

Questions You'd Love To Ask...

**TIM AUSTEN**

**What's your idea of a romantic date?**

A meal out with my beautiful wife, Camelia in our favourite restaurant in Wicklow where we can escape the kids, work and the household chores for a while and catch up with each other over a glass of good wine and some tasty food. We usually share our food like a couple of lovey-dovey teenagers. Bliss!

**What did you want to be when you were little?**

I was really keen on being a postman for a while because I really fancied driving the green van. Later on, I began to enjoy gardening and I designed a little seating area in my parents' garden when I was in my early teens. I guess this was a foretaste of my garden design business, Austen Associates, and I now even have my own Austen Associates van, albeit a white one!

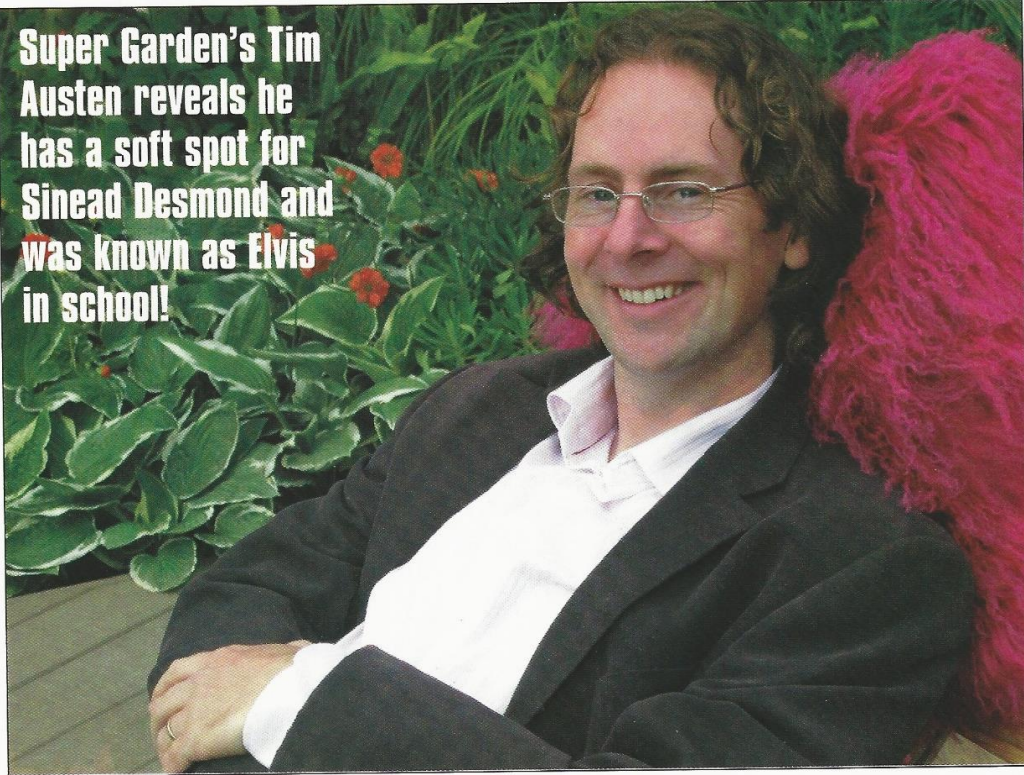
**What's your favourite day of the week?**

Ever the diplomat, I would never favour one day over another! I try to enjoy every day equally. However, my big mistake is that I usually try to pack too much into each day and I don't know when to just sit-back and relax, even at the weekend.

**What's the most embarrassing thing that's ever happened to you?**

How about my college geography lecturer waking me up at

**Super Garden's Tim Austen reveals he has a soft spot for Sinead Desmond and was known as Elvis in school!**



9.30am one morning while on a field trip to say that the whole class had been waiting for me on the bus since 8.45am? To cap it off I was in my girlfriend's dorm. College days, you wouldn't swap them!

**Have you ever had a nickname?**

'Slim' Tim is the one my friends most often use. I was also known as Elvis for a while at school, as I mistakenly quiffed my hair one day. The nickname certainly did not come from my singing and dancing skills!

**What physically do you dislike about yourself?**

Well, for garden design you have to be able to swap between the desk work and the physical work out on site. I often find that I am pulling muscles as my body is not able to switch easily between the different physical requirements of each. If it's not mouse strain at the computer it's back strain caused by lifting a heavy tree into position.

**Have you ever had your heart broken?**

Never in a really dramatic way, although I have kicked myself for being a slow mover - on one occasion I did not have the courage to ask a girl out who seemed to like me and then ended up losing out to someone

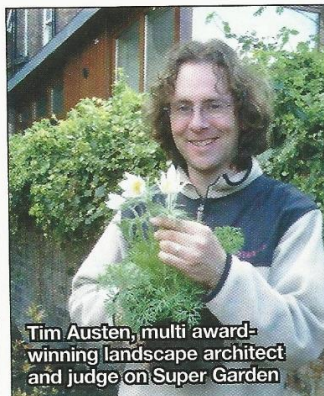
else. Still, I did not make that mistake twice; I made sure that I did not miss out on Camelia.

**Who was the last person to text you and what did they say?**

It was my wife asking me to pick up some milk on the way home from work. The kids and I are big breakfast cereal eaters and we get grumpy if we don't have our bowl in the morning - we absolutely need milk for our early morning fix!

**How much cash do you have in your wallet right now?**

About €30, just enough for an emergency milk purchase and it is also reserve money if I get



Tim Austen, multi award-winning landscape architect and judge on Super Garden

stuck out somewhere while on a garden design visit.

**Have you ever been chatted up by another celebrity?!**

Well, I have had a really good chat with Sinead Desmond from TV3 when she visited my garden at Bloom last year to do some filming. I must admit, though, that I think I might have been doing the chatting up on that occasion. She is a really nice person and she has great taste in gardens, too!