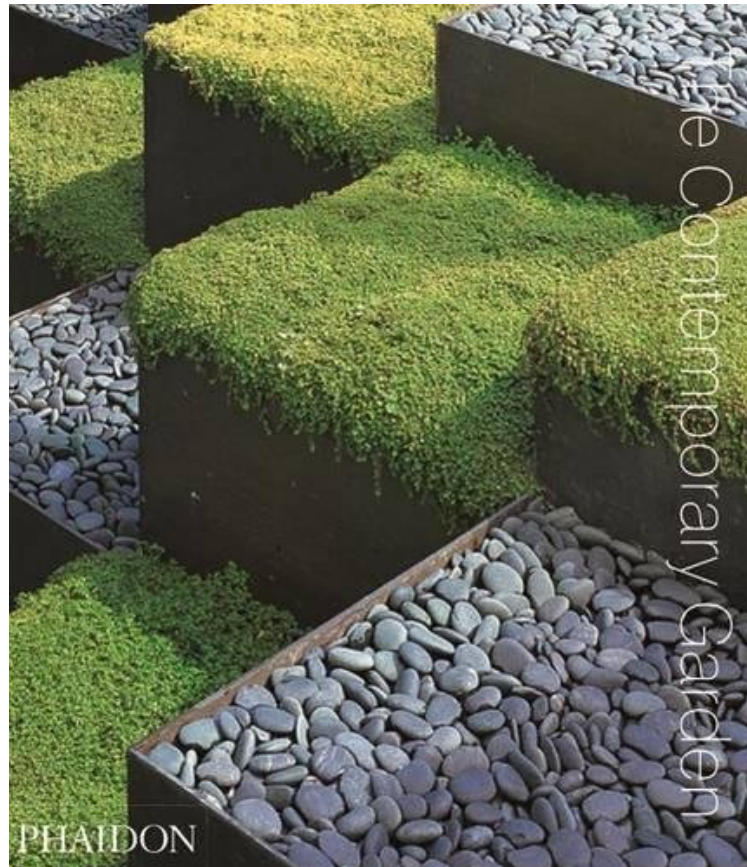


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The Contemporary Garden

Editors of Phaidon Press

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#401277 in Books 2009-03-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.75 x .72 x 10.131, 2.15 #File Name: 0714849588112 pages | File size: 22.Mb

Editors of Phaidon Press : The Contemporary Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Contemporary Garden:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Do they make Dover editions???By o-namae desuThis is an OK bunch of pictures, but limited views and a little pricey. I should have read the description above more carefully: You get a *survey* of 100 gardens, with 1 photo and 1 paragraph of each. (Notice the page count: 112.) It's recycling, too: this is an "abridged, revised, and updated edition" of Phaidon's "The Garden Book" published in 2000 (512 pages). So they took out the non-contemporary gardens, and this is what was left? It's dissatisfying: There are lots of places that you could find a decent magazine article on and get a better look, e.g. Fallingwater (Wright), Villa Mairea (Aalto), Larry Ellison's first house (Ron Herman), Villa Savoye (Corbusier), 1929 Barcelona German Pavillion (Mies), Rockefeller Center roof, Brion-Vega Tomb (Scarpa), Barragn's San Cristobal, Mir's Labyrinth, the MoMA Sculpture Garden (Johnson). The postcard view of the falls underneath Fallingwater does not a garden make. Worse, many of the photos are of a single element, e.g. the photo of the *tip* of a Luis Barragn waterspout with very little context (OK, there's a horse...). The full photo of the Ellison House planter is barely more revealing than the detail shown on the cover. There's even a shot of IBM's Solana, TX building: just a dead-end alle and nothing else -- out of 850 acres! It's

as if some editor took stock photos and cropped them to "make 'em more dynamic". Maybe all the photos were public domain or free as promotion pieces to start, making for an inexpensive publication? It's like a Dover edition! On the plus side: Half of the pictures are not public places, so you couldn't get to see them, unlike the silly examples above; even so, they have *probably* been published elsewhere. Also the chronological arrangement gives you a sense of evolution from front to back. But I regret spending a Jackson to get this rehash: Phaidon should ditch "The Phaidon Editors" and hire photographers instead, to do original work. Here's what this book is good for: as a reminder list of gardens you mean to actually visit, or look up a "real" publication to see and read about the garden properly. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. 1 photo wonderBy Jerry B. Each garden has only 1 photo. There is no way that 1 photo can adequately describe a garden. Very disappointed in the content of this book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not worth itBy Lilian Maria de Oliveira Carneiro Not as amazing as expected. I wish it had more projects with more details and more interesting photos or even interesting projects. It was good, but not memorable. Can remember even one really good.

This is an accessible and affordable overview of 100 contemporary gardens from the early 1920s onwards. It features all types of gardens, including conceptual spaces, water and roof gardens, and urban parks.

"Exceptionally priced and beautifully shot, an illustrated survey of 100 contemporary gardens from the early 1920s to now - an obvious labour of love. The price alone should propel this exceptional book into the charts." -The Bookseller
"A new sourcebook of ideas that cannot fail to inspire lovers of garden design... While the gardens have all had their share of controversy and criticism, the book encourages us to understand the role they have had in influencing more mainstream design." -Homes Gardens