



National
Trust

Spirit of Stourhead

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Standing on the threshold of the garden, people pause and absorb the scene ahead. The balance of lake, temples, trees and sky were laid out over 300 years ago and is still much beloved today. For many, this view represents Stourhead, an ideal of beauty and a sense of perfection. Yet this place is much more than a garden, a house, or a single famous view.

Stourhead is a grand, intelligently designed landscape set deliberately amongst the rolling hills and is steeped in history. Here people still live and toil as rivers rise, forests grow and a village sits in a valley while iron-age hill forts sit proudly on flower-rich downland.

It is a series of surprises, a most particular and influential style as well as a family home and working estate. Stourhead was conceived and nurtured by three wise members of the Hoare banking family, making brave and innovative decisions. They were inspired by a taste for Italy, art and antiquity from the house to the temples of the pleasure-ground and the spectacular views enjoyed within.

Spending time within this living work of art, inspires body, mind and spirit, offers light and shade and leads us on and out along many paths. It is a journey for all that engages the senses, steadies the soul and restores the spirits. It is a place to treasure and share in all moods and every season.

Stourhead has drawn generations of visitors from its very beginning to dwell in the landscape and connect with it as their own. It compels us to take the journey and calls us to think or just to be there.

1. An inspiring view in an ancient landscape connecting past and present
2. A journey of discovery that has compelled and awed visitors for 300 years.
3. A family's living work of art ...style, taste, collection and design

Redrafted after LL/SO/HJ/LC/EB/ ES/AP