

CALIFORNIA HOMES

THE MAGAZINE OF ARCHITECTURE
THE ARTS & DISTINCTIVE DESIGN

Spring's
Arrival



GARDENS
by GRACE



Books

REVIEWED BY KATHY BRYANT

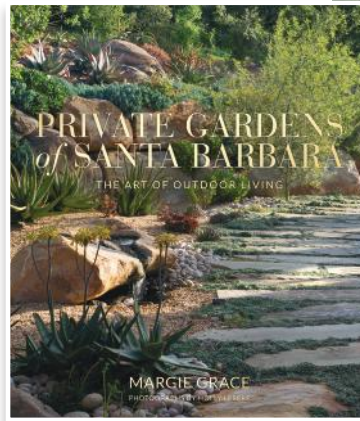
Private Gardens of Santa Barbara

Text by Margie Grace

Photography by Holly Lepere

Santa Barbara, often dubbed the American Riviera, is home to some of the most beautiful gardens in the world, and many of them were designed by Grace Design Associates, the award-winning Santa Barbara-based landscape design-build studio. This, their first coffee table book, features 230 color photographs of gardens from 18 residential homes. Here is the chance to get an intimate peek behind garden gates and see these designs up close.

Written by Margie Grace, founding principle of Grace Design Associates, the book is a personal tour through her own garden and those of her clients. "Each garden is a response to the unique character and architecture of the site, adapted to the personality and lifestyle needs of the people who live there," says Grace. Among other considerations are soil health, animal habitat and stormwater retention. Twice named International Landscape Designer of the Year by The International



ABOVE A large ceramic pot adds architectural interest to the garden.

LEFT A pair of rare sphinx statues survived a debris flow. They stand guard to the entry.

Association of Professional Landscape Designers, Grace is a member of an elite group whose work is celebrated both locally and internationally.

What makes this book so special is Grace's personal commentary on each project. In the Introduction she refers to herself as a Garden Maker who works with nature to create gardens to feed our spirits and inspire our dreams. Each showcased garden is distinctive and has its own charm whether the garden enhances a large estate, a modest bungalow or a beach retreat.



ABOVE Flanked by a large nature preserve on one side and a well-treed estate on the other, this two-acre lot is perfect for dining al fresco.

LEFT A viewing platform at the pond is a perfect place to relax.



My favorite is her own garden which takes cues from Santa Barbara's famous Lotusland. The property is divided into themed spaces such as the Bromeliad Garden and the Secret Garden, an Asian-style space, among others. Throughout the book she encourages readers to take inspiration and ideas from *Private Gardens of Santa Barbara* and make them their own. Since, according to Grace, the book's landscape styles range from traditional to contemporary, romantic to whimsical and restrained to unapologetically exuberant, readers are sure to find a creative idea to take home and cultivate. **CH**

Private Gardens of Santa Barbara
Text by Margie Grace
Photography by Holly Lepere
256 pages, 230 color photographs
Hardcover 11x9.5 inches
\$50 US
ISBN: 978-1-4236-5414-8
Gibbs Smith Utah



LEFT Beautiful roses add exuberance to the garden.

OPPOSITE TOP : Colorful drought-tolerant plantings and sandstone boulders native to the site are used throughout the garden.

OPPOSITE BOTTOM This oval cedar "spool" - used for cool summer dips and warm winter soaks - holds more than 4,000 gallons of water, which can be used for firefighting.