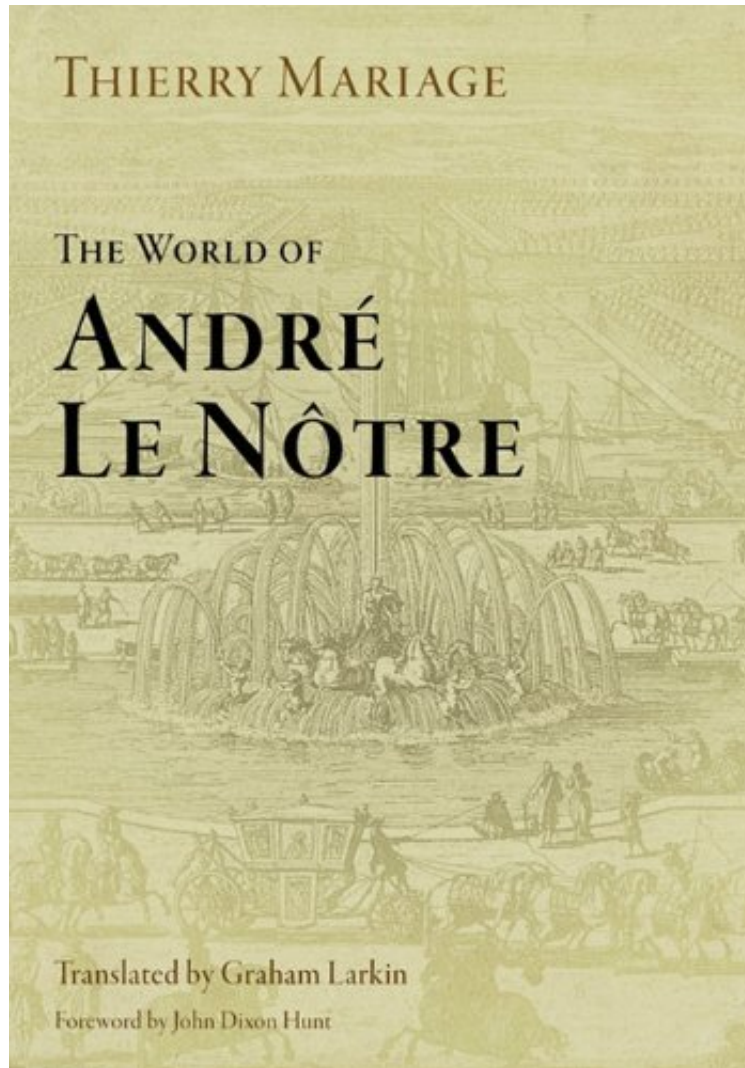


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## The World of Andre Le Notre (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture)

*Thierry Mariage*

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**Thierry Mariage : The World of Andre Le Notre (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The World of Andre Le Notre (Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture):

The gardens of Versailles along with the name of their chief creator, Andr Le Ntre (1613-1700) have become synonymous with the French style of "formal" garden. This style in its turn would succumb to another "national"

mode, the English school of naturalistic and picturesque landscapes. But as Thierry Mariage makes clear, the garden style that Le Ntre brought to perfection need not be seen in opposition to the later "English" one. Rather, he claims, they represent two points along a continuum that exists between the natural and cultural worlds. Published originally in Belgium as *L'univers de Le Ntre*, Mariage's examination of Le Ntre moves beyond traditional art historical documentation and appreciation into a realm of interpretation. He situates Le Ntre's garden art in a complex social and cultural world, where the practices of land management, surveying techniques and hydrology, military practice, and both scientific and literary perspectives on land use and experience brought into being a unique form of landscape architecture. His analysis opens up the fashion in which design techniques and garden philosophy are shaped by material culture.

"A substantial contribution to the study of seventeenth-century French garden practice." *Landscape Architecture* "A stimulating effort to contextualize Le Ntre's career and to relate the 'French formal garden' to the cultural and political environment of Louis XIV's reign." *French History* "This ambitious book is intellectually significant, well researched, and cogently presented. . . . Excellent." *Geographical* sAbout the Author Thierry Mariage is Architect for National and Historical Monuments, in charge of Versailles Museum, Park, and Gardens. Graham Larkin is Curator of European and American Art at the National Gallery of Canada.