Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH)

Alan George Trott

“The art of gardening is a complex and difficult one in many dimensions. It cannot be collected or sold at Sotheby’s, but it is art none the less. For a garden is a personal thing, a part of its creator. Like any true work of art it is his own expression of the meaning of existence, but unlike the plastic arts it is ephemeral: with him it will die”.

To me the greatest achievement of the garden, and where Alan’s plantsmanship can most clearly be seen, is that the plants and their relationship to each other form the structure of the garden, yet each is allowed to speak for itself. They are not simply blobs of colour akin to decoration on an iced cake.

Yes, there are hard elements and a few discrete pieces of sculpture, but these have not been allowed to dominate. It is a garden, not a sculpture park.

In moving a chapel, happily named the Brantwood Chapel, thus retaining a clue to former owners of local land and links back to the UK, Alan has shown great vision. The chapel has been lovingly restored and introduces an element of human activity and spirituality beyond appreciation of the garden and its plants.

References


Citation prepared by Dr Keith Hammett