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Landscapes In Landscapes



Synopsis

A leading figure in the New Perennial planting movement, garden designer Piet Oudolf emphasizes plant structure as the most important aspect of a successful garden. Form and texture are valued as much as color, and perennials--prized for their beauty throughout a natural life cycle--are used almost exclusively. Oudolf challenges conventional approaches to gardening that rely on short-lived bursts of color and constant maintenance and shows the delights of working with versatile, expressive perennials to create lasting, ecologically sound panoramas that relate to the greater landscape and the shifting seasons.Â This glorious full-color volume features twenty-three of Oudolf's most beautiful public and private gardens, including the widely acclaimed High Line and the Battery in New York City; the Lurie Garden in Millennium Park in Chicago; Wisley, the Royal Horticultural Society Garden in Surrey, England; the Pensthorpe Nature Reserve and Gardens in Norfolk, England; the Trentham Estate in Staffordshire, England; Il Gardino delle Vergini at the 2010 Venice Biennale; the Dream Park in Enköping, Sweden; and his own perpetually evolving garden in Hummelo, The Netherlands.Â Insightful, accessible text by gardening author Noël Kingsbury places Oudolf's work in context and explains how each garden and the plants selected for it fit the specific environment. Oudolf's detailed plans provide inspiration and insight for all interested in small personal gardens and the design of large-scale public landscapes alike.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are a Piet Oudolf fan - this is a book to add to your collection. Produced in a stylish glossy magazine format it contains photographs and sample planting plans, from a broad range of his

commissions for private and public clients. Visual images and partial planting plans, some in centre-fold style double-page spreads, give a flavour of each commission, alongside text which sets the planting in context. However, you will not find sufficient detail to explain how to do it or to see the visual effect of combinations identified in the planting plans. The images and detailed plans do not relate to each other. For some people, this will restrict the book to a 'nice to have' coffee table glossy. You have to study the plans, some with a magnifying glass, and re-read the text carefully to understand and appreciate what is going on in the various projects. If you are dedicated you can pick apart Piet's designs. It's extraordinary to see quite how structured they are yet look so natural. The book reads in order of project size, starting with the smallest and progressing to the largest. But if you delve into the chronology, what becomes apparent is Piet's progression over time from perennial plantings with grasses used as accents; to plantings today consisting of 75% grasses with a few forbs; moving from planting in blocks, to blocks blended drifts and islands with scattered accent plants, to matrix planting with accents in thematic schemes. The change appears to date from 2004 - Lurie Garden, Chicago when Piet first used blocks and drifts with accent plants using a large percentage of local wild flora - a departure from his normal plant palette. There is also a meadow feature using a matrix planting of grasses.

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