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# British Gardens In Time: The Greatest Gardens And The People Who Shaped Them



## Synopsis

As Seen on the BBC. British Gardens in Time takes four iconic gardens, each a product of its age, and provides a fascinating window into the creators and events that shaped them. The stories of their creation include obsession, escape, social ambition, political intrigue, heartbreak, bankruptcy and disaster. In unravelling these remarkable stories we reach back over the centuries to see these great gardens through fresh eyes. From the magnificent landscape garden at Stowe created by Bridgeman, Kent and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown; the Victorian masterpiece of Biddulph Grange; the romantic Arts & Crafts retreat at Nymans; and Christopher Lloyd's plantsman's paradise at Great Dixter, you will hear of adventure, innovation and visionary individuals who changed the way we create our gardens and the plants we grow. Author Katie Campbell weaves the stories of these four exemplary gardens into a history of British gardening from the earliest cultivated spaces to the present day, exploring trends, influences and pioneers. Fascinating historic detail and atmospheric storytelling make this a compelling read. British Gardens in Time includes a foreword by CHRIS BEARDSHAW, specially commissioned photography by NATHAN HARRISON, and extensive archive illustrations. Author KATIE CAMPBELL lectures widely, leads garden tours and writes on the social history of gardening. Her other books published by Frances Lincoln are Icons of Twentieth-Century Landscape Design and Paradise of Exiles.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Roy Strong has already published one substantial book about his garden in Herefordshire. Can

another be justified?Â The answer is a resounding 'yes' ... this unusual book chronicles - through the text and Clive Boursnell's attentive photography - the remaking, across a decade, of this formal garden of enclosures and episodes." "uncovers the passions and people behind four iconic gardens ... a fascinating book.' 'a ready inspiration for those who want to know more than a practical planting manual can reveal.Â This book is the perfect antidote to digging the beds.' 'If I had a coffee table, this would be the book I would like on it.' "Katie Campbell's book makes excellent and stimulating reading, putting 300 years of horticultural endeavour into precise context alongside gardens (and people) of similar vintage." "Roy Strong has already published one substantial book about his garden in Herefordshire.Â Can another be justified?Â The answer is a resounding 'yes' ... this unusual book chronicles - through the text and Clive Boursnell's attentive photography - the remaking, across a decade, of this formal garden of enclosures and episodes." "a well-researched and beautifully illustrated social history of British gardening from the 18th to the 21st century.Â If the BBC4 series left you wanting to know more, this elegant garden history book enables you to go forward and enter into dialogues with many of the gardens you visit." "a ready inspiration for those who want to know more than a practical planting manual can reveal.Â This book is the perfect antidote to digging the beds." "a well-researched and beautifully illustrated social history of British gardening from the 18th to the 21st century.Â If the BBC4 series left you wanting to know more, this elegant garden history book enables you to go forward and enter into dialogues with many of the gardens you visit."

KATIE CAMPBELL is a journalist and fiction writer; she has published a novel, a collection of short stories and poetry as well as *Icons of Twentieth-Century Landscape Design* (Frances Lincoln, 2006) and *Icons of Twentieth Century Design* (Frances Lincoln, 2010). She writes about art and landscape and lectures at Birkbeck College, London, and Bristol University. Commissioned photography by NATHAN HARRISON with extensive archive from many historical sources. Nathan is an experienced wildlife photographer and camera-man. Chris Beardshaw is an award winning garden designer, television presenter and author. He trained in horticulture and landscape design and after lecturing widely, now focuses on fronting and co-hosting tv programmes such as *The Flying Gardener*, *Hidden Gardens*, *Gardeners World*, *Great Garden Detectives*, and the most recent series *British Gardens in Time*. He also runs his own practice, splitting his time between designing, lecturing, broadcasting, writing, campaigning and working with charities such as The Woodland Trust, The Salvation Army, The Environment Agency and The National Lottery. KATIE CAMPBELL is a journalist and fiction writer; she has published a novel, a collection of short stories and poetry as

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Great history lessons through time and gardens.

This is an attractive book in your hands, hardbound and filled with colourful illustrations and garden photography. The text by Katie Campbell, especially the exceptional introduction covering the political and design trends of history leading up to the first distinctly English gardens, is generally a pleasure to read even though it wanders a bit. The chapter on the Victorian gardens of gentleman orchidologist James Bateman in Staffordshire, for example, examines the many and varied areas of Biddulph Grange with reference to the passions of the day, from evolution (Bateman was not a fan), to a fashionable interest in the Orient (he had Himalayan slopes and Chinese temples built). Other chapters wander off at times: the chapter on the Nymans estate devotes several pages to the changing fortunes and descendants of the Messel family who developed it, to the point where the reader is presented with potted biographies of offspring whose influence on either garden history or the design of Nymans is never established. Overall, though, the high quality of the photographs, including full-bleed prints over two pages, and the eclectic scholarship of the author is a rewarding and wonderfully detailed tour through its varied people, places and times. Would make an excellent gift for those with an interest in English history or garden design. The marriage of the two here is a fruitful one.

Beautiful book, vastly illustrated with good articles on the principles of gardening and landscape.

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