

# Chelsea garden celebrates Islam

## Designer uses her skills to fight back against extremists

Tim Stewart

A CHELSEA Flower Show garden has been designed to celebrate Islamic culture.

Dubai-born designer Kamelia Bin Zaal's contemporary garden will boast white marble from Turkey engraved with Arabic poetry and a sculpture representing Koranic verse.

There will be orange, olive, fig and pomegranate trees and plants such as cardamom, pepper and turmeric to reflect the growth of the Arab empire through the spice trade.

Ms Bin Zaal said the perception of Islam had been damaged by the atrocities committed by Islamic State extremists. She wants to highlight "true Arab culture, heritage and religion".

The 39-year-old, who studied garden design at London's Ingham School of Design before returning to Dubai, said: "Islam is a peaceful religion and accepting of other religions and cultures.

"It is very sad when you see the image of Islam being taken away from what it really is in terms of the Koran - because of a minority of extremists. I really want to



Inspired: Kamelia Bin Zaal wants her design, above, to show the peaceful side of her religion



share the positives of our religion. It was always my dream to design a contemporary Islamic garden at Chelsea."

Ms Bin Zaal, who grew up in Cambridge and is the creative director behind the landscaping of luxury residential complexes in Dubai, is making her debut at next year's Royal Horticultural Society event.

RHS director general Sue Biggs said:

"The garden references Islam in a beautiful way. It has a positive message. There's always topical interest, not just beautiful gardens, at Chelsea."

Ms Bin Zaal's garden is being sponsored by her father's Dubai property development company Al Barari Firm Management.

The show runs from May 19-23 with tickets on sale on December 1.

## 'Wrong Direction' pair to pay £88k

A MARRIED couple who made fake One Direction merchandise in their shed have been ordered to pay £88,825 in fines, costs and a confiscation order after being convicted of cheating Cancer Research UK. Jason and Natalie Robertson, of Sutton, sold fake Race for Life goods as well as items showing singer Harry Styles, above. They were sentenced at Croydon crown court in September for 12 violations of the Trade Marks Act 1994.



## Comedian Evans to retire aged 50

COMEDIAN Lee Evans is to retire when his 65-night UK tour ends this month. The 50-year-old, right, made his decision after the sudden death of his manager Addison Cresswell, who suffered a heart attack at the age of 53. Evans said: "He used to put his arm around me and said 'I'll look after you'." The ex-boxer announced his plan on Jonathan Ross's ITV show, which is set to air on Saturday night.



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