Beware Profit-Driven Lobbyists When it Comes to Housing Policy

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Talented plantsman Darren Topps is aowering presence at the Lismore estate's revivals of gardens.

For more than the two decades, Darren Topps, the 6th Duke of Devonshire’s gardener, has been facilitating the transformation of the 17th-century estate into one that is both sustainable and productive. The Lismore Castle Garden in Co. Waterford, Ireland, is a testament to Topps’s vision and dedication to reviving the estate's original glory.

The garden, which dates back to the 1620s, was laid out by Richard Boyle, the 1st Earl of Cork and was designed by the landscape architect John Fountain. Topps has been working diligently to bring the garden back to its former glory, focusing on maintaining a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach.

Topps has introduced various sustainable practices in the gardens, which have contributed to the garden's resilience. Grass ecology and has overseen a switch to more sustainable practices in the gardens. Grass management, for instance, has involved the use of mulches and grass-cycling methods, leading to a healthy and vibrant garden.

The garden is now home to a variety of plants, including magnolias, which are currently blooming in their full beauty. The garden has also been transformed into a more accessible space, with the creation of a new entrance and the use of recycled materials for pathways and seating areas.

The planting is temporary and will be redone this winter with more permanent features, thanks to annuals and biennials. One area, previously laid out in box-edged beds, has been given over to flowers. The look is now one of a fragrant and colorful space filled with annuals and biennials, which will continue to bloom throughout the year.

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