

My garden, my haven...

DALENA LE ROUX

Correspondent

Introduction

A garden is more than just a collection of trees, shrubs and flowers. It can, and should be, a tranquil haven from the daily stresses of modern living. Gardening, and the hard work and planning that goes with it, gives you the opportunity to create a space of your own. Building your own garden structures expresses your creativity and allows you to extend your home's décor and style to the outdoors. You also have the feeling of personal satisfaction from having created your sanctuary yourself. The outdoor places we love most, and what we do when we're out there, say a great deal about us. Someone once said: 'As with most arts, a garden is an expression of our hands.'

The list of SN titles offered here will hopefully inspire you to think differently about the outdoor space you feel most at home in – your garden, which is an important and valuable part of your home.

History

Q717.0973 HIL

Hill, May Brawley. **Furnishing the old-fashioned garden: three centuries of summerhouses, dovecotes, pergolas, privies, fences and birdhouses.**- Abrams, 1998.

General

There is nothing more satisfying than creating something that is both lasting and practical. That is why the following titles are worth a look and a browse:

643.7 COM

The complete photo guide to outdoor home improvement.- Creative Pub., c2002. 712.62 BAT

Bateman, Robert. **Garden constructions.**- S. Paul, 1973.

717 GEI

Geist, Kevin. **How to build wooden gates and picket fences.**- Stackpole Bks., c1994. 717 MCC

McCormack, Tony. **Driveways, paths and patios.**- Crowood P., 2005.

Q717 TRE

Trellises, arbors & pergolas.- Meredith, c2004.

717 WAL

Walton, Stewart. **Garden projects done in a day.**- Silverdale Bks., 2006.

736.4 SPI

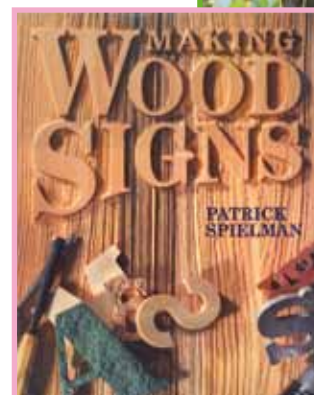
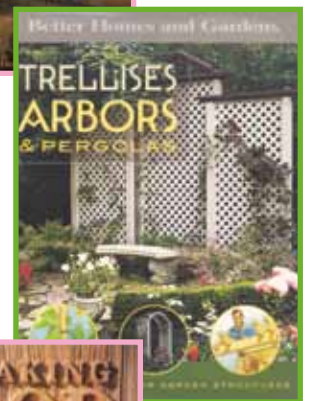
Spielman, Patrick E. **Making wood signs.**- Sterling, c2003.

Garden furniture

Garden furniture seems to find its way into many of life's ceremonies. It's good for family photos, to mark a special event, like a birthday, a marriage, a party, or simply a peaceful day in the privacy of your own haven. But for this you need the right designs, the right components. You might, for instance, like to take some trips to the beach to find all the debris Mother Nature delivers after storms, allowing you to create garden furniture that is appealing in a rustic way and will last for years to come. Have a look at these titles:

Q684.104 DOU

Douglas, Derek. **Driftwood furniture: practical projects for your home and garden.**- Firefly, 2003.



Q684.104 MAC

Rustic furniture workshop.- Lark Bks., c2000.
717 KIL

Garden seating: great projects from wood, stone, metal, fabric and more.- Lark Bks., c2002
717 WAR

Ward, Alex. **Garden furniture & features: from benches and gazebos to sundials and treehouses.**- Apple, c2004

Water in the garden

In today's very busy life one cannot always spare the time to go into the wild to find the peace and relaxation we need. In the outdoor garden nothing could be more natural than the inclusion of a water feature. To have the sight and relaxing sound of moving water near to you makes it as desirable as a lawn or patio.

714 ADK

Adkins, Dorcas. **Simple fountains for indoors & outdoors.**- Search P., 2000.

714MAY

May, Peter J. **The perfect pond recipes book.**- Kingdoms Bks., 1995

Q717 FIE

Fierro, Ethan. **The outdoor shower: creative design ideas for backyard living.**- Storey, c2006.

And for the kids?

Kids' needs are often poorly served in the garden – an afterthought, resulting in some small concession – maybe a random assemblage of unattractive play equipment. With a little imagination and ingenuity, however, a garden can become a fascinating and stimulating place for children to play. A fresh approach to children's needs is necessary, therefore, to create unusual, captivating and attractive features which can be integrated into a family garden, to produce separate spaces dedicated to games, fun and fantasy; to make something wonderfully exciting where the kids can spend hours with their imaginations and friends. For instance, if you build a tree house and grant your children ownership, you will also help them build

wonderful memories.

Q 690.89 STI

Stiles, David. **Treehouses & playhouses you can build.**- Gibbs Smith, c2006

712.6083 MAT

Matthews, Clare. **Great gardens for kids.**- Hamlyn, 2005

Wildlife

A garden isn't a garden without some wildlife. Your garden can be a nature reserve for small creatures. For instance, birds are all around us, so creating the right environment is all-important to keeping the little critters hanging around. Birds, just like mankind, seek shelter, security, food and water: You can help them survive and keep them in your garden by just providing these basic items.

Q690.89 BAL

Baldwin, Edward A. **Birdfeeders, shelters and baths.**- Storey Communications, 1994.

