

# GARDEN DESIGN JOURNAL

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SGD

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN GARDEN DESIGN

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with digitalis

A practical guide to  
soil-retaining structures

Ann-Marie Powell on  
saving front gardens

## IT'S SHOWTIME

Our behind-the-scenes  
preview of Chelsea 2016

## BACK TO NATURE

DESIGNING A WETLAND  
WONDER IN AUSTRALIA

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## THE ART OF MAKING GARDENS

**THIS IS ABOUT** the art of making gardens: both the skill and craft a designer uses to create a garden from raw materials; and as a way of discovering and creating meaning through design.

Giubbilei's book is a narrative of how he went about developing his skills, by working with a team at Great Dixter, and how he has honed his design abilities through observing nature, and collaborating with artists.

The first part is a story of discovery at Great Dixter. Fergus Garrett was Giubbilei's mentor there and gave him a strip of

land where he could design his own border. Giubbilei set out to expand his knowledge of plants, particularly the varied palette of the herbaceous border. Already a very successful designer, he felt that he needed to learn more about flowers, observing in situ their habits of growth and effect on the plants around them.

The story is well told by Giubbilei and his co-workers, Rachel Dodd and James Horner. The observation of flowers and plants is acute and inspiring.

The second part of the book explores design elements used

in Giubbilei's award-winning Chelsea garden in 2014, and Venice Biennale garden in 2015. He reflects on the influence of colour, water and texture in his design; architect John Pawson, artist Guillem Nadal and sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard describe how these inform their art. The essays are thought-provoking and beautifully illustrated. Giubbilei and the photographer Andrew Montgomery have produced a work of art that will inspire designers for many years.

*Kate Jury MSGD*

## PLANTING DESIGN FOR DRY GARDENS

**FIRST PUBLISHED** in 2011 in French, this is a generously illustrated, thought-provoking and practical book. It is a must-have for anybody interested in creating dry and low maintenance gardens.

Olivier Filippi writes from his experience as a nurseryman on the Mediterranean coast of France, whose own garden is a testbed of drought-tolerant plants. Olivier and his wife Clara have been researching ground covers for the past 20 years.

The book is arranged in four sections. Part one opens with a history in which we learn that the traditional

mown lawn post-dates the First World War, and the first green spray paint to brighten up American lawns was sold in the 1950s. More recently, groundcover alternatives to lawn include wildflower meadows, 'freedom lawns', xeriscapes, gravel gardens and potagers. He takes inspiration from planting in the wild, and he proposes 10 lawn alternatives.

Part two presents an explanation of the alternatives that Olivier and Clara have tested in their own garden. The third section deals with the practical aspects. The final section comprises an A-Z

directory of 200 plants which can be used in different areas, detailing when and how to use them in order to reduce watering and maintenance.

The book concludes with a short list of useful addresses, plus 'A Protocol for Categorizing Invasive Groundcover Plants'. This is particularly applicable to gardens of south west Europe, but the principle is highly relevant elsewhere.

Olivier Filippi will be speaking at West Dean on 14 May 2016; tickets from [www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)

*Jackie Herald MSGD*



**BY:** Olivier Filippi  
**PUBLISHED BY:** Filbert Press  
**PRICE:** £35  
**ISBN:** 978-0993389207

## THE GRAMMAR OF ORNAMENT

**THIS FASCINATING** book was first published in 1856 and I really wish that I had come across it during my landscape design studies. It gives a wonderful insight into the origins of ornamental decoration and explores how shape and line have changed and developed over the centuries.

Design proportions are displayed in a clear format, which makes it easy to compare and contrast the various collections

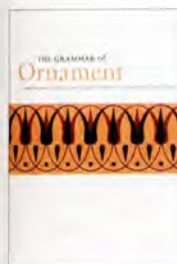
of shapes and designs. The designs start with looking at the influence on Savage Tribes of patterns in nature and take us through Greek art, Egyptian and Assyrian culture and are presented in an engaging and attractive way. The illustration plates, with their beautiful shading and vibrant colours, are inspiring and guaranteed to make any designer excited about exploring them in relation to their own work.

All fields of modern design, from landscape and garden design to architecture and textile design, will find value in this unique book as it provides inspiration for shapes, patterns, colour palettes and the fine details which elevate a design to a higher level. I particularly liked the section on working with colours and how they affect light, space and each other.

*Janine Pattison MSGD*



**BY:** Luciano Giubbilei  
**PUBLISHED BY:** Merrell  
**PRICE:** £45  
**ISBN:** 978-1858946467



**BY:** Owen Jones  
**PUBLISHED BY:** Ivy Press  
**PRICE:** £24.99  
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