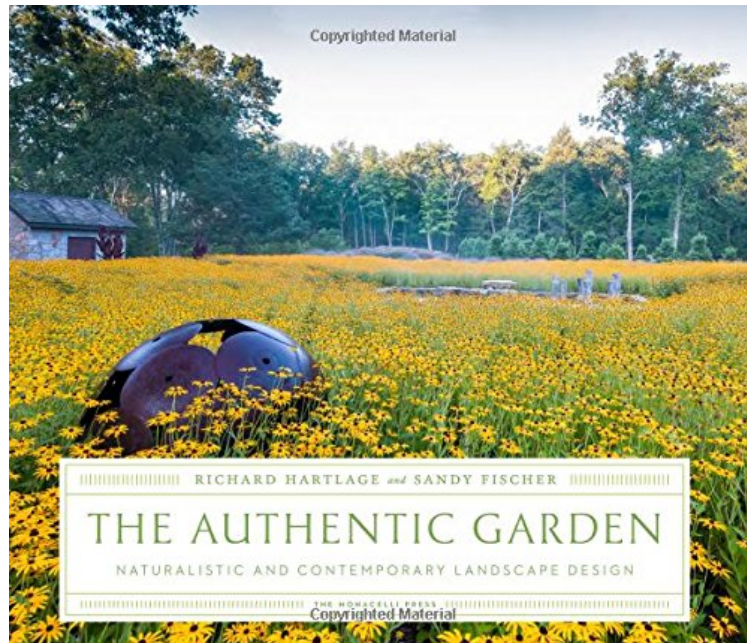


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The Authentic Garden: Naturalistic and Contemporary Landscape Design

Richard Hartlage, Sandy Fischer
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Richard Hartlage, Sandy Fischer : The Authentic Garden: Naturalistic and Contemporary Landscape Design
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Authentic Garden: Naturalistic and Contemporary Landscape Design:

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In contemporary American garden design, beauty for beauty's sake is making a comeback. The sixty gardens featured here trace current planting trends across the country, showcasing the best designs of recent years from the verdant Pacific Northwest to the tailored Eastern Seaboard, as well as prairies in Denver and Texas and exquisitely detailed private gardens in the Southwest that create a sense of lushness even while working exclusively within the vocabulary of cactuses and succulents. Plants are used to reinforce meaningful content, ecological strategies, and, most importantly, to create immersive and emotional experiences. As the movements of architectural, naturalistic, meadow, matrix, graphic, and ecological planting design have been adopted in such notable incarnations as the High Line in New York and Citygarden in St. Louis, they have rekindled interest in using plants that suit a given site's ecology and in letting plants, rather than hardscape elements, lead design. Residential as well as public gardens are featured, and all are united by an immediately perceptible, intelligent selection of plants that create an enthralling, memorable, and fitting sense of place: this is what makes a garden truly authentic. Over 250 full-color images reveal gardens created

by the top American firms working today, including Andrea Cochran, Jack deLashmet, Doyle Herman, Elysian Landscapes, Gustafson Guthrie Nichol, Hoerr Schaudt, Ron Lutsko, Steve Martino, Nelson Byrd Woltz, Nievera Williams, Oehme van Sweden, OLIN, Raymond Jungles, Christine Ten Eyck, Bernard Trainor, and Michael Vergason, as well as beautiful gems of gardens by lesser known regional firms. Detail as well as overview images of gardens throughout the seasons and abundant plant identifications make this volume a valuable reference for all home gardeners as well as landscape design professionals interested in tracing the themes prevalent in contemporary American gardens.

While lavish collections of gardens proliferate in this publishing category, it is rare to find one that foregrounds the importance of planting design. Richard Hartlage and Sandy Fischer, the principals of Seattle-based Land Morphology, have selected projects from all over the world in which 'plants, rather than hardscape elements, lead design.' The work of landscape architects, some well-known for their planting design, others less so, is prominently featured and discussed in each project, another layer that sets this book apart from the typical garden coffee table book. Although the prose is pitched at knowledgeable amateurs rather than design professionals, this beautifully photographed book succeeds in placing the projects in the context of design history. Landscape Architecture The push toward naturalistic landscapes can be traced to Europe's emphasis on meadow, matrix, and graphic planting design. The history of landscape architecture and its influence on contemporary trends are explored in a new book *The Authentic Garden*. Architectural Digest online About the Author Richard Hartlage and Sandy Fischer are the principals of Land Morphology. Their award-winning, innovative designs are renowned as emotive, immersive spaces that incorporate sophisticated horticulture, artful detailing, and historical knowledge that heighten the experience of the natural world. The Chihuly Garden and Glass in Seattle, which features their planting scheme, is visited by over 1.5 million people each year. The firm's designs have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, *Garden Design*, *Pacific Horticulture*, *Metropolitan Home*, *Fine Gardening*, and the *Seattle Times*, in addition to many other publications in the United States, Japan, and Europe. An avid writer and teacher, Richard Hartlage has given over 350 lectures worldwide, and has written over 60 articles for national and international publications. He has also contributed to five books on horticulture and design, including *Bold Visions for the Garden*, a collection of his essays and photography.