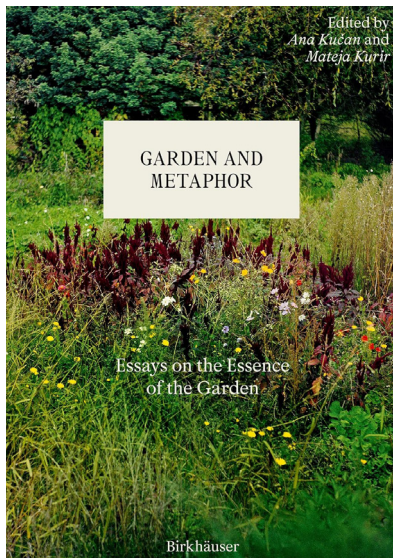


Garden and Metaphor

Essays on the Essence of the Garden

Editors: Ana Kučan and Mateja Kurir

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Can a garden's lush greenery mirror the complex details of the human mind? Ana Kucan, landscape architect and professor, collaborates with Mateja Kurir, philosopher and researcher, to investigate the manifold aspects of garden in the human era through a collection of essays with 34 contributors: landscape architects, artists, art historians, writers, poets, and philosophers. The book promises a comprehensive exploration of the diverse meanings attached to the gardens in honor of Dušan Ogrin, the founder of landscape architecture in Slovenia.

The essays are unveiled in six chapters in this 320-page publication. Garden as: Essence, Future, Community, Enchantment, Art, and Reflection were narrated using 44 images by photographer Anne Schwalbe. The 'Essence' section explores views on the existential role of the garden, its inherent contradictions, and potential. The chapter focused on 'Future' explores the gardens' adaptation to technology, climate change, and cultural shifts, and how it symbolizes innovation and resilience. 'Community' delves into the complexities of current practice. It emphasizes the garden as an inclusive space for engagement, social justice, and cultural diversity. 'Enchantment' explores the sensual and spiritual aspects, as well as the joy gardens offer in both the public and private realms. 'Art' exposes garden aesthetics, creativity, and the intersection of art and nature, and 'Reflection' philosophically examines gardens' evolving cultural significance and influence on human thought.

The book's strength lies in its interdisciplinary approach, which creates a multiangle of perspectives, illuminating the garden's role in contemporary life. These diverse voices effectively fulfill the promise of exploring the multifaceted meaning attached to contemporary gardens. The essays collectively challenge traditional notions of nature and culture and suggest reimagining the relationship. The transitions between chapters, though varied, reflect the multifaceted nature of gardens, making each essay a unique contribution to the comprehensive theme. The depth of analysis varies across the essays, which adds to the richness of the book. Some contributions offer in-depth, differentiated understanding, while others provide an accessible overview, catering to both specialized readers and those new to the subject. This variation ensures that the book remains engaging and thought-provoking throughout.

The editors have assembled an inspiring collection that encourages readers to reconsider the cultural and philosophical significance of gardens. "Garden and Metaphor" presents a compelling examination of gardens and metaphorical space, enriched by a diverse array of perspectives and insights. While the work not only honors Ogrin's contributions but also encourages a deeper appreciation of gardens as vital spaces of meaning and reflection, its scholarly depth and inspiring analysis make it a valuable resource for academics and enthusiasts alike.