Landscape Design Series 6

Authored by
Larry A. Sagers
Horticulture Specialist
Utah State University
Funding Assistance From A Bureau Of Reclamation Grant
England’s Finest Gardens
Larry and Diane Sagers
The Gardens At Sissinghurst
• Garden Lovers, At Some Time In Their Life Must Visit Sissinghurst
• Climb The Spiral Staircase To The Top Of The Tower To Get An Overall View
In 1573, Queen Elizabeth I Gazed Out Over This Landscape When She Visited The New House And Its Owner Sir Richard Baker
• This Sophisticated Garden Shows Rare Plants With Traditional Cottage Garden Flowers. The Planting Scale Is Deliberately Varies From One Part To Another
The Formal Herb Garden Has Medicinal And Aromatic Plants Contrasted With A Naturalistic Orchard. The Paved Lime Walk Shows Cottage Flowers Of Many Colors
• The Charming Tudor Buildings Provide A Romantic Backdrop To The Planting
Growing Against The Slender Brick Buildings Are Roses, Honeysuckle And Clematis
• The Rose Garden Has Old Fashioned Varieties Grouped Around A Small Lawn
• Sissinghurst Combines Ancient Tudor Buildings To Show Off The Flowers, Tree And Shrubs
The Design Was Done By Sir Harold Nicholson And Planting Was Executed By His Wife Vita. He Laid The Strong Basic Design And Combined Existing Irregular Features Into A Plan Of Rectangular Vistas
• Vita Sackville-West's filled each garden room with stunning plant arrangements. Each 'room' has a theme that produces a color or seasonal design.
They Started In 1930 With The Derelict Tudor Castle And Outbuildings With Walls That Enclosed Garden Areas.
• The Enclosures Are Mostly Square Or Rectangular And, The Paths That Run Through Them Often Slant Slightly Where They Pass From One Area To Another
• This Characteristic Largely Due To The Slightly Asymmetrical Layout Of The Sixteenth Century Walls Adds A Special Charm To The Gardens
• The Rose Garden, The White Garden, And The Rondel Are Precisely Designed While The Nuttery And The Old Orchard Are Deliberately Natural
The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is situated on the banks of the River Thames between Richmond and Kew in southwest London.
The Gardens Comprise 132 Hectares Including An Extensive Arboretum, Water Features, Herbaceous Bedding, Some Of The World's Most Famous Glasshouses And Historic Buildings
• In 1840 The Royal Botanical Gardens At Kew Passed From Crown Control To The Government. Kew Was Opened To The Public In 1841, Over Royal Opposition Because The Queen Was Fond Of Exercising There
• The Striking Palm House, Built 1848, Was Possible From Improved Glass And Iron Manufacturing Techniques. The Palm House Measures 363 Feet Long, 100 Feet Wide, And 60 Feet High
• Sir William Chambers Designed Many Buildings For The Gardens Including The Orangery, Pagoda And Ruined Arch
• Sir Joseph Banks Became Unofficial Director And Brought Fame To The Botanic Gardens. Under His Direction Collectors Scoured The World For Plants Of Economic, Scientific Or Horticultural Interest.
• The Gardens At Great Dixter
Christopher Lloyd's Garden In East Sussex Is An Example Of Cottage Gardening On A Larger Scale
• The Manor Of Dixter Is First Recorded In 1220 And Structural Additions Were Made Again In 1464. In 1910, English Architect Edwin Lutyens Restored Great Dixter And Designed The Gardens
• Today, The Gardens Are Cultivated By Author And Lecturer Christopher Lloyd, A British Expert In Creating The Cottage Gardens With Regulated Informal Plantings
Great Dixter is a series of small gardens including a topiary garden, rose garden, kitchen garden - an attractive mingling of vegetables and flowers - a large orchard with wild flowers and a magnificent herbaceous border.
Great Dixter House Porch Entrance, Great Hall And Cross-wing, Date From 1464. As One Approaches The Main Entrance Of The House, Reminds You Of The Nursery Rhyme - 'There Was A Crooked Man, In A Crooked House'
• The Gardens Surround The House. Make A Circuit Of The Gardens And You Circle The House Exterior Giving Each Good Views Of The Other
According To Lloyd “Apart From A Couple Of Mixed Orchards And A Scattering Of Trees There Were No Gardens Here When My Parents Arrived On The Scene In 1910. Of The Trees A Few Survive: Three Pears, Including A Williams, Still Cropping Well”
The Yew Topiary Is Part Of Several Gardens. It Is Clipped Once A Year In August And Retains Its Sharp Outlines Through The Next May
• As Far As Possible Farm Buildings Are Incorporated In The Design and Four Brick Cattle Drinking Troughs Were Filled In And Planted
• The Paving Is York Sandstone From London's Pavements, That Became Available For Garden Use When
• It Was Ripped Up To Be Replaced By Tarmac
• The Sunken Garden Was Originally Lawn, And Was Dug Up For Vegetables During The First World War
• Dixter's Is A High Maintenance Garden With Mixed, Not Herbaceous Borders. The Gardens Have Shrubs, Vines, Hardy And Tender Perennials, Annuals And Biennials Growing In The Same Beds
• The Gardens Have No Segregated Color Schemes But Combine Many Colors
• The Sunken Garden Is Surrounded By The Barn Garden. The Gives A Good View Across It For AnAny Vantage
• Topiary Yew 'Coffee Pots' Are Close To High Hedges Of Olive Green Holm Oak, Commonly Called Ilex, Quercus Ilex.
• Close To The Nursery Is A Good View
Back To The House.
The Border's Season Of Interest Is Primarily Mid-June To Mid-August Period But Extends From April To October
• The High Garden Is A Pattern Typical Of Kitchen Gardens In Edwardian Times With Paths Flanked By Fairly Narrow Flower Borders
• These Are Backed By Espalier Fruit Trees Which Cut Off The View Of Vegetable Plots Behind. Nursery And Garden Stock Is Grown Here
Another Yew Archway Leads To A Garden Containing 18 Topiary Birds. These Were Originally Pheasants, Fighting Cocks, Blackbirds And Others But Now They Are Peacocks
Blenheim Palace
Blenheim Palace is a large and monumental country house situated in Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England. It is the only non Episcopal country house, in England, to hold the title "palace".
The Palace, one of England's greatest houses, was built between 1705 and circa 1722 was originally a gift to the 1st Duke of Marlborough from a grateful nation in return for military triumph against the French.
• Designed in the rare, and short lived, English baroque style, architectural appreciation of the palace is as divided today as it was in the 1720s. It is unique in its combined usage as a family home, mausoleum and national monument.
• It has been the home of the Churchill family for the last three hundred years, various members of the family have in that period wrought various changes, in the interiors, park and gardens.
• At the end of the 19th century, the palace and the Churchill’s were saved from ruin by an American marriage so the palace remains, in good repair as completed.
Between 1893 and 1919, the 9th Duke of Marlborough planted 465,000 trees, but recently, Blenheim Park has been badly hit by freak storms, which brought down many trees planted in the times of the 1st and 4th Dukes.
• The Present Duke Has Overseen Twelve Years Of The First Twenty-five Years Of The Phased Park Restoration Plan - This Plan Covers The Next Two Centuries
• He Had Thousands Of Parkland And Commercial Trees Planted
The Formal Gardens Of Blenheim Palace Owe Much To The 9th Duke Of Marlborough Who, In The 1920's, With The Help Of The French Landscape Architect Achille Duchêne, Redesigned The Previous Gardens To Give The Palace Today's Formal Majestic Setting
From The Magnificent Water Terraces, To The Beautiful Italian Garden The Formal Gardens Of Blenheim Provide A Sumptuous Setting, Reminiscent Of The Grand Chateaux Of France And Italy
The Italian Garden With Its Sheltered Position Between The East Wing And The South Facing Orangery, Is A Delight
• It Focuses On The Mermaid Fountain, Set In The Middle Of Patterned Beds With Dwarf Box Hedges. The Garden Is Pleasing At All Seasons Particularly When The Orange Trees Are In Bloom
• The Water Terraces Took From 1925 To 1930 To Be Built And Involved An Immense Amount Of Thought And Planning. Today, These Terraces Are Reminiscent, On A Smaller Scale, Of The Parterre D'eau At Versailles
• It Was Here, During The Summer Of 1908, That Mr. Winston Churchill, As He Was Then, Proposed To Miss Clementine Hozier, Who Was To Become Baroness Churchill
• The Grand Cascade Was Designed By The Famous 'Capability' Brown In The 1760s, The Cascade Lets The River Glyme Fall From The Lake
The River Winds South Westwards Under Sir William Chamber's New Bridge, Where After A Further Fall In The Area Known As The Lince, It Joins The Evenlode, A Tributary Of The Thames