

'Certain gardens are described as retreats when they are really attacks.'

IAN HAMILTON FINLAY

Set in the Pentland Hills, south of Edinburgh, Little Sparta is greatest work of the artist Ian Hamilton Finlay (1925–2006). The garden, first planted fifty years ago, is created out of the natural landscape, a beautiful and shaded place, with trees, flower beds, running streams, bridges, ponds, and paths, which lead you past more than two hundred artworks, many of them carved with inscriptions that will take you into the world of classical Greece and Rome, poetry and philosophy, but also the French Revolution, naval ships, armed conflict, and weapons of war.

This is a garden of surprises, where you are the explorer, and new ideas are encountered at every turn. A guidebook is available for purchase at our reception area if you require it – but in the end your own curiosity is by far the best guide to this magical place.



LITTLE SPARTA is open from 12.30 to 5 pm on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, June to September. Saturdays from July

ADMISSION £12.50 adults
£7.50 students and Young Scot card-holders.
Group appointments (and group rates) available.

ACCESS Please enquire regarding access for the disabled: contact@littlesparta.co.uk

FROM EDINBURGH Follow the A702 as far as Dolphinton, where there is a right turn to Dunsyre. Follow signs to Dunsyre (about 3 miles). About a mile after passing through Dunsyre, Little Sparta's car park is on the right hand side.

FROM GLASGOW Leave the M8 at junction 6 for the A73, then turn left onto the A721 at Carluke; continue to Newbigging where there is a left turn to Dunsyre. After about 3 miles, and before you reach Dunsyre, Little Sparta's car park is on the left.



More information is available at www.littlesparta.org.uk/visit



Front cover photograph by Robin Gillanders · Other photography by Andrew Lawson
Designed by Dalrymple

LITTLE SPARTA

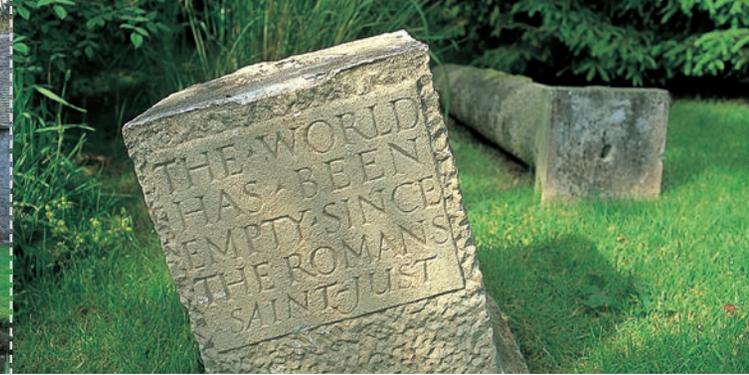
*The Garden of
Ian Hamilton Finlay*



'The only really original garden made in this country since 1945.'

SIR ROY STRONG

www.littlesparta.org.uk

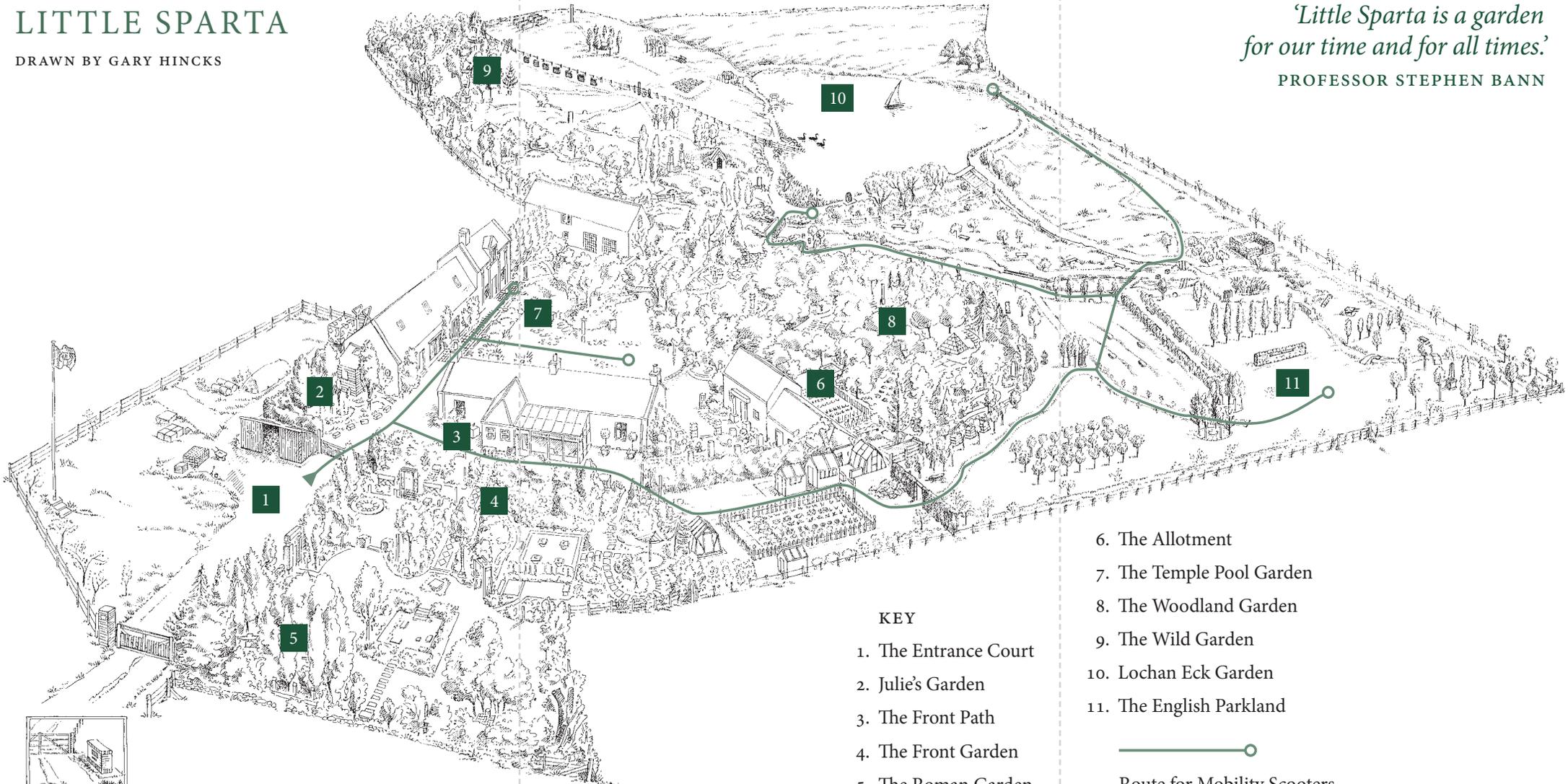


LITTLE SPARTA

DRAWN BY GARY HINCKS

*'Little Sparta is a garden
for our time and for all times.'*

PROFESSOR STEPHEN BANN



KEY

- 1. The Entrance Court
- 2. Julie's Garden
- 3. The Front Path
- 4. The Front Garden
- 5. The Roman Garden

- 6. The Allotment
 - 7. The Temple Pool Garden
 - 8. The Woodland Garden
 - 9. The Wild Garden
 - 10. Lochan Eck Garden
 - 11. The English Parkland
- Route for Mobility Scooters

