Charles J. Stick and His Gardens

By Jeff Poole, with a Foreward by Sam Abell

A fascinating biographical monograph of Charles J. Stick, the Virginia-based landscape architect renowned for his historically and culturally based gardens filled with luxuriant blooms.

The first monograph from the prominent American landscape architect, *Charles J. Stick and His Gardens* puts a spotlight on Stick's incredible historically based and culturally informed designs. Focusing on residential gardens, he draws on principles of Palladio, Charles A. Platt, and Russell Page to connect architecture to land and develop enticing pathways between formal planting and the landscape beyond. Based in Charlorresville, Virginia, a land of rolling hills and dramatic vistas filled with echoes of the early history of America, Stick is inspired by the region's classical designs including Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and the University of Virginia.

Organized into two main sections, *Charles J. Stick and His Gardens* focuses first on four landscapes that he has designed and nurtured over decades of close collaboration with the owners. These residential estates are Crab Tree Farm on the North Shore of Chicago, IL; Mount Sharon near Charlottesville, VA; Sleepy Cat Farm in Greenwich, CT; and Waverley in Central Virginia, which is published here for the first time. Each one is examined in depth from a personal, philosophical, and design perspective, revealing flourishing, historically grounded landscapes and offering new insights into his process, as well as the intimacy of his client relationships.

The second section of the book features ten additional gardens that demonstrate Stick's ability to adapt his signature style to varied geographies. These gardens are located in exclusive communities across the country, including Winnetka, IL; Southampton, NY; Jupiter Island, FL; Islesboro, ME; and across Virginia.

Charles J. Stick and His Gardens is an engrossing monograph with a strong biographical dimension, delving into the arc of Stick's career and highlighting his education and early practice. Complementing the text is a rich visual presentation featuring lush garden images from noted photographers, including Roger Foley and T.S. Elliott, as well as Stick's refined travel sketches and photographs of European and Asian precedents and his elegant pencil renderings and plans. A visually diverse presentation that illustrates the breadth and wonder of Charles J. Stick's life and work, this new book will surely appeal to garden enthusiasts and horticulturalists, both professionals and impassioned generalists.

About the Authors

Jeff Poole is a writer, photographer, and editor based in Virginia.

Sam Abell is an internationally recognized documentary photographer, working principally for the *National Geographic*. He is the author of *Stay this Moment*, a monograph published in conjunction with an exhibition of his photographs at the International Center of Photography in New York, *Seeing Gardens*, and the highly acclaimed *The Photographic Life*.

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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