

VERANDA

◆
2020
OUTDOOR
LIVING
AWARDS
◆

Ireland's
Majestic
Mansions

The Romance of
SPRING
Classic Gardens, Wild Patterns
& Party-Ready Porches

“I go to nature to be *soothed and healed*, and to have my senses put in tune once more.”



THE WORDS OF JOHN BURROUGHS, a prolific naturalist writer from the turn of the 20th century, likely would have struck a chord with author and amateur garden aficionado **Edith Wharton** ❶, who traveled to Italy in 1903 to survey its villas and gardens. “The old Italian garden was meant to be lived in,” she writes in her 1904 book *Italian Villas and Their Gardens*. As such, its design was engineered to effect a transition from domestic life to the wilderness. “Each step away from architecture was a nearer approach to nature.”

The promise of respite tendered by cool pockets of green has appealed to our senses since the beginning of time—gardens, after all, figure prominently in the world’s most enduring creation myths. And, as an antidote to the ubiquitous screen, with its incessant stimulation and deleterious blue light, a garden’s serenity has perhaps never been more seductive. Yet, in the face of climate change and threats to fragile ecosystems and already overtaxed resources, our means for

cultivating these oases of green we so desperately crave must be reconceived.

Today’s crop of landscape designers are more than up for the creative and environmental challenge. As our editors, together with renowned designer Bunny Williams and ICAA president Peter Lyden, reviewed over 140 submissions for our first-ever Outdoor Living Awards (pg. 59), one space in particular left a deep impression on me: a **lawless allée** ❷ of evergreen and drought-tolerant holly oak trees designed by Patricia Benner in L.A.’s Hancock Park. “Removing the green from the garden ‘floor’ and elevating it to a shady canopy overhead allowed us to create that sense of cool, green lushness in a drought-tolerant way,” says Benner.

Fortunately, seeds of hope for a greener future are sprouting outside the landscape design profession as well, from a spate of luxury and design firms like **Mud Australia** ❸ and Kering (parent company to **Boucheron** ❹), which have donated to relief and reforestation efforts in the wake of the Australian wildfire crisis, to organizations like **The Horticultural Society of New York** ❺ and Dallas-based Plan-T, which work with local communities to foster more green spaces in urban areas. Supporting these veritable forces of nature may very well be the best salve for our senses in the 21st century.

Steele

Steele Thomas Marcoux
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

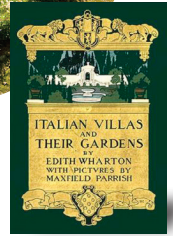
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1

Classic Italian garden design tenets of green, shade, structure, and water flourish at Edith Wharton’s Massachusetts home, **The Mount**; edithwharton.org.

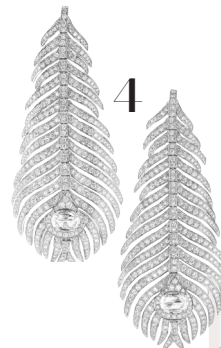


2

A 21st-century garden rooted in Old Europe traditions by landscape designer **Patricia Benner**

Handmade porcelain tableware from **Mud Australia** in a spectrum of nature-inspired shades; mudaustralia.com.

3



4

Peacock feathers’ beauty is everlasting in **Boucheron’s** Plume de Paon diamond pendant earrings; boucheron.com.

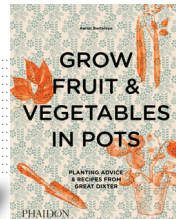
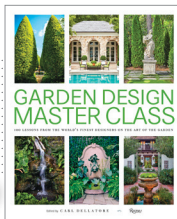
The Horticultural Society’s **Rikers GreenHouse**, the nation’s first prison horticultural therapy program, reduces recidivism rates by 40 percent.



5

Editors’ BOOK CLUB

FOUR TITLES ON OUR READING LIST THIS SEASON



FROM LEFT: **Decorate Happy: Bold, Colorful Interiors** by Anthony Baratta; Rizzoli, 2020. • **Garden Design Master Class** edited by Carl Dellatore; Rizzoli, 2020. • **Patterns of India** by Christine Chitnis; Clarkson Potter, 2020. • **Grow Fruit & Vegetables in Pots** by Aaron Bertelsen; Phaidon Press, 2020.

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