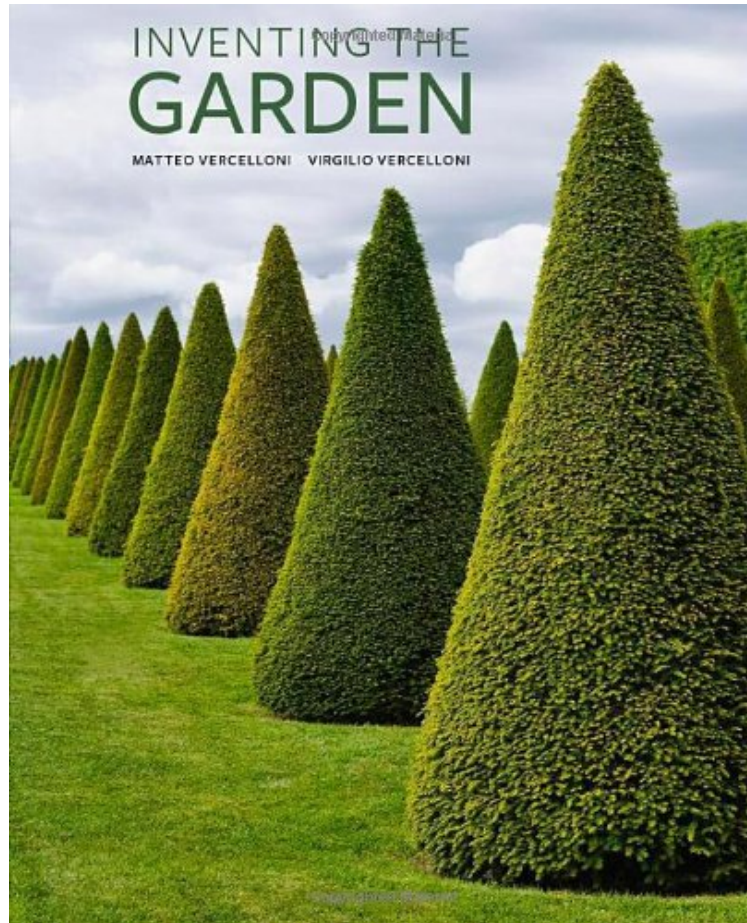


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Inventing the Garden

Matteo Vercelloni, Virgilio Vercelloni
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Matteo Vercelloni, Virgilio Vercelloni : Inventing the Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Inventing the Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gorgeous. Informative.By Eugene UnderwoodA fresh take on the history of gardens with remarkably well-done photography. Gorgeous. Informative.

The authors trace the evolution of the Western garden from the first plots cultivated for pleasure in the Middle East to todays diverse green spaces that challenge traditional ideas about what constitutes a garden. They examine the changing attitude toward natureas something to be dominated or embraced, ordered or allowed to range freely, exploited or conserved. Examples of the highly prescribed hortus conclusus or enclosed spaces of the Middle Ages are found in the Italian Renaissance gardens and the symmetries of Versailles and Les Tuileries. After the rise of Romanticism in the late eighteenth century, English gardeners such as William Kent and Capability Brown embraced the concept that nature should prevail over mans manipulation of it and created gardens that broke through traditional

enclosures. A century later, while the American West witnessed both the conquering spirit of the homesteaders and the first stirrings of the conservation movement, urban parks and gardens were created as oases to which all people had access. The book concludes with a look at contemporary gardens, where efforts to reclaim landscapes and repurpose crumbling infrastructure are taking place within an atmosphere of ecological sensitivity appreciating the idea that the whole planet is a garden and all who live in it are gardeners.

From Publishers Weekly A history of the garden is a history of civilization. With these Western gardens, architects Virgilio Vercelloni (1930-1995) and Matteo Vercelloni describe the development of the garden from ancient Persia to modern-day Manhattan. For the authors, gardens are never merely collections of plants. They are lenses through which we can perceive the aesthetics, intellectual fashions, and prevailing politics of the day. From ancient Persia to contemporary California, the authors tell the fascinating story of how gardens have been shaped by historic figures, architectural styles, scientific enthusiasms, and sociological and political movements. With its generous illustrations and large format (10-in. x 12-in.), it strikes a nice balance between being a scholarly survey of the field and a lavishly illustrated introduction. 428 color and bw illus. (Mar.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. A reader, running a finger along one of the winding garden paths in this volume, can get lost in reverie. *The Wall Street Journal*