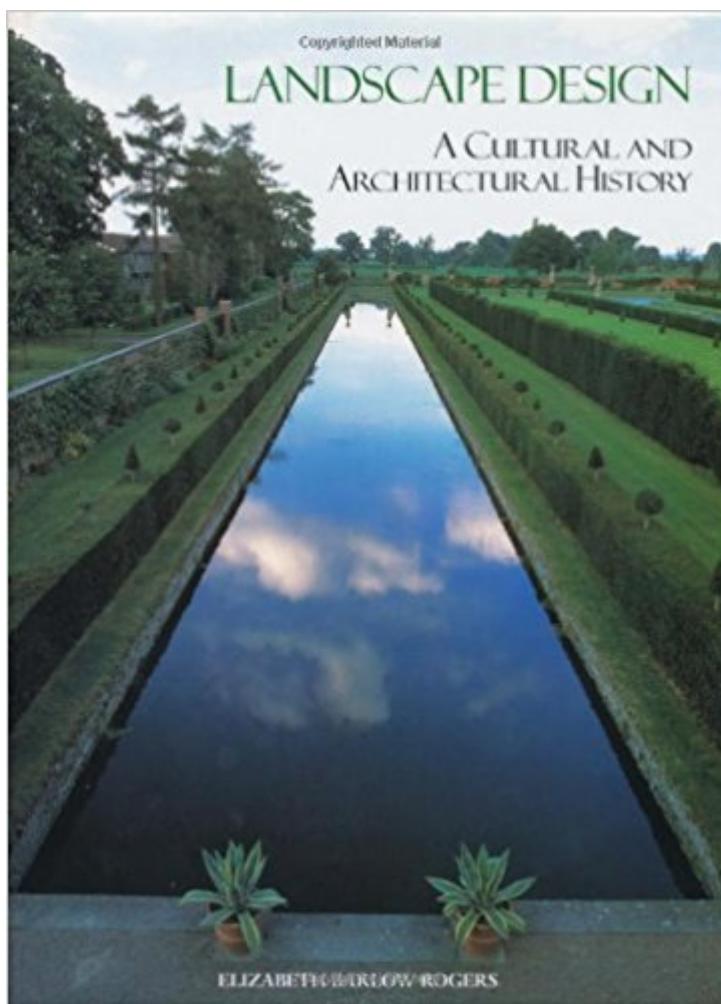


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# Landscape Design: A Cultural And Architectural History



## **Synopsis**

This volume presents a history of the ways in which human beings have shaped the landscape at cult sites, in cities and on great private estates, from prehistoric times to the present, throughout the world. The book considers what the evolution of the design of the landscape reveals about the development of society and culture, examining famous cities, palaces and parks, as well as lesser-known designed landscapes, and even sites now vanished from around the world. Illustrated with hundreds of photographs, drawings and plans, the book leads the reader through ancient cities, palatial gardens and magnificent sanctuaries. Also covered are: the royal cemeteries of ancient Egypt; the superb temples of ancient Greece and Rome; the magnificent gardens of Renaissance and Baroque Europe and the Far East; the great public parks of the late 19th century; and some of the most exciting avant-garde gardens and earth works of the present day.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, former administrator of New York City's Central Park (The Forests and Wetlands of New York City), begins *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History* with stone circles and ziggurats, and traces design's evolution through to today's suburbs and theme parks. An encyclopedic account of man-made landscapes around the world illustrated with a stunning 633 photos and drawings, more than half in color, the book reveals a 1720 English turf amphitheater, the "Tea, Moss and Stones" (as one chapter is titled) of Japanese gardens, the grand genius of Versailles designer André Le Nôtre, as well as today's "Earthworks, Golf Courses, Philosophical Models, and Poetic Metaphors." It's an accessible and elegant respite.

Perhaps best known as the founding director of New York's Central Park Conservancy, which oversaw and funded the park's revitalization, Rogers (The Forests and Wetlands of New York City) here presents a comprehensive survey of landscape design. Viewing her subject as the art that modifies and shapes nature, she explores the cultural values that shape, or are embodied in, cities, parks, and gardens. Embracing all cultures and ranging from prehistoric times to the present, this book covers the broadest range of subjects implied by the title, including city planning, landscape architecture, conservation, earthworks, and other uses of land in contemporary art. While this history is international in scope, it does narrow its primary focus to the United States when it reaches the late 20th century. The photographs and especially the plans are excellent and numerous. Single pages or double-page spreads devoted to specific topics add an encyclopedic element while allowing Rogers to provide even more information, illustrations, and plans without interrupting the flow of her very readable text. Accessible to lay readers but of interest to scholars, this book could serve as the text for a comprehensive course on the history of landscape design. Highly recommended. Daniel Starr, Metropolitan Museum of Art Lib., New York

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WOW what a book. Incredibly interesting subject matter. It is however a very difficult books to read. The author is incredibly intelligent and knowledgable in this field, and on more than one occasion makes you take out your old grammar cards and confirm that yes... somehow the past 12 lines on this page have all been one coherent literarily sound sentence. Incredible book, but denser than the King James... and thicker! if you are reading this for a class awesome its a great read.... DO NOT WAIT till 2 days before the test, this is a book you can NOT cram read. little bit each day.

Print is very small and sentences seem to run on. Too many flowery embellishments to get some points across. Here, less would be more. Love the history behind all the works.

This was recommended by one of my students, and it is terrific. It gives insights into why certain landscape and garden designs came to be, not simply how they are done. I'll refer to some of the author's specific points in my next course.

This is the book i was looking and i did not have to wait long.

good

Well written and interesting

This is a great book. It is very readable, and even if you are not particularly interested in landscape design/architectural history, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers will inspire you. This book follows landscape and cultural architecture through history and makes me wonder why all schools - from elementary on up - don't attack history lessons from such a practical and fascinating point of view. Also, compared with other landscape Arch books this is much less narrow and really weaves in many many threads of cultural and historical interest.

My prof assigns so much reading, so I think I have more of an issue with the quantity rather than the book itself. Can be quite dry at times, yet a few pages later- really engaging stuff!

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