

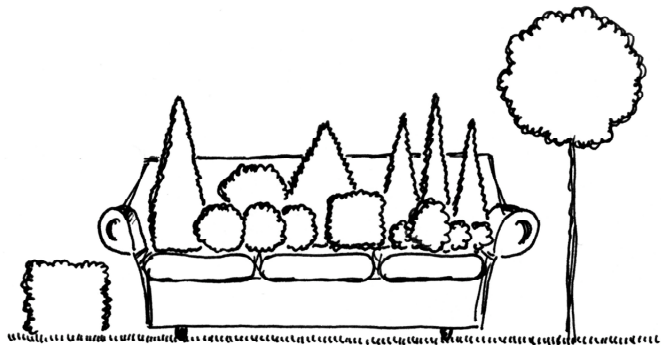
Why I wrote this book

Many years ago, when I studied landscaping, I learned that the garden was an outdoor room, filled with structural elements arranged in an aesthetically pleasing fashion. Plants were selected for their shape, colour and texture, all neatly arranged like sofa cushions, to be kept tidy and under control so as not to spoil the perfection.

The need for tidiness spilled over into garden maintenance. The fallen, naturally recycling leaves and branches were considered “debris” and “litter”, to be removed instantly to keep the soil surface clean. Even the plants were to be pruned and sprayed and dusted to remove all blemishes and plant feeding insects.

Over time - as I gained a deeper understanding of the connectedness of life on our planet - I came to see things very differently. It transformed the way I look at the world, and the way I garden - and it fills me with hope for the future.

I can now see that the garden’s purpose is much greater than our pleasure, and that gardening is much more important than I thought.



The sofa cushion garden

And I also came to see that gardening is much simpler than I thought, requiring no special skills - just a little shift in the way we think about our garden. With this book I hope to show you a glimpse of the real beauty of the garden - a beauty that transcends the shapes and colours and the perfect spatial arrangement of objects. Beyond the obvious, below the surface, deep within the hidden places of the garden - that's where you will see a perfection and elegance that surpasses all imagination.

And I hope that - by seeing different things - you too will gain a different understanding of life and your role as a gardener. More importantly, may it inspire you to do things differently.

Enjoy!

Heide Hermary
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