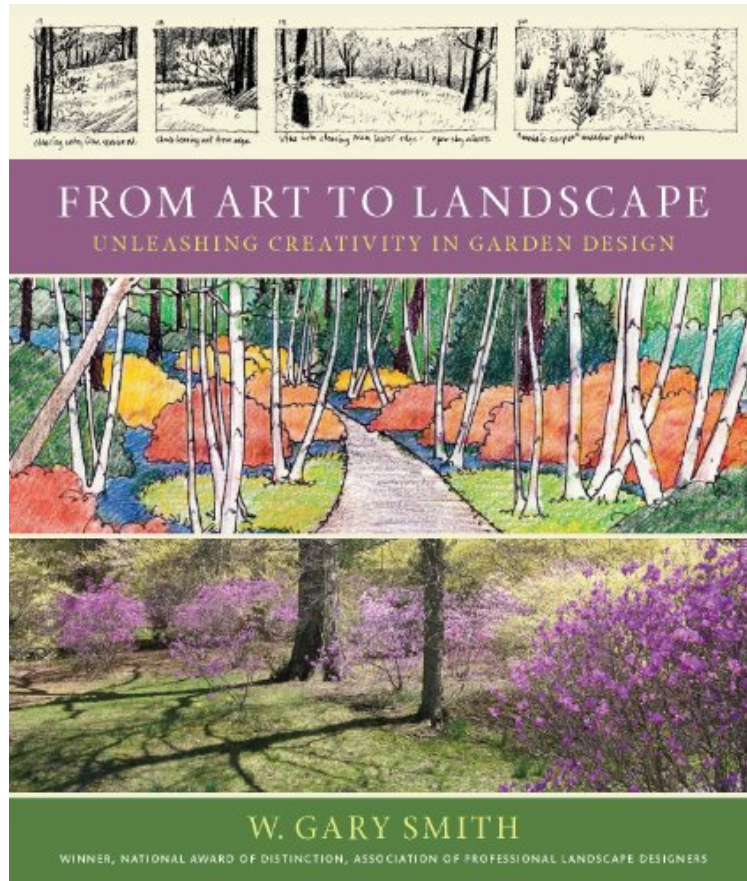


(Download pdf) From Art to Landscape: Unleashing Creativity in Garden Design

# From Art to Landscape: Unleashing Creativity in Garden Design

W. Gary Smith

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**W. Gary Smith : From Art to Landscape: Unleashing Creativity in Garden Design** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Art to Landscape: Unleashing Creativity in Garden Design:

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gardeners alike. By SDD This book straddles several genres. It's a gorgeous coffee table book with lustrous photos of gardens Smith has designed and reproductions of his paintings and drawings. It's a memoir about his professional journey as a landscape architect, going all the way back to his junior high days as a member of the school Greenhouse Club. It's a travelogue through some of North America's most beautiful public gardens. It's a thoughtful discussion of the relationship between landscape design and the "fine arts": painting, sculpture, photography, dance, and music. And it's an inspirational and often humorous guide, showing the gardener and non-gardener alike how to bring serendipity and beauty to our yards and gardens. Smith writes well and manages to pull all of this off quite handily. I bought the book as a Christmas present for my husband, the real gardener in our family, but I have found myself re-reading whole sections time and again.

Garden designers face some daunting questions: How do I begin the creative process? Where can I find design inspiration? How will I know if my design is successful? If you approach these questions like an artist, with an artist's tools and ways of looking at the world, you will be able to design gardens that combine the unique character of a place with your innermost creative spirit. You'll make inspiring gardens that have real meaning, for yourself as well as others. In this luminous volume, landscape architect and artist W. Gary Smith explores the various means that artists use including drawing, painting, sculpture, meditation, poetry, and dance to create personal connections with the landscape that enrich and inform garden design. Part 1 focuses on simple techniques that anyone can use to nurture creativity, unleash the imagination, and get ideas down on paper. Part 2 shows how these techniques have shaped actual design projects with spectacular results. Throughout, the author's friendly and encouraging voice removes the shroud of mystery surrounding the creative process and shows how even the least artistically inclined can tap into inner resources they never knew they had. Smith's own exuberant sketches and bold paintings illuminate the path from art to landscape. Infectiously engaging and unfailingly inspiring, this eye-opening book deserves to be read and reread by anyone who aspires to master the rich and demanding art of garden design.

Encourages gardeners to think like artists. The Seattle Times Some of Smith's studies are truly beautiful as works of art themselves, which makes the book stunning. The Designer (APLD) A primer for design students in a number of fields and an important reference for professional landscape and garden designers. Landscape Architecture An expansive volume filled with projects designed to teach a landscape architect how to conceive of projects artistically. SciTech Book News