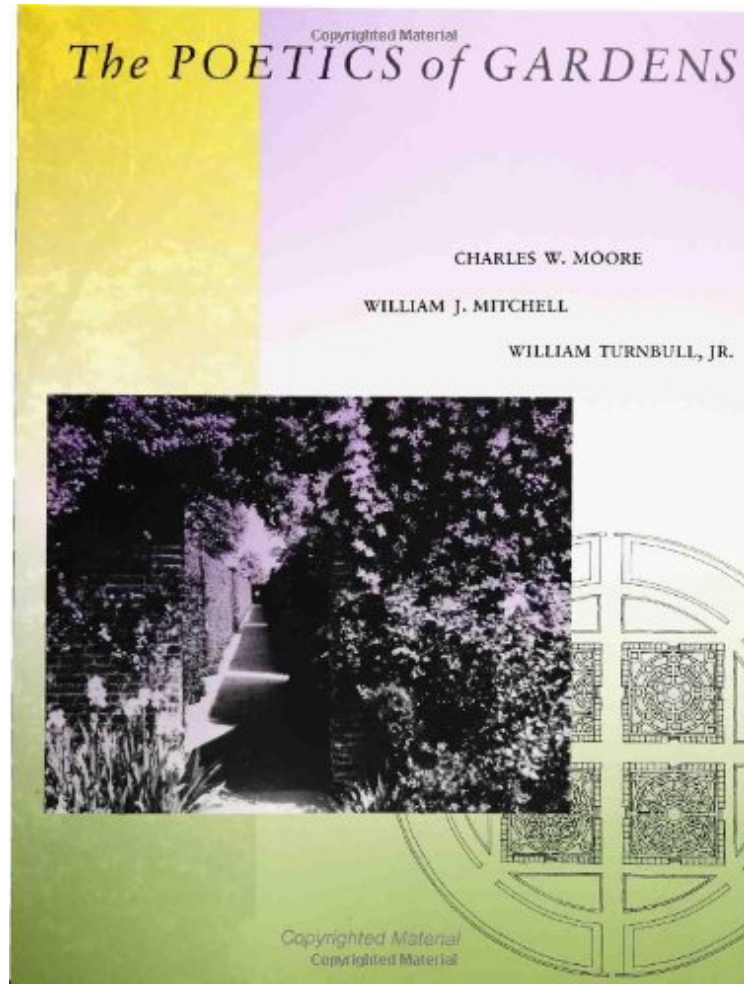


(Free download) The Poetics of Gardens

## The Poetics of Gardens

*Charles W. Moore, William J. Mitchell, William Turnbull*  
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**Charles W. Moore, William J. Mitchell, William Turnbull : The Poetics of Gardens** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Poetics of Gardens:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. What an odd little book...By Roger CoxReminds me of the old Whole Earth Catalog, with interesting lists and discussions of elements and examples of garden design. Youngsters might see it as a paper version of a well-moderated blog that posts content-rich lists and travelogues on a given theme, here the theme is garden design. Not a lot of reverie, but then again it \*is\* published by MIT press...maybe this is as poetic as MIT gets (Cornell engineering alum here).0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Edwin L. SmithAnother awesome book by Charles Willard Moore Associates10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Not a cofee-table book, a SERIOUS BOOK!!!By Mara DazThis book impressed me with the amount of information on garden design, styles and history it has. No, it is not a coffee table book with pretty pictures, but a serious study on the history of garden design. The pictures in it are black-and-white, as well as all diagrams and plans.

It is an excellent reference book for students of landscape design and garden lovers alike!!!

There is a universality about the creation of gardens across time and in diverse cultures that has inspired this entirely different garden book: a playful and affectionate typology of gardens; a pattern book in which a score of landscapes and gardens are drawn, described, and analyzed not just as a bouquet of pleasures but as sources, lodes to be mined for materials, shapes and relationships, and ideas for transforming our own backyards. *The Poetics of Gardens* is a celebration of places and the gardens they can become. Most of the 500 sketches, axonometric drawings, and photographs were created especially for this book. They explore the special qualities of places and the acts that can transform them into gardens. The authors discuss the qualities that create the promise of a garden the shapes of land and water, the established plants, the light and wind, the climate and show how these can be organized to give a place a special meaning. And they pay particular attention to the "rituals of habitation" by which we imaginatively take possession of places on the surface of the earth. *The Poetics of Gardens* examines great gardens made in other places, with other climates, at other times from ancient Rome to modern England, from Ball to Botany Bay, from the court of Ch'ien Lung to the magic kingdom of Walt Disney to explore their devices and record their images, scents, and sounds. The authors discuss the adaptation of the great garden traditions of the past to North American soil and call together the creators of these gardens to speculate about how their patterns and ideas can be appropriated, transformed, and composed into places that come alive for us. Charles W. Moore, one of America's best known architects, is O'Neil Ford Professor of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. William J. Mitchell is Professor of Architecture at Harvard University. William Turnbull, Jr. is Principal of William Turnbull Associates, San Francisco.

From Publishers Weekly An ambitious and highly idiosyncratic work, this offers an invaluable bird's- and worm's-eye view of gardens around the world and over the span of human history as highly-wrought artifacts and everyday dwelling-places. With erudition and uncommon imagination, the authors consider the history and anthropology of gardens, their evolving esthetic principles, their architecture, their place in philosophy and literature, and the purposes they have served in religion, deftly compressing encyclopedic findings in urbane prose. They discuss the raw materials of garden sites, provide a "catalogue of compositional strategies" for gardeners, define types of gardens in terms of form and function, offer a sweeping survey of cultivated landscapes from ancient Rome's to Walt Disney's and conclude by summoning a pantheon of illustrious gardeners, thinkers and outspoken bystanders (Vita Sackville-West, Lucian, Frank Lloyd Wright, King Kong) to discuss, in a perceptive and madcap fantasy colloquy, some practical problems of design facing contemporary American gardeners. Moore, Mitchell and Turnbull view gardens as "rhetorical landscapes" to be "read for content"; to them, "A garden path can become the thread of a plot" that leads us to the heart of a culture when the garden's "devices of structure and figure and trope" are analyzed. Yet their richly illustrated book is also a spirited travel guide, evoking the "garden palace" of the Alhambra and the "anorexic palm trees of Beverly Hills, poking at a smog-bruised sky." They appraise horticultural marvels, but also those of civilization at large. This is an exhilarating sourcebook, an exemplary refuge for the restless gardener's imagination one to savor and ponder as an essential on the shelf. Moore is O'Neil Ford Professor of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin; Mitchell is a professor of architecture at Harvard; and Turnbull is a founder of William Turnbull Associates, San Francisco, an architectural firm. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. A lively and provocative presentation of great places and ideas that underlie them. I know of no book that looks as sympathetically and knowingly at gardens and garden design. (William I. Porter, Professor of Architecture, MIT) The authors look in a very fresh and innovative way at famous gardens designed in the past: as valuable and plausible sources for inspiration and learning and establishing a method for the design of contemporary gardens incorporating not only spatial, but sensory and poetic feelings. (Mario Schjetnan Garduo, University of Arizona and Mexico) Here at last is a book destined to restore a more affectionate and personal relationship with the garden. Charmingly written, profusely illustrated, this handsome book introduces the reader to the beauty and wide variety of gardens -- from the landscape designs of ancient China and India to those of Capability Brown and Walt Disney and the modern American suburban homeowner. (John B. Jackson, landscape historian) The authors begin by establishing some basic principles of gardening, then go on to discuss 20 gardens from places as diverse as ancient Rome to Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom... A provocative, challenging work. (Washington Post) The book is theoretical, challenging, and a literary delight. That three architects, two of them professors, could have produced a book so felicitously written, and without a single footnote, astonishes me. Their breadth of teaming is dazzling. The subtlety and clarity of their insights fill me with admiration. (Christopher Reed Horticulture) About the Author William J. Mitchell was the Alexander W. Dreyfoos, Jr., Professor of Architecture and Media Arts and Sciences and directed the Smart Cities research group at MIT's Media Lab. He authored many books, including *The World's Greatest Architect* (2008) and *Placing Words: Symbols, Space, and the City* (2005), both published by the MIT Press.