

A lush garden scene featuring a pond in the foreground with lily pads and tall green reeds. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees, some with small red flowers. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and natural.

**TATTON
PARK
BIENNIAL
2008**

Nicky Coutts

A Tower in the Minds of Others

garden sheds and tower crane

Japanese and Chinese pagodas developed from the Indian *Stupa* (tombs where the bones of saints and heroes are buried beneath a central pole). The housing of collections of bones evolved to become collections of sacred objects in the pagodas that followed.

The development of the *Stupa* into the Pagoda comes allegedly as a result of a confusion of languages reminiscent of that most famous of fictional towers: the Tower of Babel. In Southeast Asia, *Stupa* were referred to as *Chaitya*, meaning where the holy resides. Through successive mispronunciations *Chaitya* became *Pagoda*, which indicates 'a religious tall structure (like a tower)'. The Pagoda was therefore born of a transgression of language for the purpose of housing collections of spiritually charged objects within a landscaped environment.

Nicky Coutts' Tower for Tatton Park reaches up five storeys, offering a new, hybridised consideration of the nearby Japanese Garden, which was originally created by a team of Japanese workmen around 1910. Asking what happens during the process of translation between cultures in a project like the Japanese Garden, Coutts has built her Pagoda, with typical English garden sheds, echoing the garden itself as a meeting place of two contrasting viewpoints. The Tower reflects the housing of one cultural collection within another, suggesting both the separation and incorporation of unfamiliar botanical species within local landscapes and environments.



working drawing by Fiona Sadler, Architect, FKDA



view of Japanese Garden



site view from cherry picker