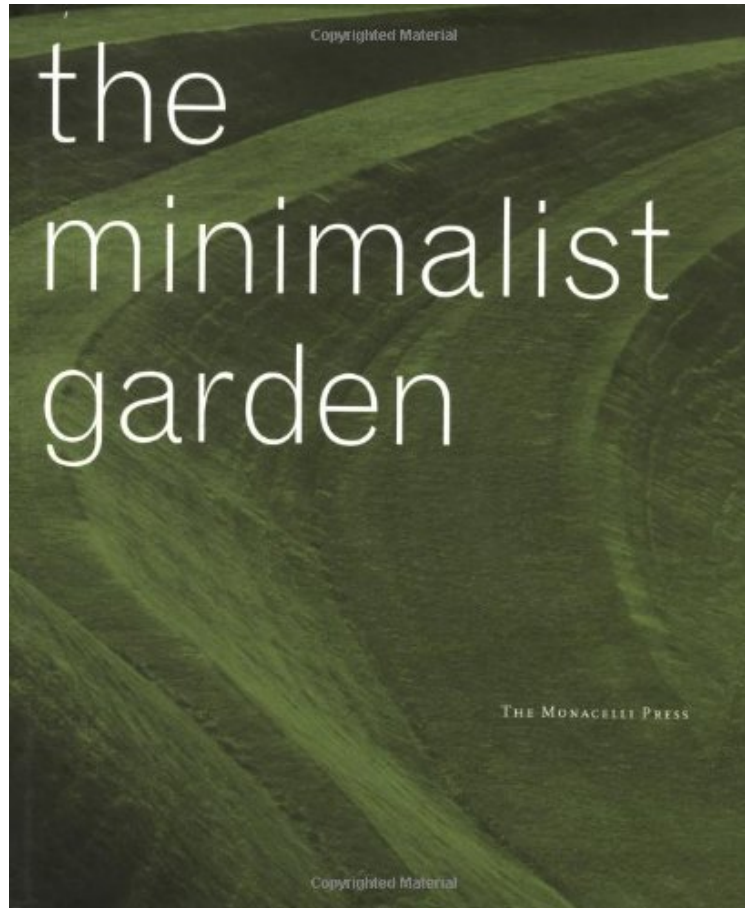


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## The Minimalist Garden

*Christopher Bradley-Hole*

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#1491876 in Books The Monacelli Press 1999-12-06 1999-10-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.34 x .91 x 9.48l, #File Name: 1580930557208 pages | File size: 51.Mb

**Christopher Bradley-Hole : The Minimalist Garden** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Minimalist Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The magic world of Japanese traditional garden, but few ...By Volodymyr Glukhomanyuk The magic world of Japanese traditional garden, but few drawings, diagrams relating to the material. The book is more for reference than for professionals. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Kuppy A little disappointing. 34 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Probably expecting too much from this book. By Ping Lim I waited for the book's arrival with high expectation after reading such rave reviews from the readers in . Whilst this book is well-presented with structured discussions in the topics of extended home, courtyard gardens, roof gardens terraces, pools water gardens, country gardens, landscape gardens, plants materials, I expected more meat from this book. I found that there are too many recycled pictures used ie pictures of the same thing but taken from different angles, or pictures been used from previous chapters in order to illustrate the writer's points. Many high profile properties by world famous architects are used such as by Tadao Ando, John Pawson, Glen Murcutt, Luis Barragan, so forth but then again, their works were already covered in other architectural

or landscaping books. Therefore, for avid readers like myself, most of the freshness is no longer there. Having said that, index provided at the end of the book (containing suggested plants for minimalist gardens) is very handy indeed. The writer is helpful enough to suggest what goes with what. Some pictures of the plants are featured some don't which could be quite frustrating at times but then again, I might be expecting too much. On the bright side, there's a website provided for those readers who wish to seek further info upon the writer. I wouldn't say this book is the ultimate or the must have for the minimalist garden but then again, it's a book worth looking into. I wish this book contains more discussion pictures on those historical Japanese zen gardens so that we could understand in-depth about the fundamental of minimalist garden but alas, only the world famous Ryoan-ji garden in Kyoto, Japan is featured, which is only been touched upon briefly. One of the highlight of that garden is that irrespective of where you stand in that garden, you would always see only 14 stones rather than the whole 15 which is supposed to be there, which implies to you the ingenuity the clever planning of the landscape architect of the past (which isn't even mentioned in this book!) Then again, I might be expecting too much. Be warned that some suggested planting in the book might not be practical in the long run despite that the pictures illustrated look a million bucks. For examples, the usage of silver birch trees, they might look good now in cluster planting or when they are small but when they have grown, when they are going to seed, they could be a pain in the backside. From our experience, axe would come in rather handy in those situation. Planting of various kinds of grasses could be nice but unless you maintain them on regular basis, they might look rather messy in the end. Whilst minimalist garden provides the serene effect, unless we use restrain commitment to maintain, it might not be the easiest garden to have. To achieve the nice effects as illustrated in the pictures, substantial money needs to be expended such as frameless conservatory. Desert garden is only workable if the weather of the place is suitable. The desert plants would only rot to the root if it is introduced in an equatorial countries, for argument's sake. In that token, the writer should discuss not only the pros of his suggestions but also their cons as well.

Over the course of the twentieth century many of the best garden designers looked to the past for inspiration; at the turn of the millennium, however, a fresh approach to garden design minimalism has moved to the forefront. The philosophy of minimalism, rooted simultaneously in classicism and modernism, has had a strong influence on architecture and interior and graphic design, as well as landscape. Minimalist gardens, with their emphasis on clean lines, pure form, and a strong sense of place, are closely related to contemporary architecture and lifestyles. New trends in more relaxed and ecologically aware planting have contributed greatly to the development of such green spaces, and the creative use of trees and hedges to define and control space is often an important design element. In this volume, award-winning garden designer Christopher Bradley-Hole has drawn together a great variety of minimalist gardens from around the world large and small, urban and rural. The projects are grouped into thematic chapters, including the landscape garden, pools and water gardens, courtyard gardens, and terrace and roof gardens. Among the designers are Vladimir Sitta, John Pawson, Luis Barragn, Seth Stein, Jacques Wirtz, Martha Schwartz, Shodo Suzuki, and Isamu Noguchi. Large color photographs and detailed images show the gardens in context; the text discusses the inspiration behind each garden, the relationship of space and proportions, and the frequent use of unusual materials and imaginative planning. Directories of materials and plants for the minimalist garden are included as well.

About the Author Christopher Bradley-Hole was trained as an architect and received a graduate degree from the Architectural Association in London in the study and conservation of historic gardens and landscapes. His own garden designs range from small city courtyards to immense country estates.