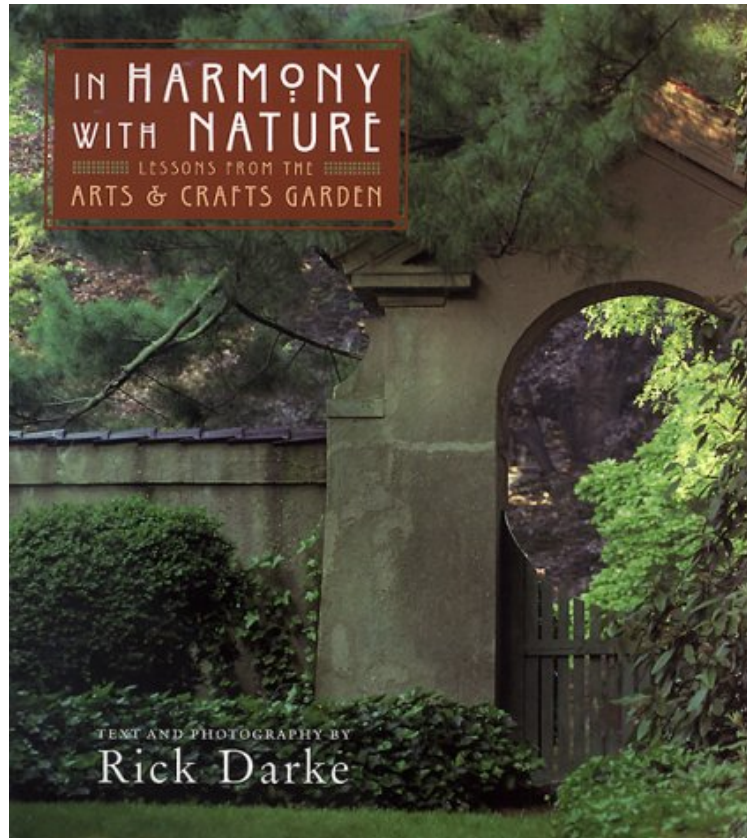


[Download pdf] In Harmony With Nature: Lessons from the Arts Crafts Garden

## In Harmony With Nature: Lessons from the Arts Crafts Garden

*Rick Darke*

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**Rick Darke : In Harmony With Nature: Lessons from the Arts Crafts Garden** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Harmony With Nature: Lessons from the Arts Crafts Garden:

26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. A fresh view on a classic garden styleBy A CustomerRick Darke has produced a beautiful book. "Arts and Crafts" gardens appeared along with craftsman-type architecture and furniture in the latter 1800s. Some of the great UK and US gardens are examples and Jekyl, Luytens and Wright are a few recognizable practitioners of the style. The concept is to link the garden to the associated buildings in a manner consistent with the locale. Yes, that is a mouthful, but it is one worth chewing-on a bit if you've tired of the typical garden and the now-trite garden book. Although perhaps easiest to envision at a large estate, the principles presented are easily adapted to smaller gardens and I have found it helpful to have a philosophy to undergird my planning and planting. Darke writes clearly and well, presenting his thesis in an enjoyable way. His numerous photographs are gorgeous, well-reproduced and inspiring in a horticultural sense. This is a very worthwhile book at a very fair price.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great bookBy Ernest K. Robesongood photos and data on landscape for arts and crafts houses, sensitive use of architectural materials with plantings in creative applications.23 of 24 people found the following review helpful. A garden with a "mission"By A CustomerRick Darke brings into

perspective the history and philosophy of the arts and crafts garden, while assuming you are familiar with the movement itself. He does offer practical suggestions of what would be appropriate in an arts and crafts garden without telling one how to create it. Offering many photos of gardens designed by several well known historical garden architects including Gertrude Jekyll. Though not an instructional book, it brought me a better understanding in creating the true historical garden that I am looking for, and an even better understanding of what it means. I would recommend this to any true arts crafts believer.

With text and photography by Rick Darke, this stunning new full-color book highlights magnificently preserved or restored Arts and Crafts gardens in both England and North America, discussing the philosophy that informed their design and the place they hold within the movement. The Arts and Crafts landscape aesthetic is interpreted for today's gardeners, allowing them to incorporate the simplicity and harmony that distinguishes the style into their own outdoor spaces. The book details specific ways readers can bring Arts and Crafts elements to their homes and gardens, such as including pergolas that effectively link house and garden or by planting native species that add a compelling sense of place.

.com Anyone who is interested in the art of gardening and the form, texture, and shape of plants (and what gardener isn't?) will enjoy this book just for the sheer beauty of its photography. The dramatic design, with flowing masses of herbaceous plantings playing off Arts Crafts structures (birdbaths, sundials, and arbors), is captured in numerous full-page color photographs. The Arts Crafts ideal of the unity of house and garden shows in the interplay of plants and garden structures: roses climbing old stone walls, rows of fluffy lavender shaded by the heavy crosspieces of pergolas, branching tree limbs captured in stained glass. The skill of the craftsman and the gardener in unifying house and garden shines through in the details of the stone and woodwork and the lushness of the planting. These design ideas, developed in the mid-18th century in reaction to a perceived threat of mechanization, are as aesthetically pleasing today as they were 150 years ago. And the juxtaposition of the sturdy, hand-hewn quality of the craftsmanship with the free-flowing plantings is no doubt needed even more today in our world of faxes, computers, and cell phones. Reading Rick Darke's love poem of a book to Arts Crafts gardens is like going on a tour of North America and Britain's best gardens, accompanied by a most knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour guide. You are invited into the back gardens of all those really cool bungalows; your stroll through the gardens is enhanced by informed discourse on their history and the techniques used to create them. Many of the design ideas translate well to today's smaller gardens: dividing space into garden "rooms," and using urns or fountains as focal points and screens to create a sense of enclosure within the garden. Darke, an ornamental grass expert from Pennsylvania, has written the definitive--and the most beautiful--book on Arts Crafts gardens. --Valerie EastonFrom BooklistThe principles of the arts and crafts movement remain as vital for gardeners today as when they were first articulated in the 1800s. Darke highlights a number of important homes and garden settings associated with arts and crafts style to underscore how design elements make reference to nature, thereby creating harmonious kinships between the indoor environment of a home and its outdoor spaces. Quoting seminal figures such as Morris, Ruskin, Emerson, and garden writers Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson, Darke reexamines the pertinence of arts and crafts ideals for our own gardens. In sidebar boxes he suggests specific plants and planting methods, and types of materials and decorative embellishments, consistently providing the ways and means to tap into the philosophy of an arts and crafts mindset. A bevy of beautiful photographs illustrates Darke's thoughtful and inspiring ruminations. Alice JoyceCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedFrom the AuthorMy work has afforded me the opportunity to visit and photograph a great many Arts Crafts gardens in Great Britain and across North America. I've been lucky to wake up in many of these gardens, to share meals and conversation in them. My journeys have left an indelible mark on my own understanding of the garden and how richly it can contribute to the character of daily life. This book is a distillation of these lessons learned from the Arts Crafts garden.