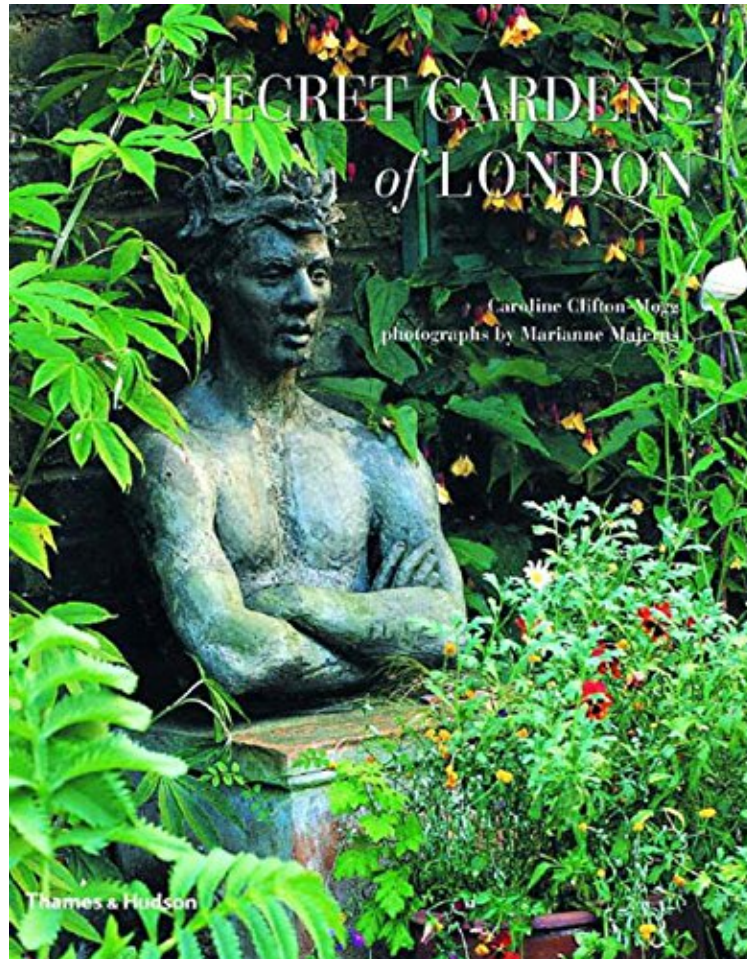


Secret Gardens of London

Caroline Clifton-Mogg, Marianne Majerus
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Caroline Clifton-Mogg, Marianne Majerus : Secret Gardens of London before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Secret Gardens of London:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Vicarious thrills By Phil Dinehart I quite enjoyed seeing the photos selected of these gardens. I never would have heard of them without this book, and applaud the author for bringing them to our attention--and on sunny days to boot 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By KWFascinating and fun to read, with lots of beautiful photos. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Some of average nicely laid out planted spaces that are in every other ... By aiman kakeh Nothing special here. Some of average nicely laid out planted spaces that are in every other such book or mag...

London is a city of hidden gardens, a place where few ever glimpse the many colourful secrets behind the sober townhouse facades that give so little away. But the gardens are there, fascinating in their diversity and infinite in their

variety, and beautifully revealed on the pages of this book. The secret gardens of London that are uncovered here go beyond convention; they range from the large, classical and formal, with simple, single colour schemes, to tiny gardens that run riot with colour of every imaginable hue. There are gardens on roofs and gardens in basements, gardens where the boundaries cannot be seen and gardens on terraces. There are gardens on top of the world, gardens with water - even gardens on water. There are gardens sheltered by tropical plants, or by billowing sails. There are English cottage gardens, and modern gardens that present sculpture outdoors. There are gardens of artists and gardens of practical enthusiasts. There are collectors' gardens, passionate plantsmen's gardens, gardens restored, revived or reclaimed. The gardens revealed here in this intriguing selection of unique places - thanks to the shared dreams of the owners and the ingenuity of London's finest designers - will delight and inspire anyone with an interest in gardens, gardening - and learning one or two secrets along the way.

From Publishers Weekly This beautifully shot and well-selected collection of London gardens shows how bleak urban spaces, trashed backyards, derelict barges and soulless rooftops can be transformed by artful landscaping. Majerus's lush images are pleasantly disorienting—turning the book's pages, readers will feel as if they've been plunged into unexpected verdant worlds thriving in cramped, industrial zones and in roomier, suburban areas. Clifton-Mogg's accompanying prose, however, is sometimes overgrown, perhaps an appropriate accompaniment to the engineered chaos of the English garden, but also typical of the editorial timbre of many of the magazines for which she writes regularly (House Gardens, Harpers Queen). Phrases such as "all that can be seen are the green propellers of the banana palm and the flicking tongues of bamboo leaves" can render the text rather amusing. But the volume does succeed in offering gardening enthusiasts a rare peek into the private green spaces of Londoners: most of the gardens represented are off-limits to the public and can't be seen from the street. And though the author's emphasis is squarely on lifestyle and atmosphere, the book does offer anecdotal advice, including tips for creating the illusion of space or cultivating themed gardens (Portuguese and Japanese, for instance). All and all, this book offers a lovely virtual tour for general readers and an inspiration to practicing urban gardeners who possess the patience, tenacity and resourcefulness to better the city behind the scenes. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Caroline Clifton-Mogg is a regular contributor to interior design magazines, including House Garden, Harpers Queen and Country Life. Her books include *The Curtain Book*, *Curtains*, *The Neoclassical Source Book* and *The Complete Doll's House Source Book*. Marianne Majerus has contributed the photography to numerous books on gardens and garden design. She was voted 'Photographer of the Year' by the Garden Writers' Guild in 2002.