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The Art of Fine Gardening

Craig Bergmann Landscape Design

By Craig Bergmann with Russell Buvala, and a foreword by Roy Diblik

“As social media dominates our visual world and emphasizes impermanent snapshots of glamour, this book gives you the luxury of opening yourself up to the discovery of what whole, healthy, beautiful gardens look like.” – Roy Diblik, from the foreword

In the 1970s and 1980s, gardeners began to recognize how well-designed gardens with diverse native plants could create positive experiences—feelings of delight, peace, and connection. At the forefront of this movement was garden designer Craig Bergmann, who understood early on that perennial and native plants not only thrive in local conditions but also evoke deep emotional responses in those who encounter them. Today, Bergmann is known for intertwining design, horticulture, and architecture, establishing a true dialogue between the garden and the architectural site. ***The Art of Fine Gardening: Craig Bergmann Landscape Design*** is the first book devoted to this renowned designer, whose visionary gardens have become defining features of Chicago's North Shore.

In ***The Art of Fine Gardening***, the full range of Bergmann's work is showcased across chapters on gardens designed in the English tradition, as well as those that take inspiration from Asia, the Mediterranean, and North Africa. Central to his approach is a mastery of horticulture, which enables him to craft harmonious plant communities grounded in the relationships between plants and their caretakers. The book also explores naturalistic, informal, and reimagined gardens before concluding with a dedicated section on the Gardens at 900—Bergmann's own residence and studio in Lake Forest, Illinois. Epitomizing his approach, the property features a series of lush private garden rooms with sculptural hedges, towering topiaries, and perennial borders interspersed with classical figures and ornament.

Heavily illustrated with hundreds of vibrant photographs by acclaimed photographer Scott Shigley and others, ***The Art of Fine Gardening*** captures the delicate charm of Bergmann's extraordinary gardens. Complete with a foreword from noted plantsman Roy Diblik and engaging texts by Bergmann and horticulturist Russell Buvala, this highly anticipated volume will captivate both professionals and garden enthusiasts, inviting readers to explore world-class gardens in exquisite detail.

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About the Authors

Craig Bergmann is the founder of Craig Bergmann Landscape Design, the premier garden design firm on the North Shore of Chicago. He is a board member of Forest Park Conservation and the Midwest chapter of ICAA and is currently directing the design of study gardens for the History Center of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. He is a fellow of the Garden Conservancy.

Russell Buvala is Horticulturalist, Head Gardener, and Maintenance Department Manager for Craig Bergmann Landscape Design, Inc.

Roy Diblik is a noted plantsman and designer best known for collaborations with Piet Oudolf on his Midwestern projects. He is the author of *The Know Maintenance Perennial Garden*.

About Monacelli

As a leading publisher of illustrated books for more than twenty-five years, **Monacelli** has challenged the conventions of publishing to produce provocative, inspiring, and essential titles. Founded in 1994 by Gianfranco Monacelli, the organization has released nearly 600 books on architecture, art, interior design, landscape and gardens, photography, and the applied arts. Monacelli's books have been made in collaboration with prominent practitioners and scholars ever since its inaugural title, the groundbreaking *S,M,L,XL* by Rem Koolhaas and Bruce Mau. In 2015, the applied arts imprint Monacelli Studio was launched, adding elevated books on art instruction, photography technique, and crafts to the publisher's roster. In 2020, Monacelli joined the Phaidon family of companies.

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