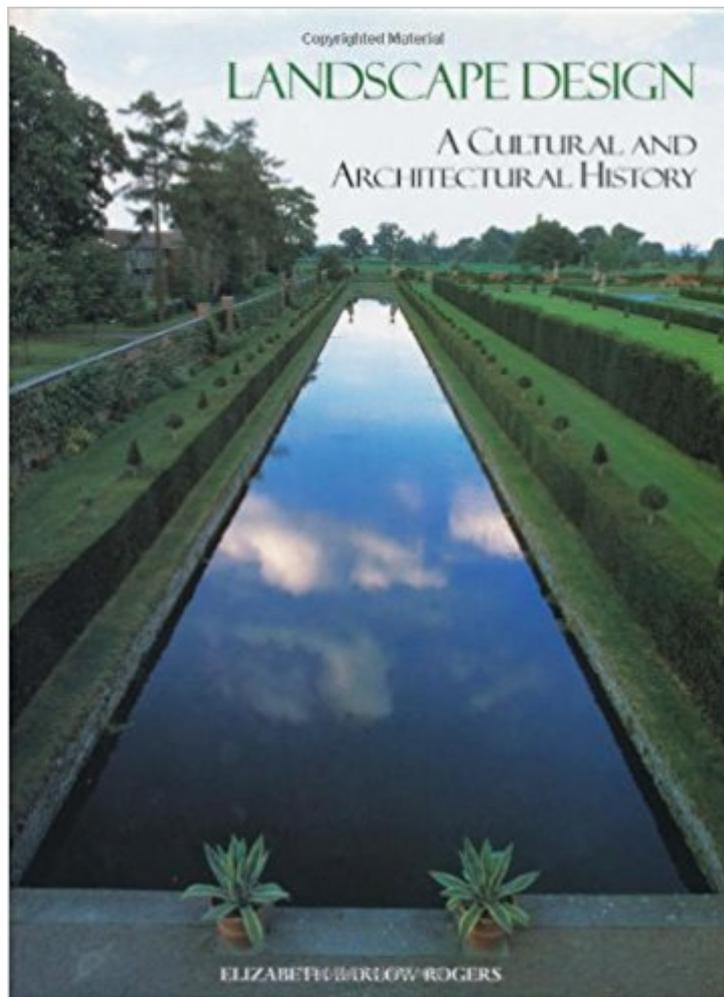


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# Landscape Design: A Cultural And Architectural History



## 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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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (29 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Very well researched history of landscape design. However, I wouldn't go so far as to describe the photographs as 'breathtaking' as does another reviewer. There are many of them, all interesting, but almost all (apart from a brief intro sequence) only quarter or eighth page size. As a result, there is no image as impressive as the front cover. This is my only quibble, and the reason for 4 not 5 stars: why have a book so big and then not make full use of its size to present such a visually-based subject?

With 630 illustrations, many created just for this book (430 of which are in full color), Elizabeth

Barlow Rogers' *Landscape Design: A Cultural And Architectural History* offers dazzling, panoramic beauty to complement its extensive commentary on landscapes throughout history, ranging from Stonehenge and the Forbidden City of Beijing to Versailles and New York's Central Park. This comprehensive survey, with its intelligent text and breathtaking photographs, is highly recommended to anyone interested in the history of landscaping since the dawn of humanity.

From Nineveh to a mobile home in Pecos, NM, Rogers casts a wide net, exploring the evolution of formal landscaping in parallel to humans' urge to put their mark on the earth. A scholar, who administered New York's Central Park for two decades, she provides a compelling account of the cultural roots that underly the plantings, explaining the ideas inherent in unfamiliar and classic gardens. Every page contains sharp insights—for example, her suggestion that the broken column that the Baron de Monville built as his house at the Desert de Retz outside Paris in the 1780s portended the revolution that would sweep away the civilization he cherished. The abundance of plans and illustrations do ample justice to the text. (Michael Webb is the book reviewer for *LA Architect* magazine.)

I got this book for a Landscape Architecture History class and didn't use it much. From what my teacher told me and the few chapters I did read (they're pretty long chapters, by the way) the author tends to go on and on, verging on losing the readers attention at times. What's great about this book though is that you can pick it up and read about a particular site (with great photos to accompany the text) for 10 or 15 minutes, which makes it a great coffee table book.

Fantastic text. This was a required text for my MLA, and I loved every page. Since graduating, on multiple occasions I've photocopied chapters to take on trips abroad as a landscape architect's guide to some of the more amazing built landscapes and gardens of the world. Enjoy this text--even if it competes with studio! Worth owning.

I had to purchase this book for my LA class and it's a bug squasher. While the pictures are impressive, and the coverage of the subject in-depth, the author can be long winded. What she covers in a page could have easily been said in a couple of paragraphs. I also don't care for the glossy pages. While they make the pictures look nice, reading the fine text that it's printed can give one a headache.

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.

The book is text driven, so provides a great deal of information about landscaping themes and styles. I purchased this book for a university class I am taking, and it has proven to be a valuable resource.

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