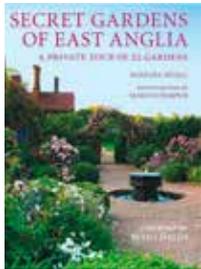


Books

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Secret Gardens of East Anglia

Barbara Segall

144pp, 2017, Frances Lincoln,
ISBN 9780711238596, RRP £20

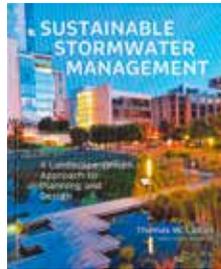
East Anglia is known for big skies and wide horizons, attributes that have attracted generations of landscape artists to the region. Those same features have drawn in a good share of notable gardeners, including plantswoman Beth Chatto, who provides the foreword for this beautiful book.

Of the 22 gardens selected, some will be known to garden enthusiasts, in particular those open to the public such as the eclectic East Ruston Old Vicarage in Norfolk. Others may seem familiar but are less heralded than they should be, and a few are truly 'secret' and rarely open to visitors. There is a broad variety of gardens on offer, from the tiny – the city courtyard at Norfolk Terrace, Cambridge – to the grandly historic gardens at Helmingham Hall, Suffolk.

What they share is enthusiastic and engaged owners. The author paints the story of each garden's development with lively and concise text. Bringing the garden owners and makers to the centre of the story means this is a book about gardens and people, and is all the better for it, giving substance rather than simply being a collection of pretty pictures.

Larger gardens are afforded greater space in the book, allowing plenty of room for Marcus Harpur's exquisite photography, but the smaller ones have been shot with just as much care and attention to detail. Harpur passed away last year at a tragically young age, depriving the gardening world of one of its finest photographers. This book is a fitting testament to his work, and a fine celebration of these 'secret' gardens. ○

Matthew Wilson is a garden and landscape designer, writer and broadcaster



Sustainable Stormwater Management

Thomas W Liptan

288pp, 2017, Timber Press,
ISBN 9781604694864, RRP £40

This book covers a topical area: the introduction of largely vegetative solutions in urban landscapes with the aim of aiding stormwater management. It is a visually rich guide, with numerous, well-chosen images to illustrate the key points discussed.

Its main strength is the presentation of a range of case studies of stormwater management in urban areas. Based largely on the author's experiences in the USA and local expertise including policies and costs, these case studies include rain gardens, stormwater planters, parking lots, vegetative roofs and walls, as well as examples of non-vegetative solutions such as permeable pavings.

As a scientist I found some repetition and overlap of ideas from chapter to chapter. Writing in some sections flowed more easily than others. This, however, does not take away from book's contribution to this field, particularly in practice.

I especially appreciated suggestions and ideas that inform more naturalistic plant design for stormwater management, which reduces maintenance costs and thus, presumably, increases likelihood of such measures being implemented. The book's biggest potential contribution is in offering a large and varied array of practical examples, as well as ideas for vegetative interventions that are both possible and effective in an urban context. ○

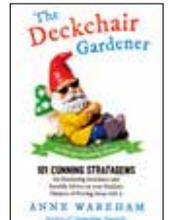
Tijana Blanuša is RHS Principal Horticultural Scientist

Water-wise gardening at RHS Gardens Hyde Hall and Harlow Carr: see feature, p46.

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Anne Wareham,
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Michael O'Mara
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A selection of Japanese house-plant projects.
Alyson Mowat,
144pp, 2017,
Kyle Books
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RRP £12.99



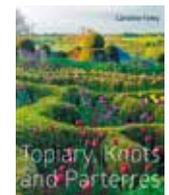
The Salad Garden

An updated guide to salad growing.
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288pp, 2017,
Frances Lincoln
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Topiary, Knots and Parterres

A history of topiary.
Caroline Foley,
288pp, 2017,
Pimpernel Press
ISBN 9781910258187
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RHS Price £45

Ancient Oaks

Oak trees in the English landscape.
Aljos Farjon, 348pp,
2017, Kew Publishing
ISBN 9781842466407
RRP £30



This book will be reviewed in *The Plantsman*, March 2018.