

BOOK REVIEWS



GARDENS UNDER BIG SKIES: REIMAGINING OUTDOOR SPACE, THE DUTCH WAY

by Noel Kingsbury, photographs
by Maayke de Ridder

Filbert Press, £40
ISBN 978-1999734596

A fascinating exploration of contemporary Dutch gardens and the landscapes and rich cultural history that inspired their designers.

Reviewer Hannah Gardner is a horticulturist and garden writer.

The Netherlands has a global influence on contemporary horticulture but have you ever wondered how this came about? In this wide-ranging book we learn how extensive land reclamation and heavy engineering artificially shaped the low-lying Dutch landscape. That a growing awareness of the environmental cost of these measures led to a dynamic tension between familiar orderly straight lines and the desire to recreate naturalistic spaces. Throughout the 20th century this provoked a bold, pioneering attitude to design and sparked radical public projects such as the Dr Jac P Thijsssepark.

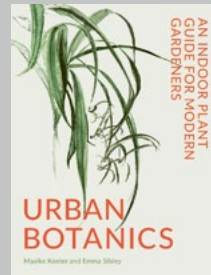
Author Noel Kingsbury has a long and meaningful relationship with the country. He is an outstanding educator and leading figure in naturalistic planting design with strong connections to the foremost designers of the Dutch Wave. The appeal of the naturalistic garden, a space that

captures some of the beauty of wild vegetation and creates habitats for wildlife has swept through contemporary design across the globe, driven by key figures in the 1990s and the influential gatherings, or Grass Days, held at Hummelo, the garden of Piet Oudolf. This book is also about the time before and after the Dutch Wave. I particularly enjoyed Kingsbury's consideration of modernist landscape architect Mien Ruys, who democratised garden culture – 'while she was undoubtedly a genius, she was also the right person in the right place at the right time.'

The layout and organisation of material is outstanding, which befits the highly organised and efficient Dutch approach. People are very much part of this journey of discovery, and four Dutch designers are profiled within each of the three main sections. The text is accompanied by useful design drawings and Maayke de Ridder's well-considered images.

Other books

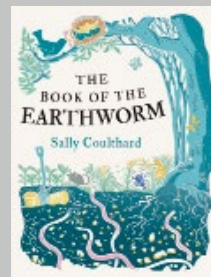
Get down with the earthworms, explore Rousham's deserted gardens or brush up on indoor planting, with these other titles.



URBAN BOTANICS

by Emma Sibley, illustrations
by Maaike Koster,
White Lion Publishing, £12.99,
ISBN 978-0711268678

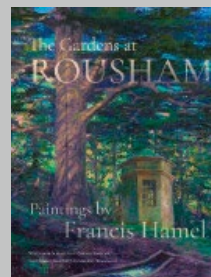
In this revised edition, stunning illustrations of indoor plants are combined with useful information on care, origins and fellow species.



THE BOOK OF THE EARTHWORM

by Sally Coulthard,
Head of Zeus, £9.99,
ISBN 978-1838939601

A brilliant and detailed book on the vital role earthworms play in our gardens and fields, with a wealth of information on these hard-working and misunderstood creatures.



THE GARDENS AT ROUSHAM

by Francis Hamel,
Clearview, £30,
ISBN 978-1908337610

An extraordinary collection of paintings of the famed Oxfordshire garden by the artist Francis Hamel, who has lived and worked there for the past 25 years.



BETH CHATTO'S GREEN TAPESTRY REVISITED

by Beth Chatto et al,
Berry & Co, £30,
ISBN 978-999963163

A completely revised edition of Beth Chatto's famous book, with stunning new photography and an updated guide to her gardens.



BEYOND WILD

by Raymond Jungles and Michael
Van Valkenburgh, Monacelli Press,
£50, ISBN 978-1580935821

The fourth in a series of monographs on contemporary landscape architect Raymond Jungles.

Correction In our review of *The Garden Book*, published by Phaidon, in the October issue of *Garden Illustrated* (issue 305), we wrongly credited its authorship. This should have read 'consultant editor Tim Richardson, contributors Toby Musgrave, Bill Noble, Clare Foster et al'. We apologise for this error.