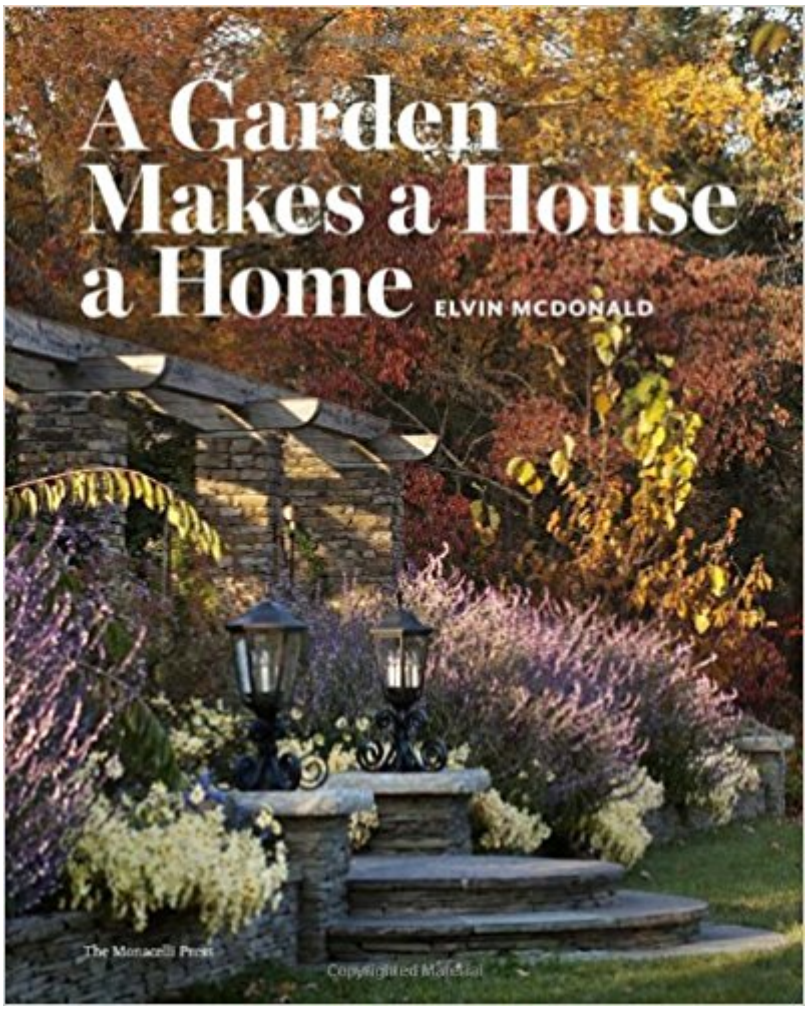
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A Garden Makes A House A Home



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Synopsis

A Garden Makes a House a Home features twenty-five residential gardens from every region across the United States, presented by veteran shelter magazine garden editor Elvin McDonald in a lavishly illustrated format. Lush, well-tended gardensÃ¢â ¬â •whether they adorn humble cottages or sprawling estatesÃ¢â ¬â •add beauty and personality to any property and truly make a house into a home. In this volume, gardens from simple to grand respond to the needs of their sites and reveal the unique personalities of the owners that care for them: on a tight urban lot in Houston, a thoughtful selection of water-loving plants and an innovative fountain that mediates rainfall from the cityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s frequent deluges block out noise from the surrounding streets; elaborate terraces on a steep hillside in Portland, Oregon, create a variety of outdoor living spaces nestled directly among a rich tapestry of perennials, tall grasses, and Japanese maples; and on forty verdant New Hampshire acres, a series of garden Ã¢â ¬Å“roomsÃ¢â ¬Â• and meandering paths create an Edwardian-inspired escape. The diverse array of gardens inspire with glorious, full-color images of plants thriving in all climatesÃ¢â ¬â •berries, lettuces, and herbs burst from the rich soils of Berkeley, California, in an edible garden the whole neighborhood is invited to enjoy; succulents of all sizes and shapes add color and texture to a lakeside home in Dallas and an arid Tucson yard equally well; dozens of bonsai and plants native to Asia create an authentic Eastern atmosphere in Indianola, Iowa; the rambling cottage-style plantings of England are reinterpreted in a river valley in Knoxville, Tennessee; and closely clipped boxwood in Greenwich, Connecticut, forms a parterre that rivals the beauty of its elaborate French predecessors across the ocean. Elvin McDonald draws on his forty-five years of professional experience and distinguished career to present a collection of exquisite landscapes, created both by avid amateurs and well-known designers including Suzy Bales, Rosalind Creasy, Douglas Hoerr, Raymond Jungles, Karen Strohbeen and Bill Luchsinger, and Phillip Watson, that will inspire all who recognize the allure greenery can add to a home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A well-crafted and finely detailed book that inspires AND tantalizes. The gardens, which are from all parts of the United States, are presented as exquisite extensions of the homes. Ideas abound which work for large and small properties alike. The 'why's' and the 'how's' about the designs are explained in practical terms and made digestible." Ã¢â ¬â •Phillip Watson"McDonald, a distinguished garden writer, presents 25 varied and gorgeous gardens from around the country, all reflecting the needs of their sites and the personalities of their owners." Ã¢â ¬â •Traditional Home"A beautiful book . . . brimes with personal ideas from plant material and color combinations to stone walls, pergolas, fountains, walkway choices, and more. . . . A treasure and would make a lovely gift for anyone who is smitten with gardens." Ã¢â ¬â •Flower magazine

ELVIN McDONALD is currently Botanical Educator for the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden and is a recipient of the Hutchinson Medal for lifetime achievement from the Chicago Botanic Garden. In 2012, he was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Garden Club of America. He served as Director of Special Projects at Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York and is Secretary Emeritus of the American Horticultural Society. The author of more than 50 gardening books, Elvin was garden editor of House Beautiful, Family Circle, Traditional Home and Better Homes and Gardens.

Most gardeners like to look at good gardening books, especially at this time of year when the garden is dormant and in winter when for much of the country it is even more bleak. This is a fantastic book for that purpose, put together by one of America's most respected garden writers and editors. The photo shoots and accompanying essays cover everything from eye-poppingly grand gardens to simple, modest and well-appointed designs, and everything in between, from all parts of America. It gives you a sumptuously photographed tour of 25 outstanding American gardens and you will have to decide for yourself if you like the spectacular photos or the beautifully observed prose better. For myself, though the photography is beautiful and very interesting, I think I like the

prose better. In this book you see a master garden writer at the height of his power and skill, and McDonald writes lucidly but absolutely without pretension - to me, this is an irresistible combination. This book is well worth the money, even in hardback. Plus, Mr. McDonald is a friend of The Garden Interior, so we are happy to introduce you to him here if you are not already familiar with his considerable work.

It’s a very cute and pretty book, although many of the properties were either somewhat designed by professionals and/or maintained somewhat by one. I am an avid gardener myself and do everything for my garden myself. It didn’t really give me much help on how to do things. That being said the gardens are very beautiful and inspiring. The written text gave me a look into the romanticized lives of the owners and how things in the gardens came to be. It’s a very nice book to pick up from time to time for inspiration.

Elvin has created one of his most diverse books yet... covering a wide spectrum of landscapes from across a multitude of geographic climates.This diverse compilation creates an interesting and entertaining book which continuously holds ones interest.... from both the text and the photographs.Thank you Elvin once again!!!!richard nielsen

I read garden books as if they were novels. Love the photos, a great read, very inspiring. Many beautiful ideas -- could incorporate some of everything. Particularly enjoyed the hardscaping ideas, and how peaceful and serene every garden idea incorporated. Great book.

Once again, Elvin McDonald succeeds in creating an exquiste book, authored with the prowess of an expert. The pictures are exceptional. This isn’t going into the library, but shall lay on the coffee table to be enjoyed with a cup of tea.

The pictures in the book were beautiful, although not quite as vibrant as shown on . The problem, however, was that the front cover of the book was partially torn away from the binding! Not what one would expect from a new purchase. The book was securely packed so that wasn’t the problem.

Certainly, a garden makes a house a home, but who knew how many different ways there were to do it. McDonald’s book is filled with unique garden styles from all across America. Everything is included from a blooming desert, to a formal estate, with a front yard of vegetables, a hill top farm

and a roof top recreation garden tucked in between. This is a book for anyone who loves to garden. It certainly broadened my horizons and gave me more ideas and new plants to try. I highly recommend it.In fact you should buy two because someone is bound to want to borrow it and you won't want to part with it.

Elvin McDonald's A GARDENN MAKES A HOUSE A HOME takes you on a journey though some of the most beautiful and creatively designed private gardens across the various climate regions of the United States. His descriptive writing style supported by the inspiring photography will unleash all of your senses--smell the montages of blossoms, hear your footsteps on textured pathways, and feel the sense of movement through the selected landscaped spaces.Anyone who seeks inspiration for making their own garden spaces must have this book.

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