FRAMING A FOCAL POINT

Where borders are wide and deep, it is easy to lose the sense of structure, particularly in summer when vegetation is at its thickest. A simple device, in such circumstances, is to create a strong focal point. The statue of the small boy is almost overshadowed by burgeoning growth and is subdued in hue, compared with the bright flower colours, and yet, one’s attention is immediately drawn to it. As soon as the eye comes to rest on the focal point, it discovers a psychological anchor and from that moment, the scene acquires form and therefore becomes more peaceful and relaxing.

There is plenty of room, here, for bold planting, so tall Digitalis purpurea (foxglove), lupins, Hemerocallis (day lily) and striking scarlet germs grow happily together; despite their colours being at odds. Campanula persicifolia (peach leaved bellflower) cool the scene, on the left hand side, contrasting their blue with Lysimachia (yellow loosestrife). Golden foliage, shrub roses and evergreens, though variable in colour, make a fine backdrop of more subdued hues that emphasise the colours of the herbaceous border in front.