

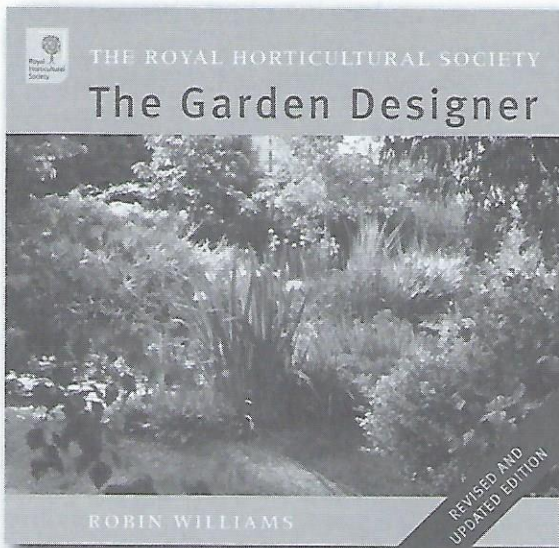
The Garden Designer

written and illustrated by Robin Williams

Frances Lincoln Limited Publishers, London, revised edition 2007

Review By Judy Nauseef, APLD,
APLD President-Elect

It was a pleasure to review the 2007 revised edition of Robin Williams's 1995 text *The Garden Designer*. Having missed the opportunity to read this publication in its first form, I am grateful to APLD for having Mr. Williams as a friend and member and



for having introduced me to his work.

As a garden designer, I would be only be too happy master all of the principles and design skills presented in this book. Although written for an audience of avid gardeners, it truly is a resource book for professional landscape designers

In his book, Williams illustrates how professional landscape designers achieve successful designs. As he notes in the introduction, "The Garden Designer gives you, the reader, access to this knowledge and experience."

The information is organized as De-

sign I and Design II courses, much like listings in a course catalogue. Each chapter includes instruction, resources and examples. The author discusses: design principles; homeowner (client) needs; site planning, including an explanation of triangulation; site analysis; perspective; working plans; and construction.

Each section is several pages in length, providing ample information for readers to formulate ideas, do more research and then have a go at construction.

The book emphasized the use of plants as design elements. The sketches certainly show a knowledge and love of plants that for many readers is the center of landscape design.

While many books are abound with the information required to successfully choose plants, this book does not do this. What Williams does provide are clear, basic instructions for constructing walks, edgings, walls, stairs, patios, decks, fences, gates, pergolas, arbors, gazebos, greenhouses and water features.

Wonderful illustrations complement written explanations. The drawings add charm and clarity; elevations and perspectives are unmatched. The result is like a mixture of the best children's book illustrations (think of Peter Rabbit or The House at Pooh Corner) and scientific illustration. I found myself wishing to enter them and sit down for a read.

From the point of view of a landscape designer, the best part of the book is toward the end where 12 gar-

den plans are exquisitely drawn. I observed clear design elements in each of them. These include the use of repetition of shapes, paths through the yards, focal points, surprise gardens, use of land contours, combinations of hardscape materials, plant combinations and garden rooms, where people will sit, play, visit, eat, swim and possibly even sleep.

Mr. Williams notes, "Always remember that garden designs evolve from several starting points. Pure inspiration is one, but the nature of the site itself and the needs of the people who use the garden are paramount."

Judy Nauseef started her Landscape Design business in 1989. The majority of her projects are residential both new constructions and renovations on urban, suburban and rural lots. Areas of interest and experience are woody plants, perennial gardens, prairie and native plantings, deer resistant landscaping, acreages and horse



properties. Judy's garden writing complements her garden design business. After earning a B.A. in Literature and Art and an M.A. in Communications, Judy returned to school to earn an A.S. in Horticulture. She is an Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association (INLA) Certified Nursery Professional (ICNP) and a Certified member of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). She serves as President-Elect on the board of directors of APLD. For more information, please visit her web site at www.judynauseeflandscapedesign.com.

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