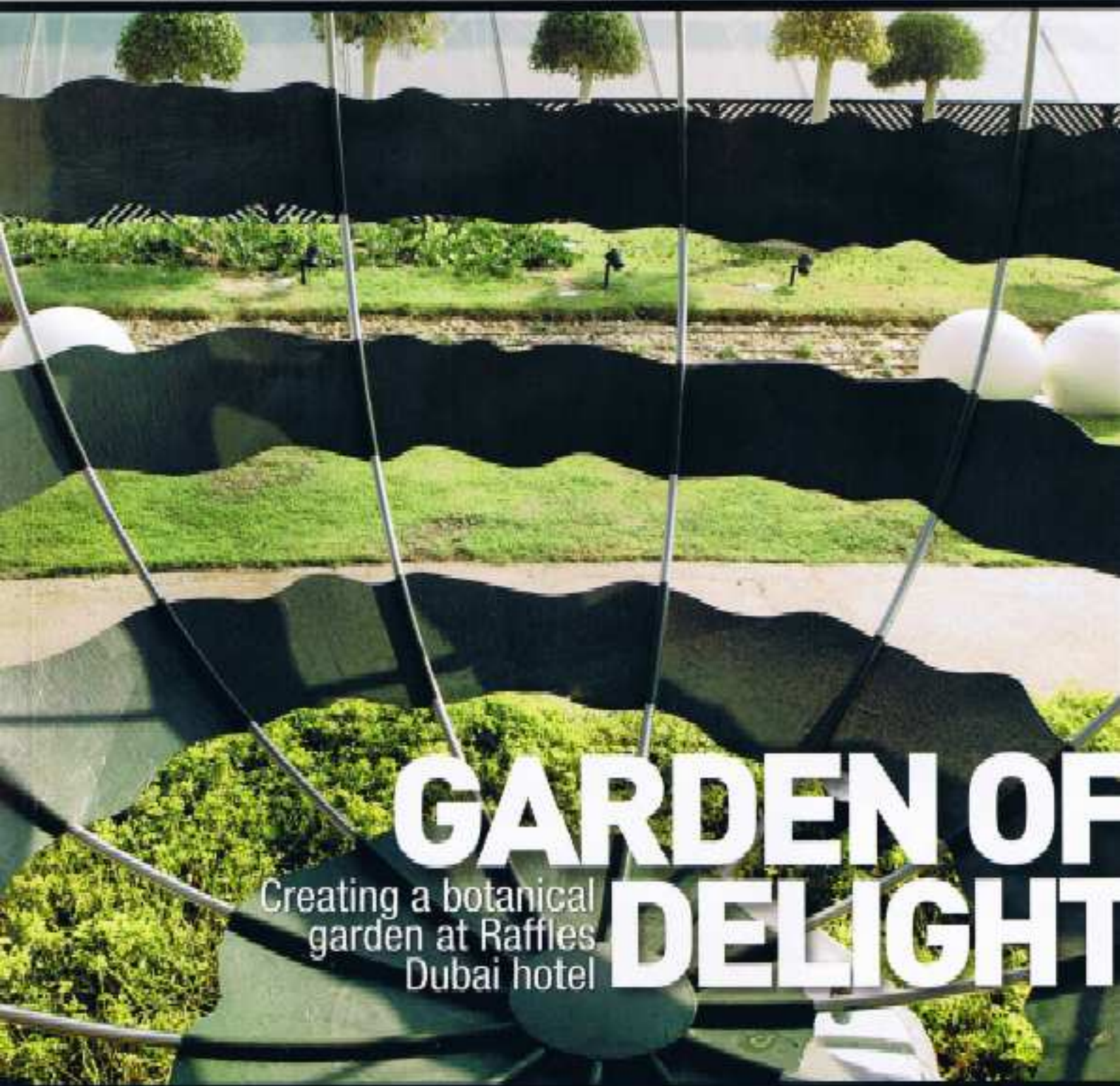


COMMERCIAL

# Outdoor design

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The essential guide for landscape architects and outdoor design professionals



## GARDEN OF DELIGHT

Creating a botanical garden at Raffles Dubai hotel

**INTERVIEW** Burt, Hill's Sara Moore / **STACKING THE DECKS** Selecting the right materials for winning exteriors / **EXPERT VIEW** Future trends in outdoor design / **URBAN PLANNING** The challenges ahead for large-scale developments



“Everyone here knows about Burma teak but there is so much more on the market



### TRADITIONAL CHOICES

Various types of wood are used for decking, but hard wood is the most in demand by the market here, especially teak wood. Teak wood is available from different parts of the world, but it is Burma teak which is most popular in this region, according to suppliers.

“Here they mostly go for real wood and they all want to have this Burma teak. This is a hardwood and really good for the climate here,” says Kristin Scheffer, CEO of outdoor flooring specialist Rohmia International. The high humidity in the Gulf can cause some woods to absorb moisture and warp, meaning any wood used for outdoor decking in the region must perform well in this respect.

1. Rohmia International's teak decking was selected for the Raffles Hotel in Dubai.

2. Decking is particularly popular for use around swimming pool areas.

3. The Park Hyatt in Dubai uses decking for its terrace.

Burma teak also corresponds well to the request for luxury in this region, adds Scheffer. “Burma teak has a warm brownish-orange look when it is fresh, and turns into a silver-grey when laid outside and left untreated. This silver-grey tone is elegant and classy,” she says.

One of the problems with Burma teak at the moment, however, is that the Burmese government is restricting its supply out of the country. Other concerns include how teak from Burma is logged, with some environmental groups accusing the government of using forced labour to harvest the timber.

As a result, not only is Burma teak becoming something of a scarce commodity, but the limited availability is pushing

#### New bollard range from Urbaco

French company Urbaco introduced its new range of retractable, pneumatic bollards to the region at the Big 5 show.

A unique selling point of the Lazor range is that it has an illuminated ring and an alarm system to raise awareness as it rises into position and increase its visibility. The bollard is suitable for commercial or residential use, the company said. Use of bollards in this region has become increasingly popular as security in the region increases, according to the firm.

[www.urbaco.com](http://www.urbaco.com)  
Tel: +33 491 480808



#### Ego launches modular furniture range

French-based company Ego has developed a new range of outdoor furniture. Called Kuma, the unique factor of the modular furniture range is that it can be altered to form loungers as well as bed and sofa arrangements by simply moving the cushions. Ego has supplied its products to some of the biggest hotel developments in the Gulf, including the Shangri La hotel in Abu Dhabi.

[www.egoparis.com](http://www.egoparis.com)  
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