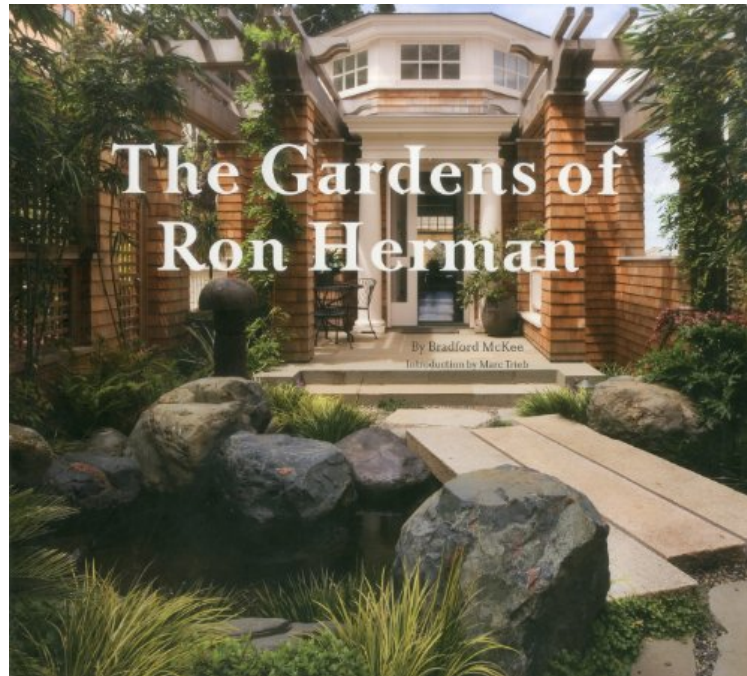


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The Gardens of Ron Herman

Bradford McKee

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Bradford McKee : The Gardens of Ron Herman before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Gardens of Ron Herman:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Aesthetic, distinctive gardens by an award-winning California landscape architect By Henry Berry With the winding walkways, large stones, small shrubbery, palm frond-like grasses of Ron Herman's gardens, the influence of Japanese gardens is plain. However, the overall impression is not spiritual, but rather aesthetic. Herman studied gardening in Japan as a graduate student; but the greater influence was his studies at University of California-Berkeley in the 1960s when ideas and techniques of Modernism, especially the way abstract paintings were composed, were being developed in what was known as the California style of contemporary landscape architecture. A Ron Herman garden is recognizable for its principles, materials, and appearance. However as the fourteen representative gardens of this art book show, particular gardens vary widely by being adapted to location and also as in any architectural project, creatively meeting requirements and preferences of clients. Herman's favored, characteristic materials and objects, surfaces, and layouts and layering benefit particularly in locations of sunniness and space. One does not picture such a garden, for instance, in a shady forest locale, nor an urban environment; although practically any residence or building or park could make use of aesthetics and compositions and in many cases types of shrubbery found in the characteristic Herman garden. However, dimpled rocks, often of larger size and in a single earth-tone color; walls made of irregularly-sized building materials, sometimes with uneven surface; and smaller, open shrubbery and delicate, tall grasses benefit most from sunniness and space. Sunniness and space help to fulfill the aesthetic intent of the garden. Sunniness allows for notice of the subtle changes in surface of larger rocks and ground surface. Space enables Herman to compose gardens of varying sizes so that many of the rocks, shrubs, small trees, and bunches of grass seem featured without seeming cramped or dominating. With each garden covered in

several pages of color photographs of overviews of parts of it and closer views of particular features are copies of the detailed, multicolor architectural design drawings Herman uses like a blueprint for a finished garden and in discussion with clients. In addition to being attractive, these drawings display the full scope of each garden which no photograph could encompass. Herman has won awards for his landscape designs, and he has done more than 400 of these. He is still active as the head of his landscape architecture firm in California.

Japanese influenced American Garden design Presenting 14 gardens by the award-winning West Coast landscape architect Ron Herman Herman has been a major influence on the design and evolution of private gardens in North America Includes beautifully illustrated garden plans by the noted garden illustrator Chip Sullivan During his 35-plus year career, Herman has created more than four hundred full-scale garden designs, including many of the U.S.'s largest and most intricate residential gardens A multitude of ideas for readers' own gardens The fourteen gardens presented in this book by landscape architect Ron Herman provide a rich sampling of the work of a man who, in his own words, has been "involved in gardening and plants for most of my life. When I was growing up in Southern California, I worked with my father, who was a nurseryman, horticulturalist, and garden builder." He later went on to study landscape architecture at UC Berkeley and the University of Kyoto and then began a several decades-long career as one of the most distinguished and celebrated landscape architects in the United States. Heavily influenced by his experiences in Japan, a country he has returned to often, Herman's gardens are nevertheless an eclectic mix of styles and approaches that reflect his broad view of garden design.

About the Author Bradford McKee is the editor of Landscape Architecture magazine, published by the American Society of Landscape Architects. Marc Trieb is Professor of Architecture Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, a practicing graphic designer, and a noted landscape and architectural historian and critic. He has published widely on modern and historical subjects in the United States, Japan, and Scandinavia, including: *Thomas Church, Landscape Architect* (2004); *Settings and Stray Paths: Writings on Landscapes and Gardens* (2005); *Representing Landscape Architecture* (2007); and *Appropriate: The Houses of Joseph Esherick* (2009).