Since 2014 Gustafson Porter + Bowman have been working on the concept design and development of the landscape for all phases of Chelsea Barracks in West London.

To define the relationship between the architecture and external spaces within the development, we began by referencing the surrounding urban character of Chelsea. This includes the red-brick buildings of the Cadogan Estate, parts of the Grosvenor Estate which sit adjacent to the site, and Pimlico, one of the oldest villages in Chelsea. Our design embodies timeless qualities in the use of historic railings, thoughtful planting, high-quality paving materials and urban furniture. The sequence of squares throughout the scheme evoke this character and continue the historic urban grid while providing a varied and engaging environment which encourages interaction between residents.

The masterplan embraces a variety of public squares and private gardens which respond to different environments across the site. Across all phases, the choice of materials and planting unifies the public realm providing a continuous identity, while the design and detailing of each space creates individual characters.

Dove Place connects Chelsea Barracks to Pimlico Village, announcing the latter as an art and design enclave whilst bringing people into the development. From Dove Place, a curved path guides people into Whistler Square, a calm and discrete space surrounded by townhouses. The Square is comprised of a water scrim along one side, with a sculptural planter rising from the ground. The scrim is retained by bronze and De Lank granite walls and has highly reflective properties, capturing the sky and flowering trees, thus bringing light into the space.

Continuing towards Mulberry Square, residents and visitors encounter a productive garden at the heart of the development. Taking inspiration from the work of Bridget Riley the garden is formed of rows of ornamental crops, flowers and herbs which present a constantly changing landscape throughout the year. The garden is framed by two lines of Malus and Pyrus trees and two long channels of water, with cascades at entry points to the square. Benches are provided to encourage lingering and enjoyment of the space.
Aligned with Ranelagh Grove, Mulberry Square acts as a major East-West pedestrian route through the development, leading into Garrison Square. It is conceived as a small piazza overlooked by the listed Garrison Chapel, an arcaded restaurant, and shops. It will be a vibrant cultural square that serves residents and the wider community.

Five Field Square is the largest public square. Set on axis with Orchard Square, two lines of trees flank an expanse of lawn, with primary pedestrian routes connecting through the square. While the traditional material palette and form is in keeping with other phases, the contemporary detailing of its elements provide an engaging character.

Bourne Walk links all six phases of the development and provides a continuously planted pedestrian route adjacent to the listed railings on Chelsea Bridge Road. Retained and mature Platinus hispanica (plane) trees foster a space for native woodland flora and fauna which create an ecology corridor that links the Thames with Sloane Square.