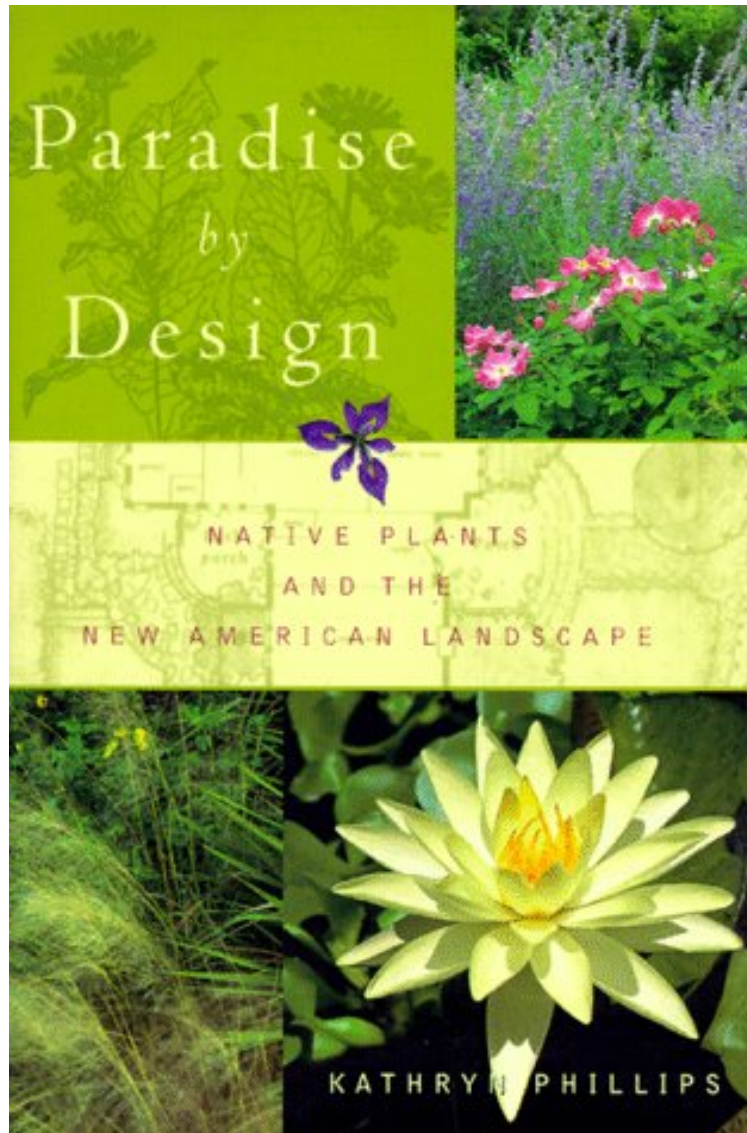


[Free and download] Paradise by Design: Native Plants and the New American Landscape

Paradise by Design: Native Plants and the New American Landscape

Kathryn Phillips

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Kathryn Phillips : Paradise by Design: Native Plants and the New American Landscape before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Paradise by Design: Native Plants and the New American Landscape:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Day-in-the-Life book scores high marksBy A CustomerI loved this book because it really offered insight into the life of a landscape architect. It showed well the struggles the architect

must overcome but it also illustrates what we (who are entering this field) can expect to face. For me, it was a wonderful narrative in the "day-in-the-life" category and one of the best books I have ever read. I'm only sorry there aren't more like it. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. The title of this book doesn't match the contents. By A Customer Or is it just a book that goes halfway? I liked Kathryn Phillips' first book, *Tracking the Vanishing Frogs: An Ecological Mystery*. It had some great investigative storytelling and raised both interesting questions and thoughts. Unfortunately this new title is not as compelling a read. This book meanders and winds through three different landscape projects. The untitled chapters, sidetrack and discuss many issues, though few of the issues deal directly with native plants as the title and book flaps promise. It might have been better titled: 'A day in the life of a Landscape Architect.' It is more about how we ended up making everything around us look the way it does, and the way the landscape industry forces its commerce on the land. While these issues have a relationship to the use of native plants in the landscape the author makes little attempt to connect the reasons. A large amount of the book spent on drawing plans, hardscapes, meeting logistics, and what car everyone drives. The loose structure made it difficult for me to understand why certain issues were being raised. It does address some interesting horticultural issues but really doesn't relate them to native plants. Lots of the issues it does raise for natives are the same for all plants. Most growers don't like slow growing plants, whether they are native or not. The few pages that do address native plants are interesting but don't add much depth. I feel this book doesn't really educate the value of native plants. Lack of scientific plant names adds to the feel of shallow content. The one time a plant is named by *Genus species*, it's incorrect (Page 210 - *Stipa purpa* should be *Stipa pulchra*.) Many other books have truly covered the issues of native plants in a more direct fashion. I would strongly recommend Sarah Stein's work (*Noah's garden, Planting Noah's garden*) if you're interested in native plants in your landscape. Also, *Gardening With a Wild Heart : Restoring California's Native Landscapes at Home* by Judith Lerner Lowry. They both communicate more clearly the real value of a native landscape. 3 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Perfect for people who always wonder why By A Customer This book is for the intellectually curious gardener. Thought provoking. Should be on the reading list of native plant gardeners.

Every day when she arrives at work, landscape architect Joni Janecki faces a daunting task: to create a piece of paradise for her clients. For this young, up-and-coming designer, that often means bucking mainstream design and gardening culture. Janecki rejects the expansive lawns and tightly clipped shrubs that have become the standards of America's created landscape. Instead, she tries to introduce the natural world to her clients by landscaping their homes, parks, and businesses with the native plants that the larger gardening culture often ignores. Kathryn Phillips follows Janecki as she struggles against nursery fads, anxious clients, pest plants, pesky budgets, and self-doubts to design paradise. The result, in the tradition of our best science and nature journalists, is an engrossing narrative which illuminates the complex forces that shape so much of the natural world we see each day. She introduces us to plant promoters, who want to carpet the world in roses, and nursery retailers who have to adapt to ever-changing fads. By the book's end, readers will be rooting for Janecki and seeing the created landscape around them--and its often tenuous relationship with nature--with new eyes.

.com Like Phillips's previous book, *Tracking the Vanishing Frogs*, this series of essays on the moral issues relating to garden design explores the effects human interest has on the objects of its attention. Wild or native plant gardening is an increasingly popular trend, but its ramifications are not always the kind that logic might suggest. In using native plants, we hope to create ecologically sensible and appropriate gardens that are easy to care for. When the nursery industry responds with a furious backlash of recrimination, why are we surprised? Advocates for using as many regional natives as possible in public landscapes are accused of being plant nazis--and as it turns out, that appellation is occasionally correct. Nobody intended the native plant movement to trigger wholesale destruction of habitat in order to provide gardens with eco-cool plants, yet how many gardeners insist upon learning where their native plants really come from? Phillips's touch is light yet deft, and her reach is broad without losing focus. There is no strident anger here, but her interviews with botanists, horticulturists, designers, and gardeners address dozens of intriguing and complex issues. Few books this provocative are this fun to read. --Ann Lovejoy From Library Journal Phillips (*Tracking the Vanishing Frogs*, St. Martins, 1994) profiles approximately two years in the career of a young California landscape architect, Joni Janecki, following the ups and downs of her work on a residential landscape, a new-fangled corporate landscape for Hewlett-Packard, and a small community park. The common theme linking these projects is Janecki's commitment to using native American plants in her designs, which echo habitats naturally found in California. Rather than presenting glossy photos of the finished products, Phillips concentrates on the deliberations and negotiations that go into producing a landscape plan, not the least of which is money, as both private and corporate clients reel from sticker shock. There's also some interesting material here about how plants are introduced to the nursery trade, how to regenerate a wild area, and what happens in a landfill for old concrete and asphalt. Patrons interested in landscape design as a career will enjoy the details of a landscape architect's daily routine. Recommended most highly for gardening collections in California and more comprehensive collections elsewhere. ?Beth Clewis Crim,

Prince William P.L., Va. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sPhillips (*Tracking the Vanishing Frogs*, 1994) provides a lucid explanation of natural landscaping as she follows in the footsteps of one of its practitioners. The use of native plants--grasses, shrubs, trees, and flowers that predate European settlement of the Americas, species that would be found in vestigial wildlands--is gaining a firm toehold in the field of landscape architecture. It is a trend that bucks our culture's dominant gardening aesthetic: the bigger and brighter and newer and stranger, the better, and there will never ever be enough lawn. Natural landscaping builds on a distinctive regional identity, taking its cues from micro- and macro-climates, soil types and site grades and what grew there in the distant past, fashioning a place-defining wild landscape of native plants and natural terrain, complex and subtle and ecologically sensitive to habitat and biological community. Phillips narrates as Joni Janecki, a landscape architect working in California, tackles three projects: a residential job in posh Montecito, where she is given a much-coveted free rein in planning (though the project remains unstated); a corporate job at Hewlett-Packard's main headquarters, where her plans get considerable manhandling; and a design for restoring an abused parkland in Salinas. Along the way, Phillips elaborates on the travails of landscape architects (and the four devils of money, time, taste, and client awareness), the history of the nursery industry, the place of sustainability in landscaping, and the debate surrounding "nativism" (particularly as it relates to Michael Pollan's controversial article "Against Nativism"). And Phillips tracks the projects closely, detailing each move, going so far as to tell readers the fate of an asphalt parking lot on one job site, for she is broadly curious about every aspect of the landscaping process. No bones about it, Phillips is a partisan, but she makes an elegant and persuasive case for going native. -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.