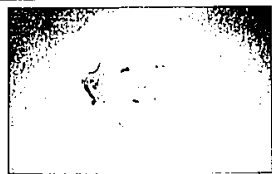


CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 1992

DOWN TO EARTH



MARTY FIGLEY

Book gives thorough landscaping lesson

Have you ever wanted to take a course in garden design? "The Book of Garden Design," John Brookes (Macmillan, \$40), is the next best thing to attending his School of Landscape Design in England.

Brookes takes the reader through a thorough study. All the elements that make up a landscape, from site selection, drawings and charts to the finishing touches, are here so that you can arrive at a perfect design for your home grounds.

Large or small, formal or informal, he illustrates by photographs many of his own designs and others — all styles are addressed — and explains how each was achieved.

His approach to teaching is unusual. For instance, he shows how to use plants as design elements as well as the proper accessories for each style of garden. I am very impressed with this book and know it will answer many questions about the subject.

Digging in

"Step by Step to Successful Gardening," (Better Homes and Gardens, Meredith Publishing, \$14.95 trade paper, \$24.95 hard), although published in 1987, is still a most useful, all-around garden book.

All types of gardening situations are addressed, including soil, tools, lawns, shrubs, annuals and perennials. A simple, no-nonsense approach, with colorful illustrations, tells how to do things right.

"Flowering Bulbs," Theodore James Jr., photos by Harry Harry Haralambow (Macmillan, \$29.95), shows how to succeed in growing more than 85 bulbs for year-round beauty and enjoyment. Some are familiar, others unusual. A mail-order source is included.

I particularly like the way the chapters are divided by season of bloom, the descriptions and the list of recommended species. When a bulb is on the endangered list, it is so noted.

Salad days

It's not too late to grow some of the salad greens. You can learn all you need to know and then some in "The Salad Lover's Garden," Sam Bittman (Doubleday, \$25).

For instance, Bittman explains how to keep a continuous supply of lettuce and reminds us that, in very warm weather, it's wise to start seed indoors. He teaches how to grow all kinds of salad "fixins" including unusual greens and herbs, and recommends specific varieties.

His instructions from preparing the soil to harvesting the crops are clear. Learn about clard, chicory and dandelion as well as vegetables. Excellent photos show how salad gardening can be an art.

"Lost Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll," Fenja Gunn (Macmillan, \$24.95), is an interesting book for those who want to learn more about color in the gardens and sequentially blooming plants.

Since most of the Jekyll gardens no longer exist, Gunn has recreated 20 of her designs with watercolors. Plant lists are included. When the original varieties are no longer available, Gunn suggests substitutions that blend perfectly. Many types of gardens are illustrated, and excerpts from Jekyll's writings give us a clue to her thinking.

At home

Ortho has released four books, reasonably priced for the home gardener (each \$9.95). All Ortho books are designed to be used throughout the United States.

"Landscaping With Wildflowers and Native Plants" tells how to use these plants that are most suitable for each part of the country, and how to create gardens that are appropriate for them.

"Ortho's Plant Selector" helps find the proper plant for all types of gardens. By using the book as the publisher suggests, much guesswork can be eliminated. Plants are divided into categories for quick reference. Basic information is given.

"Flower Garden Plans" shows designs for 42 different flower beds and lists the plants for each one. If you want a particular type of garden (such as English style, water-saving, for birds), you'll probably find ideas here.

"How to Attract Hummingbirds and Butterflies" teaches how to design such a garden and what to plant. In addition, you will be treated to facts about the behavior of these fascinating creatures.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham.



STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY ZOLANSKY

Branching out: Bill and Hermine Cooke of Bloomfield Hills stroll in their 2 1/2-acre yard that's a natural sanctuary, with about 200 trees, shrubs, vines and wildflowers.

At home with nature This yard welcomes birds, wildlife

■ The grounds at a Bloomfield Township residence have been turned into a natural sanctuary for birds and wildlife.

BY MARTY FIGLEY
STAFF WRITER

For the past 18 years, Bill and Hermine Cooke have worked with nature to create a sanctuary for birds and wildlife on 2 1/2 acres in Bloomfield Township, although their home is surrounded by traditionally kept properties.

"It's just really nice to sit out here in the evenings enjoying the birds and the animals," Bill Cooke said. "I've got a few favorites, especially a badger, whose name is Klaus."

This environmentally conscious garden contains around 200 trees and numerous shrubs, vines and wildflowers that provide a natural barrier from the noise and pollution of the outside world.

On two sides of the property, busy streets carry traffic while a railroad track edges another side. Cooke has managed to retain many native plants that insulate their land from these outside intrusions.

duous and evergreen trees, making a welcoming vista in the spring.

A large black walnut tree anchors the setting. The only plant that seemed affected by the walnut tree was a pine, which Cooke moved to another location. A large Colorado spruce is growing to one side.

Behind this wide band of plants is a natural spring-fed duck pond, a protected wetland area, which is respected in regard to its unusual function. Water-loving animals live in harmony with native water-loving plants.

All the water used in this household comes from a well, the source of which is the same underground flow that feeds the duck pond. In order to conserve this water, the lawn must rely on rain for its needs. No insecticides or pesticides are used on the lawns, since Cooke said he feels the chemicals will poison the ground water.

Mighty maple

Toward the house a hyscynth with pinkish blooms, resembling an old-style hollyhock, scumyous, ground covers and more share space with a very large California maple tree, its trunk embellished with gnarls.

See YARD, 7D



Best wishes: The Cookes stand by their wishing well birdbath that is made out of stones from the property.

Branching out

Across an expanse of lawn, rows of shrubs such as forsythia, lilac, magnolia and wild berries intermingled with shades of green foliage of various deci-

Designing ideas on display get down to earth

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Many designers really got down to earth at "Design, Live!" a presentation at the Michigan Design Center in Troy on Saturday.

That is, many colors and furnishings seen in room vignettes put together by area designers carried an environmental theme, showing a world of ideas.

The MDC, which marked its 15th an-

niversary earlier this year, is the largest single-story design center in the Midwest. It is usually open to the public only, or to consumers accompanied by an interior designer, architect or builder, and offers a designer referral service.

"Design, Live!" was a chance for the public to meet design professionals and see examples of their work.

Going for the gold — in color — was Gene Galley of Robn Goldman Design

in Bloomfield Hills. Galley's dining room featured walls colored a rich orange yellow that warmed like a sun, part of its glow picked up by gold accents in an Oriental bureau. White drapes hung from black, spear-like rods, and a black and silver frame outlined a mirror.

The sand-colored tile floor, natural sculptures of orchid arrangements, paintings of zebras, exotic bird statues

and bamboo furniture were among the touches that added to the environment feeling.

Irene Hanslow McGraw of IHM Interiors in Rochester Hills presented a cozy view, with a study containing animal prints and bookends, African statues and pillow designs, and a bonsai plant. The fine vertical lines in the

See DESIGNERS, 7D

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

SUPER THURSDAY

Thursday, Aug. 20, was a special day at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills. A celebration that evening on the rear terrace of Saarinen House noted the 15th anniversary of Roy Slaas as president of the art academy.

The house is being restored to its original state of 1928, when it was the residence (and one of the projects at Cranbrook) of architect and designer Eliel Saarinen. The house, on Academy Way at Cranbrook, is one of the most significant built in the United States during the '20s.

Also Thursday, Cranbrook commemorated the 100th anniversary of Saarinen's birth. The 72nd anniversary of Eero Saarinen's birth. Eero, Eliel's son, was also an architect and designer. This year is the academy's 60th anniversary.

Art Beat

FULBRIGHT HONOR

A 1992 master of fine arts graduate of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills has received a Fulbright scholarship.

Gretchen Gasterland, a master of fine arts graduate of the printmaking department, received a Fulbright scholarship to study in Sweden. Her proposal involves the making of a woven narrative incorporating photographic silk screen and traditional Swedish weaving. Gasterland is from Bloomington, Minn., and also received her bachelor of arts degree from Carleton in 1989.

SOBI

Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS), a nationwide project to document and increase public awareness of America's outdoor sculpture, is looking for volunteers to help survey outdoor sculpture in Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

This will be the largest arts and cultural volunteer project ever launched to save these cultural resources. It is a joint project of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American Art and the National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property.

Michigan SOS! is coordinated by the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Gallery at Saginaw Valley State University. The metropolitan Detroit area SOS! is coordinated by the city of Southfield's Division of Cultural Arts, where it is located.

For more information, call 354-9524.

LATIN LOOK

In May, Latin America received an introductory exhibit showing what is happening with artists using glass in other parts of the world. The exhibition, sponsored by the Vitro de Arte Corp. and organized by Habitat Galleries, took place at the prestigious Tamayo Museum in Mexico City.

The show, which included more than 50 artists from 17 countries, was so popular it set an all-time attendance record at the museum and was held over until this week.