie at the heart of the Ballymun regeneration project, a large area of housing renewal on the outskirts of the city. The park's design reflects the geology and ancient landform of Ireland, as well as the Cauldron of Rebirth, one of the most powerful symbols of regeneration in Irish mythology, which was believed to restore warriors to life, allowing them to rise as strong as before.

In keeping with Whitelaw + Turkington's design philosophy, Balcurris Park will accommodate a range of facilities for all ages, including sports pitches, a bowling green, a climbing wall, and a programme of public arts. Indigenous species of trees, such as *Betula pendula* and *Fagus sylvatica* will form the backbone of the planting, underplanted with woodland wildflowers – red campion, wild primrose and ragged robin – and a sunken osier bed (a willow bed) will be part of the system of sustainable urban drainage of open channels, rills and planted swales.

For more information contact Whitelaw + Turkington on 01924 384501.

Whitelaw and Turkington