My name is Richard Wilford, and I'm Head of Garden Design at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. And I was the designer of the Evolution Garden.

So this is the Evolution Garden. It's where we've arranged plants according to how they've evolved. So, it's a series of different rooms, garden rooms, and each of those garden rooms contains a group of plants that are all closely related. And the idea is to show how plants have evolved through time.

This part of Kew for a long time has been a place where plant classification is shown, but what I was asked to do was bring it right up to date. So, making use of the kind of latest technology, and the study of DNA that's given us a whole new way of looking at how plants have evolved. So, my brief really was to try and put what we call the plant tree of life into living form on the grounds. So to kind of lay out the whole planting so that it showed how plants have evolved through time.

The inspiration was really the work of Kew Science. When it comes to the results of the research, there are some surprises.

You’ll find out that a rose that you may grow in your garden is related to something like *Alchemilla* which you may well know, but it's a completely different look. It's also fairly closely related to stinging nettles, which you may never have thought of. So, that kind of mixture of familiar, and unfamiliar, is something I really like doing.

The plants I've chosen for this garden are plants that will do well outside at Kew. So they've got to be hardy. They don't want to be killed by the frost. So, it's mostly hardy herbaceous perennials which are plants that mostly die down for the winter. But they do really well in the open garden at Kew. So, looking at that group of plants, I went out to find things that kind of represented the different groups. And that was the hardest part really, trying to get the whole range of different flower types within herbaceous perennials that can grow outside at Kew.

So, when you come and visit the Evolution Garden, you're in for a visual treat. There's lots of colour, loads of flowers, and I think as you walk through the different garden rooms, you'll get a different feel depending on what group of plants are growing there.

Some plants will be covered in bees pollinating the flowers, other plants will be kind of wafting in the breeze like grasses, which will make a nice rustling sound. So there's a real sensory experience throughout. But the visual treat is kind of the highlight really.

Throughout the year, there'll be something flowering. Obviously, the peak is in the summer. But there will be a lot of spring bulbs. All colours, all types of flowers. There's no real theme in terms of colour. It’s just a real mixture of different plants. Towards the autumn, you'll get a lot of the daisy family flowering. And you'll get a lot of yellows and reds, and russet colours at that time of year. In the spring, there'll be a lot of yellows, and pinks, the daffodils, tulips. The sages in early summer which are often blue, or purple. But it really does vary throughout the year.

I think as you walk through the Evolution Garden, the most impressive thing for me is the diversity of flowers and plants that you'll see in what is relatively a small space when you look at the whole of Kew. The huge diversity of flowers, a whole range of colours all within a small space, and not only is that telling a great story, but it just looks like a really inviting garden to come and sit in.