

VERANDA

11 Revolutionary Female Landscape Designers and Architects Everyone Should Know

Discover these rising stars and veteran landscape architects and garden designers who deserve a spot on your radar.

After nearly an entire year spent at home (and counting!), there has simply been nothing else that has made us feel grateful quite like our own personal green space. Whether that's a small but lush balcony or a sprawling yard full of various gardens, these outdoor spaces have become our refuges and will only continue to become more important parts of our lives as we learn more about how the garden can truly save us. The same has rung true with public outdoor spaces, especially for urban-dwellers, who are hungry for a verdant landscape and a safe place to dine, run, or simply be outside of their four walls.



We're honoring 11 female landscape architects and designers, along with a few garden designers, who make our lives better through creating imaginative, functional, and healing green spaces, both for private and public enjoyment, across the globe. Read on to find inspiration from these incredible landscape designers.



Margie Grace

Margie Grace is a Southern California–based landscape and garden designer who has been tapped for more than 350 projects around the globe. Grace studied life and earth sciences along with landscape architecture and has worked in landscapes across the world to learn a variety of principles and techniques that she can bring back home to her home state. Though she has worked in gardens from Spain to New Zealand, Grace is most influenced by and recognized for her deep appreciation for California’s unique natural beauty and climate, and her expertise of the balance of the area's local ecosystems is widely sought-after.

Grace's work has been featured in numerous top publications (including our own), and her firm, Grace Design Associates, has received a plethora of awards, including Landscape Designer of the Year from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers—twice! Grace also published her latest book, *Private Gardens of Santa Barbara: The Art of Outdoor Living*, in March 2020.





Jinny Blom

U.K.-based garden designer Jinny Blom pivoted to a career in landscapes while working with mentally ill clients in London's inner city as a psychotherapist. She founded her eponymous design studio in 2000 and has been creating award-winning gardens ever since. A few notable projects include five Chelsea Flower Shows—one of them being for HRH the Prince of Wales, two for Laurent-Perrier, and one for Prince Harry's first venture into the flower show in 2013.

Blom is an Artist in Residence for Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, a member of the Artworkers Guild, and longstanding member of the Garden Media Guild. She also sits on the committee for Waddeson on behalf of the Rothschild Foundation.

Blom has been nominated three times for Woman of

the Year for contribution to society through her work honoring both passions and is a board member of the Therapeutic Landscapes Network in the U.S. She is the author of *The Thoughtful Gardener: An Intelligent Approach to Garden Design*, columnist for the *Times*, and won BBC Radio Broadcaster of the Year for her Radio 4 Woman's Hour features in 2002.





Nahal Sohbaty

The Tehran-born landscape designer is the cofounder of Topophyla, a landscape design firm that serves Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and the Bay Area. Sohbaty has a background in interior architecture but developed a passion for public open spaces with high social impact, which lead her to pursue a Master's degree in landscape architecture at the Academy of Art in San Francisco before founding Topophyla.

Sohbaty believes that design is a tool for advocacy to change "what is" into "what could be" in order to improve social wellbeing for all. She is known for her award-winning community service project, Ridge Lane, that began in 2014, and her team continues to prioritize projects and design principles in a way that connects communities to their environment.





Martha Schwartz

Martha Schwartz is a landscape architect, urbanist, climate activist and principal at **Martha Schwartz Partners**, which is based in London, New York, and Shanghai. She is also a tenured professor in the Practice of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design and an active participant in the school's Climate Change Working Group.

The highly acclaimed architect has spent her career focusing and teaching about the urban public realm landscape and the importance of having "climate ready" cities. Schwartz was recently awarded the 2020 ASLA Design Medal and has a host of other international awards, including Royal Designer for Industry Award from the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award, and the Women in Design Award for Excellence from the Boston Society of Architects.

Additionally, Schwartz is a founding member of the Working Group of Sustainable Cities at the Harvard University Center for the Environment, the Landscape Architecture Foundation's "Working Group on Climate Change," and has most recently

founded Mayday.Earth, a non-profit organization focused on educating people on global-scale solutions for landscape architecture to preserve and better our planet.





Janice Parker

Janice Parker is a world-renowned landscape architect who founded her eponymous firm in 1984. Her projects span the globe, from the Hamptons to Russia, with an emphasis on both a creative spirit and technical expertise. Her work has received numerous awards, including VERANDA's 2020 Outdoor Living Awards, where her work on a residence in Millbrook, New York, was recognized for "Magnificent Farm Rescue."

Parker studied at Parsons School of Design and with John Brookes at the Clock House School of Garden Design in England, where she was involved in floral design for public and private events, eventually leading her to a love of

landscape design. She and her firm have received a variety of accolades, such as the National Palladio Award for Landscape Architecture. She was also involved in the formation of New York City's Million Trees Project and designed the Cherry Tree Project for the Harlem River Esplanade. In 2019, Janice became a member of the Board of Trustees for Bette Midler's New York Restoration Project (NYRP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to beautifying New York's public spaces and creating a healthier environment for those who live in the most densely populated and least green neighborhoods. Her influence reaches beyond the pages of magazines and the gardens of her clients, as she shares her dedication to the natural environment and excellence in landscape design through teaching, mentorship, and volunteer work.





Conservator Award.

Edwina von Gal

Edwina von Gal is a New York–based landscape designer and environmentalist who is known for creating impeccable ecological landscapes without chemicals. This allows her projects to best support wildlife, and she has made a full-time commitment to **Two-Thirds for the Birds**, a nonprofit that is working to reverse bird die-off through producing pollinator and native gardens without chemicals. The designer spends much of her time experimenting in her personal garden to create these impressive natural landscapes.

Von Gal is best known for being the founder of Edwina von Gal + Co., a renowned landscape design firm, before turning her attention to founding the **Perfect Earth Project** in 2013, a nonprofit that promotes the creation of chemical-free landscapes in the U.S. for the health of ourselves, our pets, and the planet. Her work has earned her coveted awards, including the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art’s Arthur Ross Award, the NY School of Interior Design Green Design Award, and, most recently, the Quogue Wildlife Refuge





Grace Fuller Marroquín

Grace Fuller Marroquín is the founder of **Grace Fuller Design**, a landscape design firm based in New York. Her love affair with design in all its forms began at a young age, as she grew up between Philadelphia and Rome with an artist mother who was an active gardener and used nature as a major source of inspiration. Though Fuller Marroquín began her career as an editor in fashion and jewelry and even launched her own limited-run production company of coats with *W Magazine*, she was drawn back to the world of landscape design and studied at New York Botanical Garden's School of Horticulture.

Fuller Marroquín is known for her romantic and wild take on garden and landscape designs, and she prides herself on her stewardship of the land she is given to work with. The up-and-coming designer is a protégé of Edwina von Gal's and finds her a prominent influence in creating beautiful spaces that don't sacrifice sustainability.





Wambui Ippolito

New York–based landscape designer Wambui Ippolito grew up on her grandparents' farm in Kenya's Rift Valley and as a daughter of globe-trotting diplomats, which influences her work today. She believes in the power of plants to articulate one's sense of heritage and place, thus producing an incredible array of native gardens, including working at Martha Stewart's Bedford home and David Letterman's estate.

Prior to graduating from New York Botanical Garden's School of Horticulture and launching her career with **Jane Gil Gardens**, Ippolito worked as a Development & Democracy Consultant for several international government organizations before following her true passion. Besides creating spectacular outdoor spaces for an impressive roster of businesses and notable private clients, she often works to help international organizations, museums, parks, and other institutions develop horticultural programming. Ippolito also teaches and lectures at Brooklyn Botanical Garden and Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey and at her alma mater.





Andrea Cochran

Andrea Cochran is a highly lauded landscape architect based in San Francisco who has been the subject of books, documentaries, and other educational programming surrounding landscape design. She is a graduate of the Harvard Graduate School of Design and has become known for mastery of minimalism and emphasis on sustainability in her firm's cross-country projects, from acclaimed Napa wineries to residential projects on Hawaii's Big Island.

Cochran is a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the recipient of numerous awards, from the ASLA Design Medal to the National Design Award and Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award for Landscape Architecture. She has also served as the Commissioner and Chair of the Civic Design Committee of the San Francisco Arts Commission for seven years.

"ACLA
balances
high-end
private
gardens and

commercial projects with affordable housing projects because we believe that everyone deserves sustainable, well-designed spaces," says Cochran. "My proudest moment was undoubtedly when my firm won the Smithsonian's Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in 2014, and I was invited to the White House to meet Michelle Obama."





Pamela Burton

Pamela Burton is the founder and principal of Pamela Burton & Company and has more than 40 years of landscape design experience. She studied architecture and environmental design at UCLA, where she worked at ACE Gallery with creatives to install earth-work art, thus fueling her love for both landscape and art.

Burton is best known for combining her passions of plants, architecture, and art to create one-of-a-kind public and private outdoor spaces and has a special interest in architectural spaces with symbolic resonance. The designer's work is rooted in a deep understanding the natural environment and creating a more functional outdoor space that benefits the surrounding landscape as much as the eye. Her projects (many of them award-winning) can be found around the world, from Idaho to Japan, and her impressive career has earned her a fellowship with ASLA. Burton is also the author of two landscape design books.





Blythe Yost

Blythe Yost is a graduate of Cornell's Landscape Architecture school with an emphasis on horticulture and has been practicing for 15 years. She is the founder and principal of two high-end landscape companies in New York and has worked on green spaces of all sizes, from contemporary courtyards in Brooklyn to lush, multi acre estates in the Connecticut countryside.

Yost recently launched an online landscape design platform, **Tilly**, which gives clients across the U.S. better access to high-end, diverse talent at a more affordable price point. Since 2019, Tilly has designed in nearly all 50 states, creating everything from verdant, English-inspired gardens to desert-like landscapes with serious curb appeal, revolutionizing the industry.

