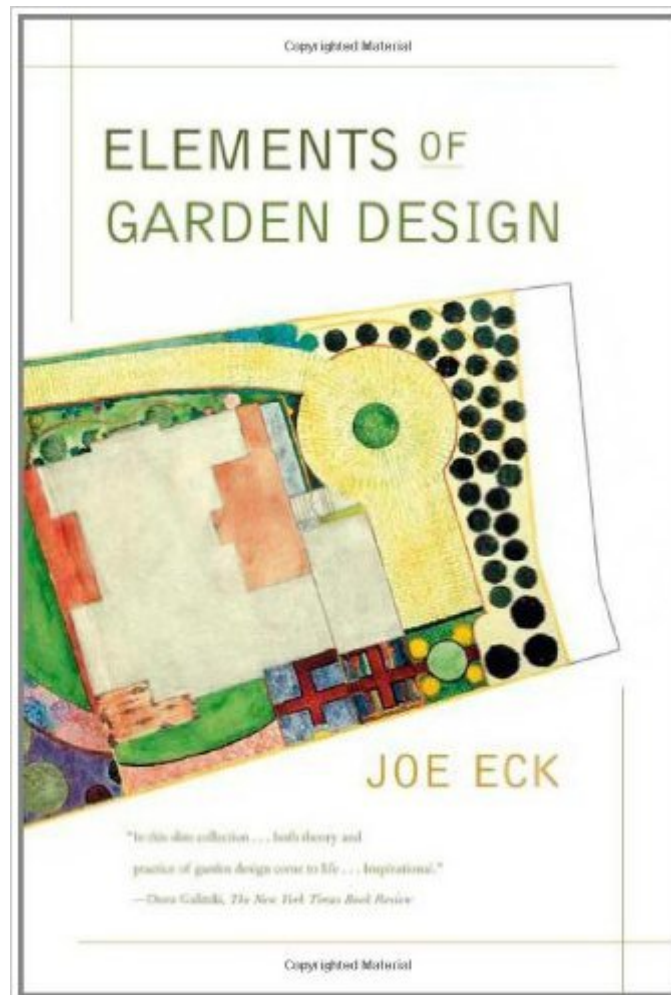


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Elements Of Garden Design



Synopsis

Elements of Garden Design does what few gardening books do--it addresses the process of conceiving a whole garden, as opposed to a single element like color or a particular class of plant. Joe Eck explores the idea of a garden, and offers a practical approach to translating concepts such as "intention" and "harmony" into the solid forms of hedges and terraces, paths and rooms. Novice and experienced professional alike will find both food for thought and down-on-the-ground advice on such matters as creating child- and pet-friendly designs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Of the hundred garden and gardening books I own, I always go back to this one (I have the 1995 ed.). It is fundamental and funny, a refreshing breath of (un)common sense when designing a garden, or trying to figure out what's lacking in your own garden, or understanding what it is that gives such satisfaction in other people's gardens. The few drawings convey exactly what the author is trying to say.

First published years ago as a series of article in Horticulture Magazine, this is a beautifully written work of both garden design theory and practice. The book title may sound like a rip off of Strunk and White's "Elements of Style" but don't let that turn you off. This is a great book to be read as a novice and to return to years later.

I love the short chapters, fashioned from the Horticulture Magazine series that was the original purpose of the writings: you can easily read one and set it aside until you have time to pick it back up. The very heart of the artistic side of landscape design is presented in a very well-written & meaningful way. I purchased it as recommended reading for a Landscape Design class, and find it invaluable to go back and read certain sections over and over.

I'm a direct, bottom-line kind of person with little patience for abstract theories. This book discusses the theoretical underpinnings of gardening, but I found it very useful. My husband and I just built a house and our yard is a blank slate. I had no idea where to start. After reading this book, however, I have a better understanding of what kind of garden should be planted in my yard. This book would be helpful to anyone who loves plants but doesn't understand which plants to get or where to put them.

This is a book done by one of the top professionals in the industry. It gives you a good background on the principles involved in designing a garden/landscape. I highly recommend getting it. There are no color photos here, but that's not what this book is about and for what I am seeing you can get it for 99 cents!! I suggest you grab it. I wouldn't particularly recommend this for just the homeowner interested in "doing her yard", however, this is a starting point for those who really want to utilize the principles involved in creating a great garden space, it is a "reading" gardening book, not an "inspirational" gardening book, more "educational".

Unlike other garden teaching texts, I looked forward to reading this one as one might a good novel. Joe Eck's writing style is elegant and conveys information most enjoyably. I feel I learned a great deal more from this single book than I have from whole stacks of texts on the same subject.

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