

FROM INSIDE PRIVET HEDGES

BY GRACE WHITNEY

HOW MANY WAYS CAN A GARDEN come to be? From the historic landscape of Calf Creek in Water Mill, founded in the 1800s, to the designs of first-time gardeners Eileen and Mark Catalano in The Springs, from the radical "gentle" hand of Edwina von Gal gardens at her home on Accabonac Harbor, to the ambitious and modern vision of Tony Ingrao and Andy Kemper's specimen trees at Woodhouse Park, on the East End of Long Island, each garden's story is different.

Author Jack DeLashmet, in his new book, *Hamptons Gardens*, (Assouline) shows us the extraordinary gardens that have become a defining feature in this part of the world. Together with photographers Mary Ellen Bartley and Doug Young, he serves as a guide to the horticulture that has so long been a

legacy here, and to the visions of the gardens as they stand today. "For three years I've searched for the very best, most original, and most arresting examples of gardens on the East End," writes DeLashmet. "Gardens that together epitomize the excitement and uniqueness of the Hamptons landscape, and those created by our most influential gardeners and designers."

Gardening has had a long tradition in the Hamptons. Many of the classic gardens were first settled in the seventeenth century, and originally used for the utilitarian purposes of European settlers. Now these lands, ranging from Violet Farm in East Hampton to Calf Creek in Water Mill, stand as a legacy to their history, bringing old and new together, a beacon of the beauty and abundance of the Hamptons landscape.

ALAN WATKINS



In Malo and Jeff Sander's garden in Noyack Bay, the plantings follow the horizon line—from beach roses in the spring to Montauk daisies in the fall.



This page, clockwise from top left: the favorite hangout spot at Amalia Dayan and Adam Lindemann's, in Montauk; the gate at Calif Creek in Watermill is planted with climbing roses; Edwina von Gal's elegant, abstract walkover the salt marsh at her home in The Springs. Opposite, clockwise from top left:

David and Mary Hamamoto's garden in Watermill; local granite was used to minimize the carbon footprint at the Slifkas' house in Sagaponack; Tony Ingrao and Randy Kemper's specimen trees and shrubs are cut to emulate sculpture at Woodhouse Park; fencing framed with wooden posts at the Slifkas'.

"Historically, the Hamptons has not only been a source of well-paid commissions but also a fertile creative training ground for landscape designers and gardeners of worldwide significance, and a place where they have met and exchanged ideas," writes DeLashmet. His book highlights not only the traditional garden design, but also modern and new designs, like Edwina von Gal's gardens. Calvin Klein has observed, "her hand is gentle." "Edwina's work is remarkable for her appreciation of and respect for the natural conditions of the site," writes DeLashmet

Indeed, all the gardens of DeLashmet's book illustrate the recognition and respect that each gardener has for the Hamptons, be it for its history, its legacy, or its natural beauty. ♦

Arno W. / WS

