

in conversation with...

Tim Smit



The head of the world's largest greenhouses talks sunlight, sustainability and the spirit of Eden

interview **Clare Gogerty**

The Eden Project in Cornwall celebrates its fifth birthday this year. Tim Smit, its CEO, has been its motor and visionary from the beginning. Having a successful career under his belt (in the music industry) stood him in good stead for his future projects: the rediscovery and restoration of the Lost Gardens of Heligan, now one of Britain's top attractions, and the Eden Project, which he describes as a 'living theatre of plants, people and possibilities'.

Keen to open visitors' eyes to the central role that plants play in our lives, he is constantly looking

for new ways to make horticulture interesting. 'Plants can be turned into very sexy things if they are articulated in the right way to people,' he says. His latest project was the construction of The Core educational building at Eden, designed by Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners, and built, characteristically, with sustainability and energy efficiency in mind.

How have you harnessed the sun at Eden?

The sun was the reason to be here. The site was originally a clay pit and was sculpted on a north->>

view