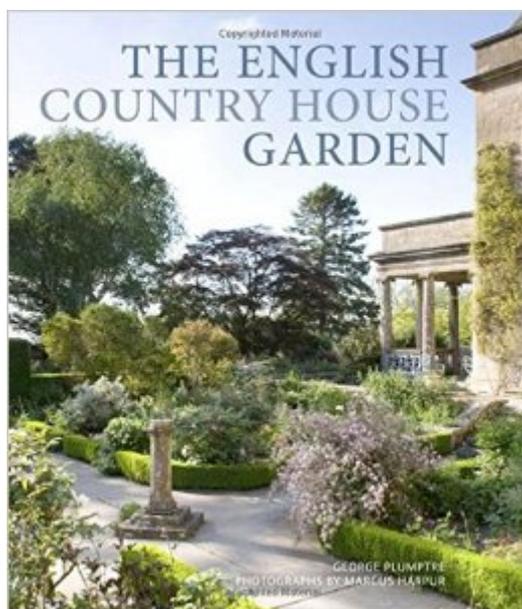


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The English Country House Garden



Synopsis

There is something special about the English country house garden: from its quiet verdant lawns to its high yew hedges, this is a style much-desired and copied around the world. The English country house is most often conceived as a private, intimate place, a getaway from working life. A pergola, a sundial, a croquet lawn, a herbaceous border of soft planting; here is a space to wander and relax, to share secrets, and above all to enjoy afternoon tea. But even the most peaceful of gardens also take passion and hard work to create. This new book takes a fresh look at the English country house garden, starting with the owners and the stories behind the making of the gardens. Glorious photographs capture the gardens at their finest moments through the seasons, and a sparkling and erudite text presents twenty-five gardens - some grand, some personal, some celebrated, some never-before-photographed - to explore why this garden style has been so very enduring and influential. From the Victorian grandeur of Tyntesfield and Cragside, to the Arts & Crafts simplicity of Rodmarton Manor and Charleston; from Scampston, in the same family since the 17th century, to new gardens by Dan Pearson and Tom Stuart-Smith; and with favourites such as Hidcote and Great Dixter alongside new discoveries, this book will be a delicious treat for garden-lovers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Thorp Perrow "On one side of the lake are mature trees, here displaying their golden autumnal tints" Sissinghurst "A path leads from the bottom of the Tower, across the courtyard lined with clipped yews, to the entrance building known as the Long Library" Charleston "Warm

pink-flowered Rosa 'Zéphirine Drouhin' provides a canopy over the front door, which is flanked by domes of fuchsia." Charleston "Combinations of quirky sculpture or garden ornaments with bright coloured plants were a favourite device of Duncan Grant's and have been retained throughout the Charleston garden"

Cothay Manor "The origins of Cothay are lost in the mists of time. The present house was built to celebrate the Wars of the Roses. Few in England can match such antiquity, but there were previous dwellings on the site dating at least back to the era of Norman kings. Such distinguished episodes in its past have now been reflected in the garden by Mary-Anne Robb and her husband Alastair, who purchased Cothay in 1993. Cothay Manor today has one of the most atmospheric country house gardens to be found anywhere, where confidence in the choice and combinations of plants ensure that suitable romanticism never tips into cloying sentimentality."

Exbury "In 1919 Lionel de Rothschild, by then head of the celebrated family bank, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, purchased the Exbury Estate. In 1912 he had bought the adjacent Inchmery House, with the intention of making a garden there...Lionel would build up one of the most extensive plant collections in a woodland garden setting in England."

Montacute House "Given the centuries of incessant change that has characterized the development of English gardens, any survivor from the very earliest period of true country house gardens "the last decades of the sixteenth and the first decades of the seventeenth centuries" is a rare gem. At Montacute in Somerset one of the great Renaissance houses of Elizabethan England survives with its courtyard gardens structurally intact." "A number of country houses today demonstrate that the long-established bones and foundations of their garden can be disguised and damaged by periods of neglect, but they survive so that, with a measure of rejuvenation, they emerge to provide the vital framework for new life. Goodnestone is just such a place. After some sixty years of patient development by Margaret, Lady FitzWalter and her late husband, Brook, it is now a garden of breathtaking variety nurtured in a setting that Jane Austen enjoyed and wrote about more than two hundred years ago."

Folly Farm "blocks of Lavandula x intermedia 'Grosso' in the Walled Garden"

Hidcote "Lawrence Johnston introduced the steps up to the Cedar Lawn, which is still shaded by one of the garden's original trees."

Helmingham Hall "One of the arched metal tunnels in the Walled Garden is smothered with sweet peas in high summer."

Rodmarton Manor "The view across the Troughery from the house is a formal, yet intimate and slightly quirky one."

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