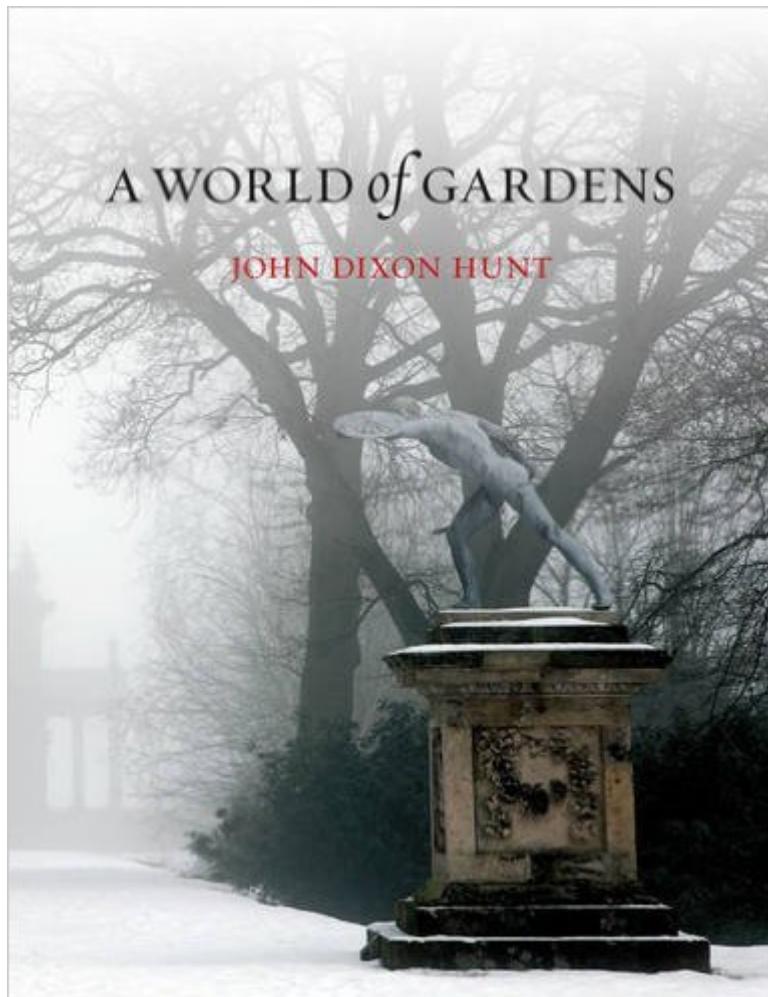


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A World Of Gardens



Synopsis

A Japanese garden is immediately distinct to the eye from the traditional gardens of an English manor house, just as the manicured topiaries of Versailles contrast with the sharp cacti of the American Southwest. Though gardening is beloved the world over, the style of gardens themselves varies from region to region, determined as much by culture as climate. In this series of illustrated essays, John Dixon Hunt takes us on a world tour of different periods in the making of gardens. Hunt shows here how cultural assumptions and local geography have shaped gardens and their meaning. He explores our continuing responses to land and reworkings of the natural world, encompassing a broad range of gardens, from ancient Roman times to early Islamic and Mughal gardens, from Chinese and Japanese gardens to the invention of the public park and modern landscape architecture. A World of Gardens looks at key chapters in garden history, reviewing their significance past and present and tracing the recurrence of different themes and motifs in the design and reception of gardens throughout the world. A World of Gardens celebrates the idea that similar experiences of gardens can be found in many different times and places, including sacred landscapes, scientific gardens, urban gardens, secluded gardens, and symbolic gardens. Featuring two hundred images, this book is a treasure trove of ideas and inspiration, whether your garden is a window box, a secluded backyard, or a daydream.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Occasionally a master writes a masterpiece. Hunt has taken a lifetime of study and given the world

a book to cherish. Having taught landscape architecture history for many years, this book satisfies my great need to understand how the events and people who designed gardens and landscapes worth remembering are still important to current issues of design. Types of places are presented with clear, jargon-free language and precisely chosen images that lead the reader through the history of primarily Western places, although the chapters on Chinese and Japanese gardens inform the Western reader well. The bibliographic footnotes are of particular importance. Here key volumes and their relevance form a list of authors who have contributed to the field's scholarship - books all landscape architecture and architecture history professors should know well, and students should dedicate themselves to reading from start to finish. This is also a book written for the 21st century reader where basic information easily available online is passed over for the rich perspectives Hunt brings to a full range of topics. I highly recommend this book to the student and professional interested in history and in understanding why we look to history at all.

This is largely a consideration of garden design, essentially landscape architecture. It examines mostly British, French and Italian designs, but does have chapters on Japanese gardens, some sacred sites (not just religious) and others. I think the most interesting chapter is on Islamic and Mughal (that it, the Muslim dynasty long ruling India) is the most interesting portion of the book. The illustrations are excellent. The text is a bit academic in style, tilting to the views, vocabulary and concepts of landscape designers. It is a pleasant read and will deepen a reader's sense of garden variety.

My husband loves gardens and he saw this book when we visited Longwood Gardens. I decided to surprise him and buy this book for him - which he thinks is wonderful. He would highly recommend this garden book.

excellent collection of stand-alone essays.

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