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Garden Design: A Book of Ideas

Heidi Howcroft, Marianne Majerus

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Heidi Howcroft, Marianne Majerus : Garden Design: A Book of Ideas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Garden Design: A Book of Ideas:

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Author Marianne Majerus was one of three photographers for the seminal book by Prince Charles, HRH The Prince of Wales, Highgrove: A Garden Celebrated, published in 2014, which Camilla Swift of Gardens Illustrated praised for its photographs, "images so breathtaking I want to jump into them." In Garden Design: A Book of Ideas, she and Heidi Howcroft have created a stunning guide to designing gardens of all types. Ideal for all gardeners and landscape

architects this book inspires and encourages while giving practical advice and clear instruction for creating a beautiful garden in any setting. Any experienced gardener knows there is no single way to design a garden. Personal style and creativity are what make gardening exciting and produce an enjoyable garden. In this outstanding reference the concise text, 600 inspirational photographs and 24 real-life case studies can help anyone create a dream garden. Incisive advice takes the reader through the entire process: assessing the garden situation, developing a design, installing the components, and finally, dressing the space. The brilliant color photographs show an enormous variety of gardens and their elements in detail, varying from large and small, to urban and rural, covering a wide range of styles, including contemporary, modern, city, Mediterranean and natural. There are plant recommendations throughout the book. Garden Design profiles existing gardens to illustrate important considerations that will factor into the final result, such as, Where is Your Garden? What Do You Want From Your Garden? and Knowing Your Soil. Here is a brief sampling of the contents: Structure (e.g., Paths, Enclosures) Materials (e.g., Stone, Timber) Steps and Ramps (e.g., Outdoor Staircases) Enclosures and Barriers (e.g., Hedges, Gates) Shaping the Garden (e.g., Mounds, Slopes) Greenery and Flowers (e.g., Trees: Scene Stealers; Working with Color Stems, Berries, Foliage) Shade (e.g., Light up the Dark with White Flowers) Flowers (e.g., Paint with Plants, Borders For All Seasons) Vegetables (e.g., No-Dig and Raised Beds) Furnishings (e.g., Fountains, Loungers, Lighting) Difficult Plots and Tricks of the Trade (e.g., Tiny Spaces and Odd Proportions). Creating a garden is part common sense and part instinct but almost everybody needs some help to achieve the garden of their dreams. Garden Design: A Book of Ideas inspires and motivates but it also provides practical guidance.

This book is an incredible source for anyone planning a garden, whether small or large. It covers just about every possibility; gardening on a slope, gardening in an awkward space, what plants to choose -- anything and everything. It's very visual, loaded with photos that inspire... I'm thrilled this book is a part of my garden library. It's the kind of book that I will refer to again and again. At over 300 pages long, it's chock full of ideas and advice. (Mockingbird Hill Cottage Blog 2017-03-21)A book you will want to look through at your leisure over and over again. (Flower Lady's Musing Blog 2017-03-22)Filled with [24] real-life case studies, 600 photographs and concise text, Garden Design: A Book of Ideas is the ultimate resource for garden inspiration and practical advice. Giving clear instructions for creating gardens in spaces big or small, urban or rural, tips take you through the entire process from assessing the garden situation, developing a design, installing components and dressing the space. With clearly laid out contents and plant recommendations throughout you will be admiring your personal dream garden in no time. (West of the City 2015-03-01)The impact of this gorgeous book rests in the richly lustrous photographs that fill every page. The photos, all numbered and described in concise detail, teach and inspire. They propose replies to key questions: What do I want from my garden? What are my choices in path coverings? Plants featured in the photos are identified, which is important for gardeners with an eye out for new and interesting additions and plant combinations for their landscapes. (Helen Chesnut Times-Colonist 2015-03-14)If you're dreaming up designs for your garden, there's a new book to help, and it is excellent. It is "Garden Design: A Book of Ideas". All aspects of design elements are covered with loads of beautiful colour photographs. It's a perfect resource book for the landscape architect or garden designer. (David Hobson Waterloo Region Record 2015-03-07)If you buy Mom one garden book for Mother's Day, make it this one. The coffee table book features [24] rarely exhibited real life case studies and over 600 brilliant images of a variety of lush gardens rich with detail, teaching gardeners that there isn't just one way to design. Outstanding photography accompanies Howcroft's advice; luxurious gardens are lit and shaded against sunsets, frost, mist and dew linger vividly against trees and shrubbery, while the scent of moistened soil, fresh grass and bark seem to radiate off the page. From urban to rural this is garden porn fit for any mom with a green thumb. (Sadaf Ahsan National Post 2015-05-09)Whether you live in an urban apartment or a country cottage, Garden Design: A Book of Ideas will help you effectively plan the space you have. You'll find guidance on everything from selecting plants for soil type and seasonality to materials for paths, walls, and garden art. A series of case studies further illustrates how to design your personal paradise. (Amy G. McDermott American Gardener 2015-09-01)The authors of this essential book provide solid content, as well as visual inspiration, to suggest a style of garden that represents our individual tastes. Leaving no stone unturned, the basic aspects of true garden design are touched upon in what I would call a "garden journey" book. Heidi Howcroft and Marianne Majerus give the reader absolutely superb visual content on the options available when considering crafting your personal space... I recommend this book not just because the photos are absolutely stunning, but because the content, from cover to cover provides easy-to-understand, worthwhile information that one can use, no matter the level of gardening experience. Whether you are designing a new garden or enhancing a familiar one, this is a great book to have on the reference shelf. (Teresa Speight Washington Gardener 2016-02-01)In an age of sensory overload, authors Howcroft and Majerus found a successful way to reach out to readers. They created a refreshing visual reference book to introduce ideas to a new generation of garden owners, architects and designers who desire to know more, while reading less in order to focus on what is relevant to their needs. The result is an enchanting sourcebook of ideas containing 600 inspiring photographs and 24 case studies. Ms. Howcroft uses comprehensive but lean text to encapsulate each garden design concept while Ms. Majerus adds precise photo-examples to elaborate.

Every aspect of garden design is explored from assessing a location, evaluating the soil, choosing a style for inspiration, selecting plants and hardscape elements to tackling challenging spaces. Readers will find useful, effective treatments for their garden design needs regardless where they live. Images of professionally designed settings have been collected and categorized from a wide variety of sources to inspire urban folk, weekend suburbanites and countryside dwellers. The authors include ideas for contemporary gardens, classically defined landscapes and naturalistic meadows. Whether one's home is a cabin or a castle, whether the locale is family friendly, cocktail party serene or BBQ informal, the suggestions offered are adaptable to most locales and budgets. If you're planning a new garden or refreshing an older one, add this book to your must-read list; after it has inspired the creation of the garden of your dreams, place it where it can be admired by gardening colleagues. It's that beautiful. (Allan Becker Allan Becker Garden Guru Blog 2015-04-15)

This collaboration between U.K.-based Howcroft, a landscape architect and author of more than 20 books, and award-winning garden photographer Majerus will make readers want to take a long walk in a fragrant garden. Without any hint of didacticism, Howcroft presents a wide range of garden spaces with the aim of inspiring gardeners and showing the breadth of possibility for beauty and diversity in outdoor spaces. The text encourages would-be gardeners to consider the location and soil type, the surrounding architecture, and their goals for the garden. It presents a series of case studies, showing different gardens and how and why they achieve their beauty and distinctive style. Paging through the exquisite photographs in this coffee-table book is like being given a sneak peek into some of the world's most gorgeous private outdoor spaces. It includes sections on types of paving, enclosures, garden furniture, and art. This book will inspire readers to envision what is possible even in the smallest, most improbable spaces. (Publishers Weekly 2015-02-03)

It is, as the subtitle indicates, "a book of ideas" waiting to be imitated since imitation is believed to be the sincerest form of flattery. Pictorial subjects include, among many other topics, an all-season kitchen garden, prairie homage, contemporary rose parterre, slope gardening, walls and entranceways. The photos are large, lush, color-saturated and worth the price of admission. (William Scheik Seeds 2015-05-06)

About the Author Heidi Howcroft is a landscape architect and the author of 20 gardening books. She lives in Somerset, England. Marianne Majerus is one of the world's finest garden photographers. She is a regular contributor to House and Garden and The Wall Street Journal. She has illustrated more than 50 gardening books and won International Garden Photographer of the Year 2010. Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

Introduction Every garden, irrespective of whether it is a crate on top of a barge or parkland surrounding a country mansion, is a personal piece of paradise, tailor-made for the individual. Making a garden goes far beyond the instinct to grow food for the family and is a desire to embellish and enhance one's personal space. Some gardens are meticulously planned, while others just happen. There are no hard-and-fast rules for their design. It is all about personal taste, so who is to judge what is good or bad? But while our imagination knows no boundaries, the garden certainly does, and appreciating where these lie is the difference between a great design and one that is run of the mill. The first step is to establish basic parameters. Much of this is common sense, recognizing that it is better to work with, rather than against, nature. A fundamental part of a landscape architect's education is the design process, which begins with the site analysis and culminates in the finished garden. Following these same steps will help you decide whether to go it completely alone or enlist the help of a professional designer. A design is rarely immediately apparent; in most cases, deciding on one is a matter of diligently working through a list of requirements and gathering information. Method, not magic, is the key. The starting point is devising a brief: what you want from the garden and whether it needs to be formal or informal; the desired level of maintenance; whether the whole garden or just a section is to be designed; available funds; and if the work is to be completed in stages or all at once. The size of the garden is just as important as its setting, with designs for a 'blank canvas' garden belonging to a new build and the revamp of an existing mature garden, for example, being completely different. Before charging in with a bulldozer or pickaxe, look at your garden through the windows of the house, from the sofa or the kitchen. Observe what there is now and try to visualize what you would like to see in the future. Pinning a picture of a favourite garden to the window and looking at it and your garden simultaneously does help you decide if that style is either a "fit" or just a romantic notion. Creating mood boards and gathering photographs of other gardens, images of garden furniture, and details of plants and paving are all a huge help in the decision-making process, as are pictures from various angles of the site itself. It is often at this point that the decision is made either to go it alone or employ an expert. When seeking advice, consult members of professional bodies, such as the Landscape Institute and the Society of Garden Designers. Beware of cowboys who promise paradise for nothing; there is always a catch. A site survey in which topography, heights, boundaries, existing features and vegetation are shown to scale is invaluable when designing. Armed with this information, together with your brief and mood boards, preliminary sketches can be made. These can then be narrowed down to favorites and developed further into an overall design. Living with and looking at the design and fine-tuning details over a period of time pays dividends. Staking out the outline of paths and patios, even using stepladders draped with sheets to give an idea of the volume of large shrubs, are all useful tools to see if a design could work. Like a suit, a garden has to fit, have a shape yet be comfortable. But while it is possible to try on clothes before making a commitment, it is a different matter with gardens. Garden open days are a great way of getting to know other gardens. Few people garden on a grand scale, so these domestic, private retreats are perfect for getting a feel for your likes and dislikes and deciding on

a style. Taking a broad view and looking at gardens abroad or from the past can also be inspiring -- it is all a matter of interpretation. Without the marvelous work done by landscape architects, architects, garden designers and owners, as well as the gardeners who maintain the exemplary schemes, we would not have any material to show you in this book. Thank you to all of you for providing such a wealth of ideas. There is a garden out there to suit every one of us; it is merely waiting to be discovered.