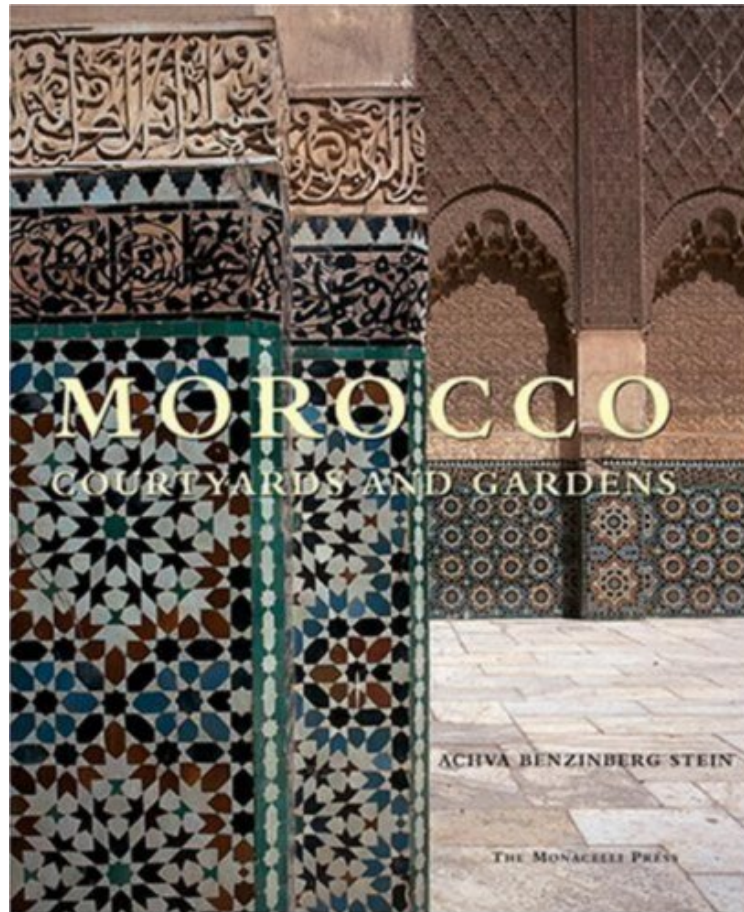


[Library ebook] Morocco: Courtyards and Gardens

Morocco: Courtyards and Gardens

Achva Benzinberg Stein

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Achva Benzinberg Stein : Morocco: Courtyards and Gardens before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Morocco: Courtyards and Gardens:

36 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Poor Quality Photos, Good Text
By W. J. Hunter
I was taken by the gorgeous cover photo of this book, but unfortunately the rest of the book's photos are extremely grainy - they were obviously taken with a cheap, compact camera. With all of the beautifully printed books available today, it was disappointing to spend quite a bit for this one only to find it was poorly produced. However, the text is interesting and informative. So, if you're interested in scholarly information about Moroccan climate, landscape and courtyard design, this book will be of interest. However, if you're looking for pretty pictures, this book will not make you happy.
10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The landscape of Morocco
By Tervelli
I bought this book among other 2 books of the same category, which depict the marvelous architecture and arid nature of Morocco. A country that has caught my interest after I visited last year Spain, where I witnessed the impressive Moorish architecture.
By comparison to the other two books I must note that this one in particular offers quite detailed written information,

although I happen to care less for the informative part but rather the imagery contrast. When I buy books of the type I buy them for their images not for the text, and images don't miss here either. The book also concentrates on the landscape of the country. There are quite many interesting images to view, although in my opinion, some of them lack technical precision as the images appear a little grainy and/or slightly out of focus. 18 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Just TOO appealing. By Salki Oh dear, oh dear - why do I buy books like this! It is so gorgeous that I want to re-vamp my entire garden right now so I can transpose some of this beauty to my home in Australia. In fact I have started, but my back and knees are a dead giveaway - I'm not young enough to do it, nor old enough to shame my sons into doing it. Still, using some of the ideas here, I have made some relatively simple changes to our deck and garden to reflect the Moroccan style and am very happy with them. If loving gardens were a sin, I'd go straight to hell. Gardeners have their likes and dislikes but I'd challenge any gardener not to find something to take their fancy in this book. As for non-gardeners, well, just buy it anyway, because the plates and text are so, so good. To paraphrase Omar Khayyam: ". . . a cup of tea, a book about Moroccan gardens . . . and gardens are Paradise enow".

In the North African land of Morocco, every dwelling, religious institution, or commercial building is organized around an interior, walled courtyard that provides privacy from the bustle of urban streets and an outdoor space for social interaction and tranquil meditation. Over the course of centuries, ornamental schemes have evolved to incorporate not only native plant life but also intricate water features and patterned tile work known as zellij, all of central significance to the Moroccan culture and climate. Vitally important for providing shade and catching breezes in an arid landscape, Moroccan gardens are designed and cultivated with vibrant color and aromatic plants. Author Achva Benzinberg Stein explores the three main types of garden: the simple and elegant paved patio form of the ouest ed-dar, the more elaborately planted riyad, and the agdal, an open, cultivated landscape. Striking color photographs, including numerous aerial views, show gardens and courtyards in Marrakech, Fez, and elsewhere.

"Beautifully illustrated" and "lovely" - "serves as a primer for any designer on the elements necessary to achieve a successful courtyard..." -- Garden Design Online, January, 2008
About the Author Achva Benzinberg Stein is director of the Graduate Landscape Architecture Program and professor in the School of Architecture, Urban Design and Landscape Architecture at the City College of New York. Her landscape design practice is based in New York.