

# A Philosophy Of Gardens

The Art and Philosophy of the Garden A Philosophy of Gardens A Philosophy of Gardens Philosophy in the Garden Gardening - Philosophy for Everyone Philosophy for Gardeners A Philosophy of Gardening European Gardens Gardening - Philosophy for Everyone Garden History Reading Zen in the Rocks Upon the Gardens of Epicurus Gardens Voltaire's Vine and Other Philosophies The German Mittelweg The Philosophy of Gardening : Essays Encyclopedia of Renaissance Philosophy History of Garden Art Garden Philosopher Garden History Reference Encyclopedia David E. W. Fenner David E. Cooper David Edward Cooper Damon Young Dan O'Brien Kate Collyns Katherine Casbeer Thomas Henry Duke Turner Dan O'Brien Tom Turner François Berthier William Temple Robert Pogue Harrison Damon Young Michael G. Lee Marco Sgarbi Marie-Luise Gothein Charles Matthias Goethe Tom Turner

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in the art and philosophy of the garden philosopher david fenner and botanist ethan fenner examine the philosophical ideas lying behind one of the most universal human activities they strip away our assumptions and take a close look at gardens starting with a definition of what a garden is and argue for a particularly way of understanding their aesthetic properties fenner and fenner make the case that many gardens have a claim to being legitimate works of art their comprehensive and accessible discussion contributes to the resurgence of the theory of gardens and gardening and will also interest any thoughtful person who cares about gardens

why do gardens matter so much and mean so much to people that is the intriguing question to which david cooper seeks an answer in this book given the enthusiasm for gardens in human civilization ancient and modern eastern and western it is

surprising that the question has been so long neglected by modern philosophy now at last there is a philosophy of gardens not only is this a fascinating subject in its own right it also provides a reminder that the subject matter of aesthetics is broader than the fine arts that ethics is not just about moral issues but about the good life and that environmental philosophy should not focus only on wilderness to the exclusion of the humanly shaped environment david cooper identifies garden appreciation as a special human phenomenon distinct from both the appreciation of art and the appreciation of nature he explores the importance of various garden practices and shows how not only gardening itself but activities to which the garden especially lends itself including social and meditative activities contribute to the good life and he distinguishes the many kinds of meanings that gardens may have from representation of nature to emotional expression from historical significance to symbolization of a spiritual relationship to the world building on the familiar observation that among human beings creations the garden is peculiarly dependent on the co operation of nature cooper argues that the garden matters as an epiphany of an intimate co dependence between human creative activity in the world and the mystery that allows there to be a world for them at all a philosophy of gardens will open up this subject to students and scholars of aesthetics ethics and cultural and environmental studies and to anyone with a reflective interest in things horticultural

why do gardens matter so much and mean so much to people cooper identifies garden appreciation as a special human phenomenon distinct from both the appreciation of art and the appreciation of nature

why did marcel proust have bonsai beside his bed what was jane austen doing coveting an apricot how was friedrich nietzsche inspired by his thought tree in philosophy in the garden damon young explores one of literature s most intimate relationships authors and their gardens for some the garden provided a retreat from workaday labour for others solitude s quiet counsel for all it played a philosophical role giving their ideas a new life philosophy in the garden reveals the profound thoughts discovered in parks backyards and pot plants it does not provide tips for mowing overgrown couch grass or mulching a dry japanese maple it is a philosophical companion to the garden s labours and joys

philosophy and gardens have been closely connected from the dawn of philosophy with many drawing on their beauty and peace for philosophical inspiration gardens in turn give rise to a broad spectrum of philosophical questions for the green fingered thinker this book reflects on a whole host of fascinating philosophical themes gardens and philosophy present a fascinating combination of subjects historically important and yet scarcely covered within the realms of philosophy contributions come from a wide range of authors ranging from garden writers and gardeners to those working in architecture archaeology archival studies art history anthropology classics and philosophy essays cover a broad spectrum of topics ranging from epicurus and confucius to the aesthetics and philosophy of central park offers new perspectives on the experience and evaluation of gardens

in philosophy for gardeners kate collyns uses aspects of gardening to introduce and explore a range of philosophical ideas and

schools of thought

there's more to a garden than meets the eye yet in the end it's the eye that counts everything adds up to beauty things that might otherwise be overlooked are all components of the beautiful flower garden i hope to challenge and entice the reader to enjoy and partake of the chinese proverb if one is to be happy all of his life first plant a garden katherine casbeer

this is the second of turner's books dealing with the history of garden design following on from asian gardens history beliefs and design published by routledge in 2010 european gardens history philosophy and design is an expanded version of the original garden history book published in 2005 it features new illustrations and additional text further details of all the gardens are available on the gardenvisit.com website which the author edits book jacket

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highly illustrated to present and explain in a most appealing way the historic styles of gardens with particular emphasis on the philosophy of garden design this carefully structured overview makes the large subject of garden history accessible to a wide range of readers the sections on history and philosophy are written as succinct essays illustrated with photographs or perspective drawings the essays deal with the ideas and historical conditions which led to the making of particular types of gardens the section on styles will focus on plan analysis and will be illustrated diagrams illu

the classic essay on the karesansui garden by french art historian berthier has now been translated by graham parkes giving english speaking readers a concise thorough and beautifully illustrated history of zen rock gardens 37 halftones

sir william temple diplomat statesman and writer retired to his garden in the 1680s and wrote what has become one of the key texts not only of gardening but also of the english aesthetic it was he who introduced the idea of the charm of irregularity and who gave it the allegedly chinese name sharawadgi the english style of landscape gardening can be traced in a direct line to this essay which has not been in print for over 95 years

humans have long turned to gardens both real and imaginary for sanctuary from the frenzy and tumult that surrounds them those gardens may be as far away from everyday reality as gilgamesh's garden of the gods or as near as our own backyard but in their very conception and the marks they bear of human care and cultivation gardens stand as restorative nourishing necessary havens with gardens robert pogue harrison graces readers with a thoughtful wide ranging examination of the many ways gardens evoke the human condition moving from the gardens of ancient philosophers to the gardens of homeless people in contemporary new york he shows how again and again the garden has served as a check against the destruction and losses of history the ancients explains harrison viewed gardens as both a model and a location for the laborious self cultivation and self improvement that are essential to serenity and enlightenment an association that has continued throughout the ages the bible and qur'an plato's academy and epicurus's garden school zen rock and islamic carpet gardens boccaccio rihaku capek cao xueqin italo calvino ariosto michel tournier and hannah arendt all come into play as this work explores the ways in which the concept and reality of the garden has informed human thinking about mortality order and power alive with the echoes and arguments of western thought gardens is a fitting continuation of the intellectual journeys of harrison's earlier classics forests and the dominion of the dead voltaire famously urged us to cultivate our gardens with this compelling volume robert pogue harrison reminds us of the nature of that responsibility and its enduring importance to humanity i find myself completely besotted by a new book titled gardens an essay on the human condition by robert pogue harrison the author is one of the very best cultural critics at work today he is a man of deep learning immense generosity of spirit passionate curiosity and manifold rhetorical gifts julia keller chicago tribune this book is about gardens as a metaphor for the human condition harrison draws freely and with brilliance from 5 000 years of western literature and criticism including works on philosophy and garden history he is a careful as well as an inspiring scholar tom turner times higher education when i was a student my cambridge supervisor said in the olympian tone characteristic of his kind that the only living literary critics for whom he would sell his shirt were william empson and g wilson knight having spent the subsequent 30 years in the febrile world of academic lit crit i'm not sure that i'd sell my shirt for any living critic but if there had to be one it would unquestionably be robert pogue harrison whose study forests the shadow of civilization published in 1992 has the true quality of literature not of criticism it stays with you like an amiable ghost long after you read it though more modest in scope this new book is similarly destined to become a classic it has two principal heroes the ancient philosopher epicurus and the wonderfully witty czech writer karel capek apropos of whom it is remarked that whereas most people believe gardening to be a subset of life gardeners including capek understand that life is a subset of gardening jonathan bate the spectator

why did marcel proust have bonsai beside his bed what was jane austen doing coveting an apricot how was friedrich nietzsche inspired by his thought tree philosopher damon reveals one of literature's most intimate relationships authors and their gardens for some the garden provided a retreat from workaday labour for others solitude's quiet counsel for all it played a philosophical role giving their ideas new life with lively prose and great stories young shows how gardens are much more than pretty ornaments or hobbies to kill the hours gardens plants and the great outdoors console or confront calm or animate tease or test

they can be an antidote to distraction and disorientation this insightful guide reveals the profound thoughts and ideas for living discovered by eleven famous writers in parks backyards and pot plants making it a colourful yet philosophical companion to the garden s toils and joys

in the 1790s a close knit group of german philosophers published several garden theory texts these works are unique in that a close knit group of philosophers had never before and has not since produced so many works on the topic of garden design in essence this cohort sought to imbue the most visionary concepts that had been inherited from the german garden tradition with the intellectual resources that were newly available through kant s critical philosophy the most important of these concepts was the prescription for a new mittelweg or middle path garden that would mediate between the perceived excesses of french formalism and the english picturesque in close analysis the author demonstrates that kant used similar middle path techniques in the design of his own critical path between dogmatism and skepticism this similarity is most apparent when he uses topographical metaphors to describe the organizational principles of his system by interpreting kant s topographical metaphors in relation to contemporary garden theories this book offers new insights into the structural similarities between his critical path and the german garden s middle path between french formalism and the english picturesque

for philosophizing gardeners and anyone who likes to pick up a spade and get their hands dirty gardeners discover a new world every year whether they re cultivating heirloom vegetables foraging for wild herbs creating a small permaculture garden on a city balcony or maintaining a plot for self sufficiency but why garden at all these personal essays by writers designers and master gardeners dig into gardening s philosophical dimensions and tend to the aesthetic cultural political and sociological implications of gardens and the people who keep them originally published in german this delightful volume addresses gardening s most deep rooted questions and highlights the magic that year after year makes us pick up a shovel and get back into the garden awarded the german garden book prize in the best garden prose category what is remarkable is that the publication project is something very individual the spectrum ranges from the plea for weeds to the metaphysics of the garden to urban gardening and garden shows and the realization that gardens are hopelessly ambivalent all in all a very interesting volume jury citation

gives accurate and reliable summaries of the current state of research it includes entries on philosophers problems terms historical periods subjects and the cultural context of renaissance philosophy furthermore it covers latin arabic jewish byzantine and vernacular philosophy and includes entries on the cross fertilization of these philosophical traditions a unique feature of this encyclopedia is that it does not aim to define what renaissance philosophy is rather simply to cover the philosophy of the period between 1300 and 1650

marie luise gothein s history of garden art was first published in german 1913 it was re published in english in 1928 with two extra chapter this edition first published as a cd in 2002 has been edited and revised by tom turner it is now supplied as a pdf

the garden history reference encyclopedia is in pdf format with over 10 000 hyperlinks both internal and external to sites of garden history interest the text is twice as long as the bible and is fully searchable using the free adobe reader found on most computers for full details of the contents please see ghre page on gardenvisit com the encyclopedia was available as a cd from 2002 to 2012 and is now supplied as a pdf file it received an american society of landscape architects asla merit award in 2003 and a uk landscape institute award in 2004 contents of the garden history reference encyclopedia etexts the 100 etexts in the encyclopedia are listed below biography there is an alphabetical index with links to biographies of famous designers writers and patrons who have guided the course of garden design history glossary there are explanations of garden history terms with links to examples of their use in the etexts styles there are diagrams of 24 key garden types and styles timeline a combination of the 24 style diagrams with links to key persons and key examples general histories of garden design garden history guide an overview of garden history from 2000 bc to 2000 ad by tom turner it introduces the subject and serves as a guide to the other resources in the encyclopedia approx 2 500 pages 1 5m words and 2 000 illustrations tom turner garden design in the british isles history and styles since 1650 1986 2000 the encyclopedia edition has been revised with additional illustrations and hyperlinks to garden descriptions marie luise gothein history of garden art english edition 1928 gothein s book originally published in german geschichte der gartenkunst 1914 provides by far the best and by far the most comprehensive account of garden history from antiquity up to the start of the twentieth century etexts relating to ancient egypt egyptian book of the dead excerpts herodotus journeyed to egypt and down the Nile in the 5th century bc and included valuable information on sanctuaries gardens groves and statues a journey down the Nile in 1902 with romantic paintings of the people and the landscape a visit to the estate of amun in 1909 with paintings capturing the mood of the ancient monuments a journey down the Nile in 1914 with photographs of the monuments before they were restored and details of how the author s family hired a house boat and sailed away into a lotus land of sunshine and silent waters for five or six months etexts relating to ancient west asia the song of solomon from old testament of the bible also known as the song of songs the greatest erotic love song in western literature making the association of gardens and love it has been a profound influence on western thinking about gardens the entire world all of it it not equal in worth to the day on which the song of songs was given to israel excerpts from the bible relating to gardens the garden of eden was thought to have been in west asia excerpts from the koran relating to gardens because gardens were so often used as a symbol of paradise there are more references to gardens in the koran than in the bible etexts relating to ancient greece plato s discussion of imitation mimesis is explained and discussed book x of the republic c370 bc is in the encyclopedia plato s theory of forms led to the aesthetic principle that art should imitate nature which had a profound influence on western art in general and garden design in particular homer excerpts from the iliad and odyssey relating to gardens sir james frazer s the golden bough 1890 the chapter in the encyclopedia describes the ritual of adonis it is written by the founder of modern anthropology and helps to explain the adonis cult which provides evidence of plants being grown in greek courtyard gardens and of the spirit in which sacred groves were made in ancient greece etexts relating to the roman empire vitruvius pollio on landscape architecture and garden design 27 bc from de architectura vitruvius was a roman and wrote the oldest western book on design to have survived it lays down the principle that places should have commodity firmness and delight book 1 chapters 1

7 are in the encyclopedia excerpts from ovid's metamorphosis 18 ad and art of love 1 bc ovid's poetry provided a rich source of imagery for garden designers and for the artists who made garden sculpture pliny the younger's letters describing his own gardens c100 ad these letters are the best surviving descriptions of roman gardens and of how their owners used them pliny owned many gardens and 500 slaves cicero excerpts from his letters relating to gardens virgil's aeneid sections relating to gardens life of st martin the first outstanding monastic leader in france was st martin of tours c316 397 his account of how he destroyed the sacred groves of the pagan religion does much to explain why europe has such scanty remains of this type of outdoor space ibn battuta's account of constantinople c1300 etexts relating to medieval gardens charlemagne's chapter capitulary on gardens gave detailed instructions for the plants to be used in the royal gardens and for the management of his lands they are key texts for the study of medieval gardens c800 ad a note on irminsul the sacred tree of the saxons destroyed by the christians guillaume de lorris romance of the rose or roman de la rose c1250 this is an allegorical poem inspired by ovid in which gardens and roses are associated with romantic love full many a time i smote and struck the door and listened for someone to let me in excerpts from boccaccio's decameron 1353 with classical descriptions of medieval garden scenes the tales are famed for their sexual intrigue and this aspect is more prominent than garden scenery in the illustrations in the encyclopedia albertus magnus advice on how to make a pleasure garden 1206 walafrid strabbo's poem hortulus this is the literary classic of medieval garden literature celebrating the delight of plants in monastic life and giving detailed information on the culture and uses of plants the life of st anthony relating to the origin of monastic gardening the life of st philbert relating to the origin of the european monastic cloister he was abbot of jumièges in france c750 a set of quotations from the bible which make reference to gardens 61 no etexts relating to islamic gardens a set of quotations from the koran which make reference to gardens 151 no the spanish ambassador's visit to samarkand in 1404 with his descriptions of mughal gardens babur's memoir babur admired the gardens he had seen and after founding a mughal empire made gardens he made in india persian gardens were in better condition in 1900 than in 2000 and better still in 1700 this gives a particular importance to past travellers descriptions of their use and form there sections from the following accounts of visits to persian gardens in the encyclopedia and engravings to capture the flavour of persian gardens as they were montesquieu's persian letters 1721 contained little information on persian gardens but did much to awaken interest in seraglios and the romance of the east washington irving the father of american literature published a famous account of the alhambra in 1832 he was a friend of sir walter scott and has the same interest in welding history with imagination this provides a glimpse of the alhambra and general life when they were beyond question the finest gardens in europe etexts relating to renaissance gardens plotinus the enneads eighth tractate on the intellectual beauty plotinus 205 270 ad was rediscovered during the renaissance in the platonic academy founded at careggi and came to have a profound influence on renaissance design methods st augustine's conversion took place in a garden in milan described in his confessions and was often chosen as a frontispiece to editions of his work augustine is regarded as the greatest christian thinker of antiquity the transmitter of plato and aristotle to medieval and renaissance christianity leon battista alberti on garden design 1485 from de re aedificatoria libri x ten books on architecture drawing from pliny and vitruvius the humanist scholar set forth the principles for the design of renaissance villas they were taken up by donato bramante and guided the course of garden

design for two centuries vasari's biographical note on leon battista alberti describes his multi faced genius leonardo da vinci note on the design of a water garden from his notebooks with a reference to his interpretation of vitruvius andrea palladio's *i quattro libri dell'architettura* the four books of architecture 1570 is one of the most influential design works ever published the quotations in the encyclopedia relate to the placing of buildings and neoplatonism michel eyquem de montaigne's diary accounts of italian gardens 1580 let us view many still famous italian gardens through the eyes of a french renaissance traveller and writer montaigne invented the essay form william shakespeare's mention of gardens 30 no tell much of the gardens he knew despite his dates 1564 1616 these gardens are medieval with only the slightest renaissance accent francis bacon's essay on gardens 1625 this famous essay by a philosopher and scientist in sir geoffrey jellicoe's words magisterially lays down the fundamental principles of gardening it begins with the words god almighty first planted a garden and praises wildness in gardens john evelyn's diary accounts of gardens in france and italy visited between 1644 and 1685 as with montaigne's diary they provide contemporary descriptions of french and italian parks and gardens andrew marvell's *the garden* c1650 celebrates the delights in the symbolism of seventeenth century enclosed gardens marvell's *upon appleton house* to my lord fairfax contains some garden description the garden by abraham cowley i never had any other desire so strong and so like to covetousness as that i might be master at last of a small house and large garden sir thomas browne's essay on the garden of cyrus deals with the history of gardens as viewed from 1658 an extract is in the encyclopedia etexts relating to enlightenment gardens rené descartes descartes did not write either on aesthetics or on garden design but historians continue to speak of the cartesian garden by which they mean a geometrical garden the encyclopedia contains the text and a comment on his discourse on the method of rightly conducting the reason and seeking truth in the sciences 1637 this short book laid the foundation for the philosophy of the enlightenment and for neoclassical aesthetics john james theory and practice of gardening was published in 1712 based on a j dezallier d arganville and le blond it became the standard book on laying out a french baroque garden and provides a fascinating insight into how this was done james also introduced the concept of the ha ha and anticipated pope's famous dictum on the genius of the place the encyclopedia has 3 chapters 4 plates and a discussion of james book alexander pope's and his essay on criticism 1711 epistle to lord burlington 1731 the former summarises contemporary attitudes to gardens and the latter summarises contemporary rationalist neoclassical aesthetic theory based on reason nature and the genius of the place john serle's plan of alexander pope's garden at the time of his death and his description of pope's grotto photographs of the grotto and its setting sir joshua reynolds discourses were delivered at the royal academy in london between 1769 and 1790 embody the basic ideas of neoclassical theory in the fine arts were set forth in definitive form with clarity and grace the encyclopedia contains relevant quotations etexts relating to romantic gardens william temple's essay upon the gardens of epicurus or of gardening 1685 is extravagantly praised by nicholas pevsner he claims this essay started a line of thought and visual conceptions which were to dominate first england and then the world for two centuries the full text is in the encyclopedia josph addison's essay 161 made the key association of natural scenery with liberty and freedom essay 37 describes a perfect garden in which reason and nature go hand in hand essay 414 sees the works of nature as more delightful than artificial arrangements essay 417 supports locke's theory of knowledge essay 477 describes addison's own garden at bilton william





of landscape architects by the american society of landscape architects by the uk landscape institute and numerous other national associations only 150 copies of his book were printed and its contents are not well known this is the first time the book has been re published it is accompanied with an analysis of the text by tom turner a clear appreciation of how landscape architecture began is regarded as central to comprehension of the modern profession notes on the top twenty theorists and designers in the history of landscape architecture and on the question what is landscape architecture john claudius loudon s included comments on meason in his gardener s magazine 1828 and in his encyclopedia of architecture 1833 these comments transmitted the term to andrew jackson downing and later to frederick law olmsted setting the course of american landscape architecture andrew jackson downing s treatise on the theory and practice of landscape gardening section 1 section 2 and section 9 downing was the first american writer on landscape architectural topics norman t newton in design on the land and an incalculable influence on american garden design and landscape architecture oxford companion to gardens loudon s writings were his starting point frederick law olmsted s description of his winning design for the central park new york competition 1858 olmsted the father of american landscape architecture entered the profession as a result of the greensward plan for central park done in partnership with the english architect calvert vaux norman t newton s account of the scope of landscape architecture from design on the land geoffrey jellicoe s account of the scope of landscape design from the landscape of man ian mcharg notes and links on the twentieth century s outstanding landscape planner etexts relating to arts and crafts gardens william morris essay on hopes and fears for art in which he criticises carpet bedding and makes the point that gardens should be works of art and of craft thomas huxley s discussion of evolution and ethics 1859 in which he views his own garden as a work of art in contrast to the state of nature which existed before it was made william robinson the wild garden 1881 edn chapters 1 5 originally published by john murray and reproduced with their permission robinson is described by jekyll in the reference below as our great champion of hardy flowers he urged the use of hardy plants instead of subtropical plants and carpet bedding in garden design he had a sharp dispute with blomfield below john d sedding garden craft old and new 1891 introduced his book with a chapter on the theory of the garden there are 2 chapters in the encyclopedia reginald blomfield s the formal garden in england 1901 edn originally published by macmillan and reproduced with their permission a contemporary review in the times said mr blomfield s historical sketch of the art of gardening in england is full of interest and instruction and his polemic against the so called landscape gardeners is vigorous incisive and to our mind convincing the book is undoubtedly polemical but commendably scholarly blomfield was the son of a bishop and had a hatred of modernism gertrude jekyll s account of garden design from wall water and woodland gardens 1901 originally published by country life and reproduced with their permission jekyll was the most influential writer on planting design in the twentieth century this chapter is the clearest statement of her views on the history and theory of garden design etexts relating to design methods design methodology an overview by tom turner surface water drainage and management from landscape design october 1985 arguing for privileging water in the design procedure wilderness and plenty construction and deconstruction from urban design quarterly september 1992 arguing that the professional structure of the construction industry would benefit from deconstruction feminine landscape design a tale of two tragedies from a sheffield spring school lecture april 1993 arguing for the way of the hunter to be balanced by the way of the

nester postmodern landscapes from landscape design may 1993 arguing for landscape and garden designers to take account of postmodern ideas and theories in their work pattern analysis from landscape design october 1991 arguing for a design method based on pattern analysis instead of the modernist survey analysis design sad method taught in most of the world s landscape and garden design schools revolutions in the garden from tom turner s city as landscape spon 1996 after looking at the design revolutions which have taken place in the 1690s 1790s and 1890s this essay finds the seeds of a fourth design revolution in the work of sir geoffrey jellicoe charles jencks and ian hamilton finlay the flowers of garden design theory from garden design journal autumn 1999 published as timeless with delight this article suggests a design method which integrates knowledge drawn from various fields including the fine arts philosophy the natural and social sciences pakilda pattern assisted knowledge intensive landscape design approach from landscape design may 2001 developing the method outlined in the garden design journal this article the recommends a design method for landscape design and planning design history and theory from a lecture delivered at the university of uppsala in april 2002 this article relates the pakilda method to the set of design objectives outlined by vitruvius in the first century utilitas commodity firmitas firmness and venustas delight etexts relating to twentieth century gardens there are histories of american garden design in the encyclopedia written in 1834 1928 and 2001 geoffrey jellicoe a collection of information on his work including an essay by tom turner on geoffrey jellicoe the subconscious and landscape design 1998 garden revolutions an essay in which it is argued that structuralism can infuse gardens with post postmodern ideas and beliefs it is a layered approach to garden making

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