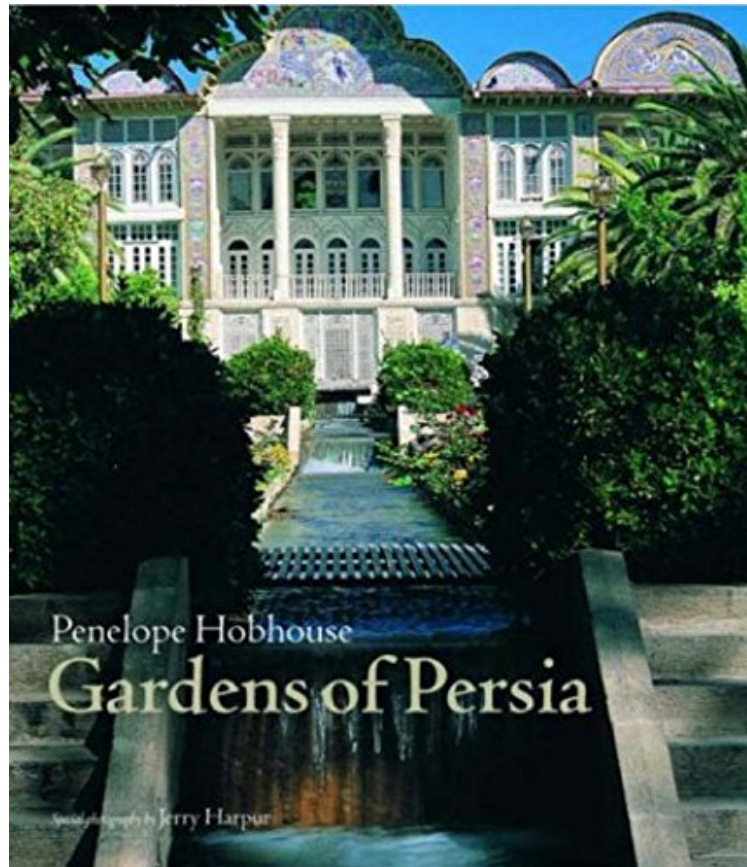


## Gardens of Persia

*Penelope Hobhouse*

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**Penelope Hobhouse : Gardens of Persia** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gardens of Persia:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. great book By Mary Kauffman fast service, nice reading book every gardener would love this book. would recommend this to everyone who loves to garden 10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Truly a book for all readers! By Jane Ram This book comes close to being all things to all readers. And if you don't feel like reading, you can simply enjoy the generous spread of illustrations -- maps, drawings and diagrams, beautifully reproduced Persian miniatures and above all the superb photographs by Jerry Harpur, a longtime specialist in capturing gardens and plants all over the world on film. This is much more than a picture book: the name guarantees a literate and enlightening read. This book is not about gardening in the usual sense of how to grow certain plants in particular places at specific seasons: it covers the role of gardens in the social history of thousands of years of culture. But if you have a bare terrace or balcony, you will still find more than a little incidental inspiration in these pages. This book is a vast work of research, but it remains on a human level. Armchair travelers will enjoy the rare opportunity to learn more about what is perhaps one of today's least known cultural regions. Even philosophers will find food for thought in some of the quotations from Persian and Western writers: "The real gardens

and flowers are within, they are in man's heart, not outside." (Rumi The Masnavi Book IV)<sup>7</sup> of 7 people found the following review helpful. BEAUTIFUL!!!By John SugawichOnce again Penelope Hobhouse combines her peerless practical knowledge of plants with a passion for research and a love of garden history. In *Gardens of Persia*, she follows their evolution, from attempts to embody a vision of paradise to contemporary expressions of wealth and power. In all these spaces, with their distinctive template combining subtropical plants, buildings, and water, she finds that initial and powerful spiritual impulse always present, even where the imperatives of the world seem, on the surface, to be the motivation. The book is a beautiful production, with 150 specially commissioned photographs by Jerry Harpur, and a wealth of archival images and plans.

A distinguished chronicle of the Persian garden that explores its profound spiritual, historical, and virtually unacknowledged influence on the development of Western garden design in the 21st century. *Gardens of Persia* demonstrates world-renowned author Penelope Hobhouse's rare ability to combine meticulous research and a practical knowledge of gardens and plants with a love of garden history and travel. By telling the story of the development of gardens throughout the Persian culture's 5,000-year-old history, she imparts a passionate view of the Persian paradise garden as a model for today's gardeners. Buildings, water, and plants combine to give the gardens of Persia a beautiful spiritual quality that has served to inspire garden design across time and diverse cultures. Indeed, Ms. Hobhouse begins with the oldest living garden, Pasargadae, created by Cyrus the Great in 550 BC. It represented paradise on earth and spawned other gardens to be seen as settings for sacred contemplation and spiritual nourishment. In later centuries, these gardens evolved further around the world as representations for romance, power, prestige, and symbols of the afterlife. *Gardens of Persia* is beautifully illustrated with Jerry Harpur's specially commissioned photographs of Persian gardens as well as with similarly inspired ones from around the world, and with lovely images of sumptuous carpets and Persian miniatures. Full-color photographs throughout

From Publishers WeeklyThe basic design of the Persian garden can be traced back to the sixth century B.C. and was seminal to the development of Islamic, Indian and Western European styles. Noted garden writer, designer, historian and lecturer Hobhouse traces the evolution of the Persian garden and its impact, combining impressive scholarship with a gardener's practical insights. Her portrait of life in and around what is now Iran viewed through the prism of its gardens spans two and a half millennia and touches on virtually every major civilization. In this mostly arid region, gardening was synonymous with water. It was so important that Cyrus the Younger ranked the management of that resource one of "the noblest and most necessary pursuits." Hobhouse explores the interplay among architecture, trade, religion, warfare, government and horticulture with text that is meticulously researched but comfortably conversational. Numerous photographs, diagrams and reproductions illuminate her descriptions, and the time line of the Royal Houses of Persia, glossary of Persian terms, listing of Persian plants and exhaustive bibliography will be helpful for casual readers, garden designers and scholars alike. Curiously, despite Hobhouse's acute sense of the region's geography, the only two maps included are inadequate; a detailed topographic view of the area would have been welcome. Still, this is a dazzling look at the evolution of a beautiful and peaceful tradition. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From The New YorkerThe word "paradise" comes from the ancient Persian word for an enclosed garden, and the art of landscaping is arguably Iran's great cultural legacy; qanats, underground ducts bringing melted snow from the mountains, have artificially irrigated the arid plateau of Iran for the past two and a half millennia. Hobhouse, a veteran garden historian and designer, elegantly explains the continuity of the aesthetic ideas that govern Persian gardens, with their rills of water and tree-lined alleys underplanted with roses and violets. Her account, accompanied by Jerry Harpur's spectacular photography, spans more than two thousand years of design, leading us from the remnants of Cyrus the Great's capital, Pasargadae, to Persian-influenced gardens as far afield as Quebec. Copyright 2005 The New YorkerFrom BooklistThis elegant book, with 150 color photographs and 50 drawings and diagrams, traces the evolution of Persian gardens from ancient times to the present. Famed British garden writer Hobhouse begins by describing the oldest existing garden, Pasargadae, created by Cyrus the Great in the sixth century B.C.E., which provided shade, vegetation, and a refuge. She tells how the ancient Persians built a network of underground aqueducts to bring water from the mountains to the villages and cities in what is now Iran. Hobhouse discusses the spiritual dimensions of these gardens and describes what she labels "luxurious encampments," some of the most beautiful gardens in the world. Other chapters examine triumphant gardens and the gardens of rulers and merchants that were created in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Jerry Harpur's resplendent photographs complement Hobhouse's minutely researched text. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved