

WORDS AND PICTURES

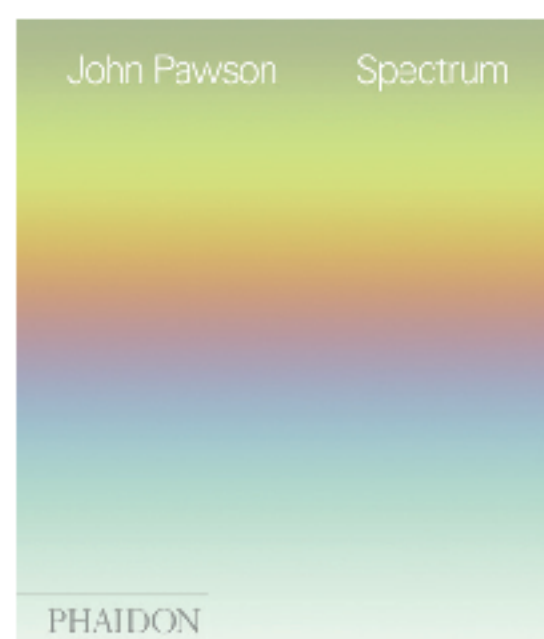
What to read: the latest books chosen by **ELIZABETH METCALFE**



HAUTE BOHEMIANS

BY MIGUEL FLORES-VIANNA (Vendome, £45)

Photographer Miguel Flores-Vianna takes us on a tour of 20 creatives' houses around the world, in countries such as Morocco, Argentina and Italy. Illustrated with full-page images, the book captures a wonderful laid-back aesthetic, documenting houses that are full of charm and curiosity. EM



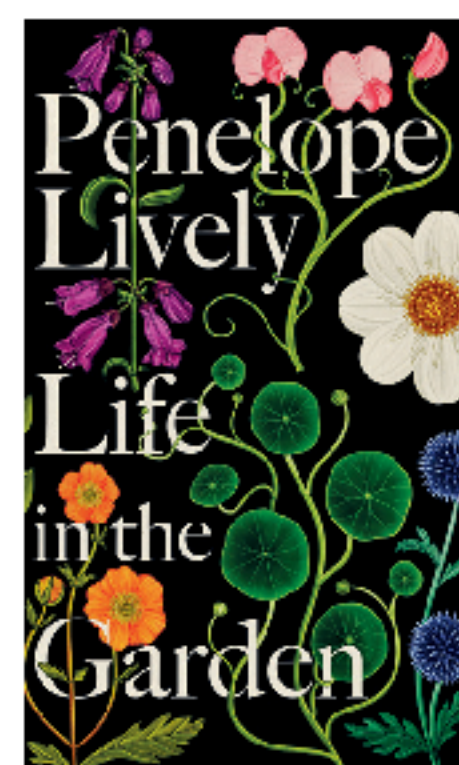
SPECTRUM

by John Pawson

(Phaidon, £45)

Colour may not be the first thing that springs to mind when you think of the British architectural designer John Pawson, who is famed for

his clean-lined minimalist buildings. But this new book of photographs, all taken by John on a digital camera or iPhone, sheds light on his interest in colour, texture and pattern. Arranged by colour, the images show the fragments that influence John's work - from stone steps in Vienna to pink heather on the North Yorkshire Moors. **EM**



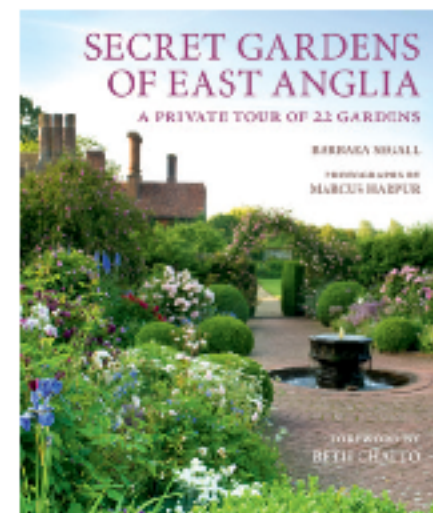
LIFE IN THE GARDEN

by Penelope Lively

(Fig Tree, £14.99)

As author Penelope Lively writes in the introduction, 'The two central activities in my life - alongside writing - have been reading and gardening.' This charming memoir

brings together all three. Penelope muses on the significant role gardens play in her life, writing about her own green oases, as well as fictional gardens in works by writers such as Virginia Woolf, Frances Hodgson Burnett and Daphne du Maurier. **EM** □



SECRET GARDENS OF EAST ANGLIA

by Barbara Segall

(Frances Lincoln, £20)

I concur with the opening comment Barbara Segall makes in the introduction to her book: 'The whole of East Anglia

is a rather secret, unsung place, off most people's beaten track.' I have never made the pilgrimage to the much-talked-about garden at East Ruston in the furthest reaches of Norfolk, and while looking through the pages of this book, I find many gardens that I have never heard of and I am now more than curious to see.

All 22 gardens in the book are privately owned and the text relays the charming personal stories surrounding each one: the acquisition of 42 acres to create a garden at Barnards Farm, for example, whose owner planned the landscape design from the air; or the transformation of a half-acre site around a renovated lighthouse in Norfolk. Reading about other people's gardening experiences is interesting and often heartening, and there are ideas aplenty to be gleaned from each story.

There are gardens large and small here, from the grand and elegant Helmingham Hall to the tiny town garden at 38 Norfolk Terrace in Cambridge. Some are built around ornament and structure - garden designer George Carter's, for example. Others are all about the plants, such as Ulting Wick in Essex, where swathes of tulips fill the beds in spring, or Pensthorpe in Norfolk, with epic-scale planting by Piet Oudolf. As Barbara writes: 'Visitors to the region can find every sort of garden inspiration here, be it bravura herbaceous borders, tongue-in-cheek topiary, sensitively sited artworks, ornamental kitchen gardens, romantic wildflower meadows or lovingly crafted detailing.'

Part of the joy of this book is the beautiful photography, by *House & Garden* contributor Marcus Harpur, who died of cancer last year aged 52. Happily, he was able to see an advance copy of this book. Marcus lived in Essex and was able to visit each site many times, getting to know the owners well and capturing the gardens in perfect dawn or dusk light. With panoramic views and close-up detail, the glossy images take the reader on a visual journey around each garden.

For anyone who lives in East Anglia, this book is a must for the coffee table and, for everyone else, it is an inspirational treat to entice us to explore the treasures the region has to offer. **Clare Foster**