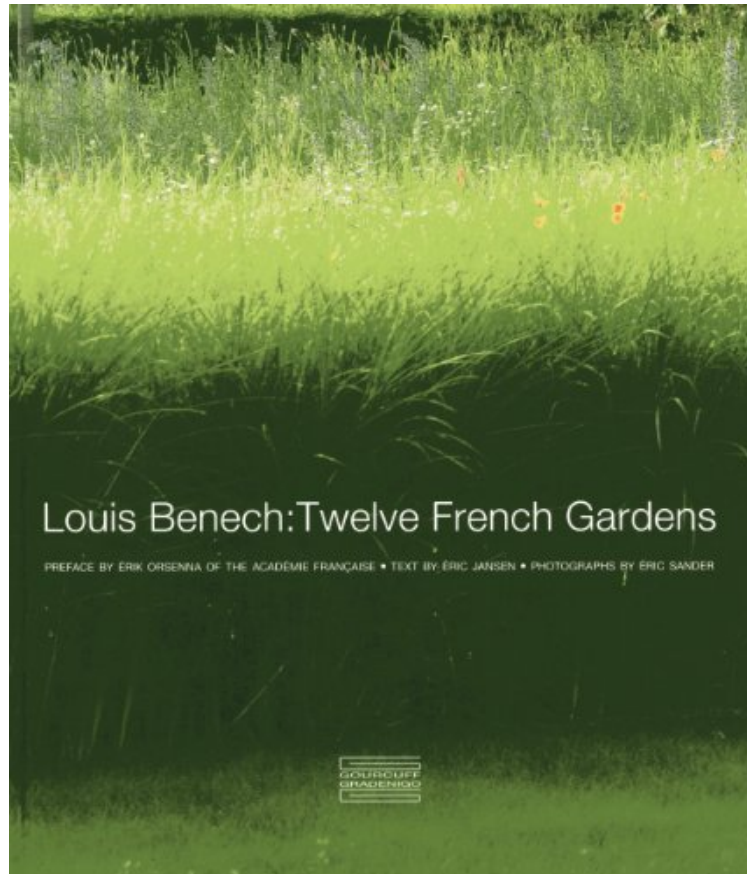


(Free and download) Louis Benech: Twelve French Gardens

Louis Benech: Twelve French Gardens

Eric Jansen

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Eric Jansen : Louis Benech: Twelve French Gardens before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Louis Benech: Twelve French Gardens:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Promising but incomplete
By van der Hof I wanted to like this book since I agree with the Designer's philosophy on preserving past parts of a garden and ongoing maintenance issues.....but it is hard to tell how effective most of his gardens are since there are no overall garden plans to look at to place things in context. The Paris Left-Bank Garden looked quite beautiful but one never had a sense of its true size, scope or layout....The photographer has not helped. Maybe the gardens are more about a feeling or mood and don't really photograph well but it is hard to know since so many of the photos are snippets of disjointed spaces. Some good ideas, but (at least not in this book) not fully realized for the reader.
8 of 9 people found the following review helpful.
Disappointing
By A. Gillingham When I purchase a book to deeply delve into a garden designer's methods and philosophy, I have fairly specific expectations. I want to see plans, I want properly identified plants, and I want to understand the context of the images I'm being shown. I can't fault the writing. It paints a wonderful picture of how Benech approached each of the 12 gardens. But the photography (and lack of garden plans or establishing shots) lets this book down. I want to see actual photographs of the concepts being described in the text. For example, the author

talks about how Benech approached the newest garden area at Villandry, best known for its impressive parterres and kitchen garden. He describes Benech finding inspiration in an existing starburst from a previous incarnation of the space, but there's no picture of it to get a feeling for what Benech actually accomplished. Is there an actual starburst? Who knows. I'll have to go to France to look for myself. This lack of context keeps this book from functioning as expected. Furthermore, the captions with the photos didn't do the job. Many of the plants weren't described or named, and it left me scratching my head as to what I was supposed to learn from the photos. Don't get me wrong; the photos were pretty enough, but I walked away from the book with no sense whatsoever of what sets Benech, or indeed, any of these 12 gardens apart from any other garden or designer. It's like the photographer just took some snaps that were tossed in, independent of what was discussed in the text. What a shame. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Green gardens. By William Churchill What wonderful ideas for the gardener.

In this elegant and accessible book, the photographer Eric Sander and the journalist Eric Jansen offer a portrait of Louis Benech's gardens in all their beauty and subtlety. This book presents twelve French gardens designed by Louis Benech, from the Jardin du Soleil et des Nuages at the Chateau de Villandry to Square Nicolas Forestier in inner-city Paris, via an estate in the Sologne, a Normandy manor house, a Breton flower garden, an exotic oasis in central Paris, a project in the footsteps of Russell Page in Burgundy, and the gardens of the Chateau de Pange, officially recognized by the French Ministry of Culture as a *jardin remarquable*. In their wide diversity, these twelve gardens reflect the many facets of a remarkable talent that has earned Louis Benech worldwide recognition; perhaps they also herald a second volume devoted to a further twelve designs by Benech, this time selected from his work outside France? Louis Benech came to gardening through his love of plants. After studying law, he went to work at the famous Hillier Nurseries in England. Captivated by what he learned there, he returned to France to work as gardener in a private garden in Normandy. In 1985, he began his career as a garden designer and landscape architect. Five years later he was commissioned, with Pascal Cribier and Francois Roubaud, to redesign the historic part of the Tuileries gardens. Since then, he has designed and carried out some 300 projects, both public and private, and stretching from Korea to Panama, via Canada and the United States, Greece and Morocco. While most of his work has been for private individuals, he has also received commissions from large multinational companies such as Axa, Herms and Suez. He has also worked on many established historic gardens, such as those at the Elyse Palace, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Quai d'Orsay in Paris, the chateau at Chaumont on the Loire, and the Achilleion in Corfu. Recent commissions have included the gardens of the Archives Nationales in Paris, and the creation of a new garden in the Bosquet du Theatre d'Eau at the Palace of Versailles. In all of his projects, Louis Benech sets out to create a genuinely harmonious relationship between his landscape design and the natural and architectural setting of each site. Ideally, he would like this interface to be so subtle that no one would even guess that he had worked there. Maintenance is one of his prime concerns, and he devotes particular attention to finding the most cost-effective ways of ensuring the continuity of his gardens.

It wasn't the garden designer Louis Benech's idea to do a book on his work: How, Benech wonders, can one really get to know a garden without walking it? But fortunately for his admirers, next month's *Louis Benech: Twelve French Gardens* offers the chance to take an imaginary stroll through a handful of the designer's projects, like a private estate designed around a babbling stream in Normandy, France, and the paved public garden at Square Jean-Claude Nicolas Forestier in Paris. (*New York Times Style Magazine*, Summer Culture 2013) This is a volume you need to hold and leaf through the pages. Benech has designed more than 300 public and private gardens around the world, but the guy isn't a showboater. His work has great subtlety. Some gardens are more naturalistic, others are formal, depending on the architecture of the place. His gardens lie somewhere between modern and traditional, each well-suited to its site. All are about space, light and shadows, forms and shades of green. This is the book to curl up with and dream the winter away. (*Valerie Easton The Seattle Times*, October 18, 2013) While I have little talent in the arena of landscape design, I can certainly recognize someone who does, so I was delighted to discover Louis Benech in the new book of his work, *Twelve French Gardens*. Whether you are an actual or armchair gardener, *Louis Benech Twelve French Gardens* is a volume you will enjoy reading as much as ogling. (*Quintessence Lifestyle Blog*, October 29, 2013) [The book] provides an excellent introduction to his work, which so deftly combines classic formal garden design with a more relaxed contemporary approach. (*Gardenista Blog*, October 11, 2013) Louis Benech, France's greatest living landscape designer... In his 30 years in horticulture, designing, planting and maintaining gardens at some of the most glorious properties in Europe... Benech has watched his 'babies,' as he calls his plantings, grow. (*Dana Thomas The New York Times*, October 12, 2016) About the Author Eric Jansen is a (*Point de Vue, Srie Limite, Air France Madame*) specializing in luxury goods and lifestyles. He has followed Louis Benech's work for many years. Eric Sander is one of the most celebrated garden photographers of his generation. With its unique ability to capture the elusive qualities of light, his work appears regularly in exclusive magazines and books.