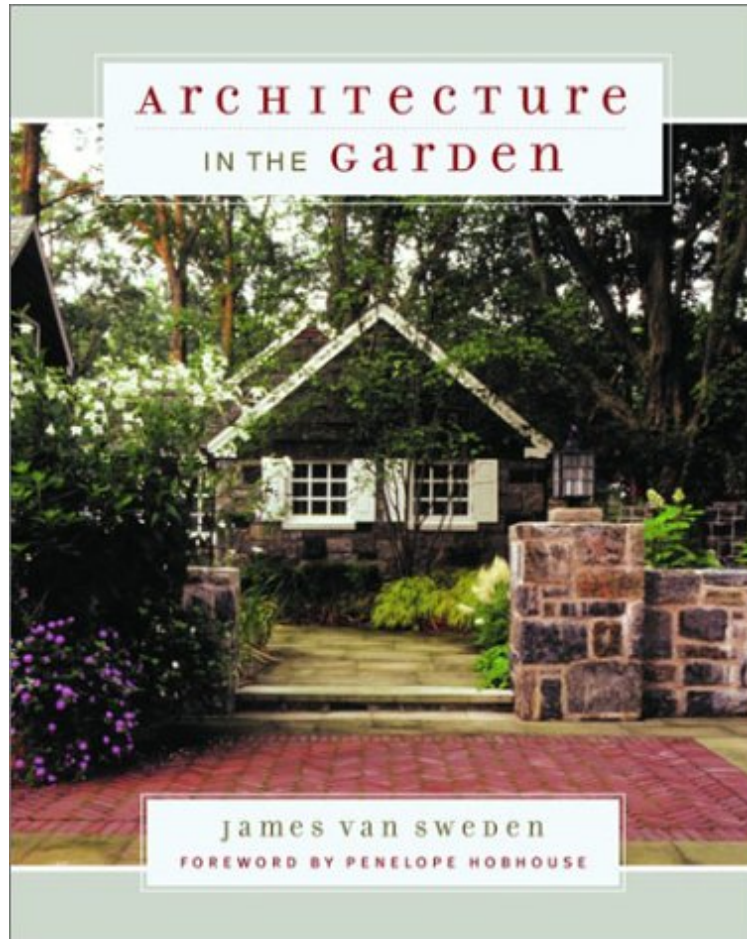


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Architecture in the Garden

James van Sweden, Tom Christopher
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James van Sweden, Tom Christopher : Architecture in the Garden before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Architecture in the Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. About the Best for Linking Hard Structure to PlantingBy James EllsworthThe (recently) late James van Sweden and his partner Wolfgang Oehme boldly took American landscape gardening in a new direction. I return to the word 'bold.' Oehme championed bold textures in leaf forms and foliage. James van Sweden showed how important solid architectural and structural underpinnings are for gardens. As an 'average' gardener with six acres to landscape I was pleased to discover their work. "Architecture in the Garden" represents (mostly) half of this firm's ideas. Oehme has his own books on plantings. I have structural issues with my property so I was particularly interested in the architectural underpinnings. I would have liked to see more about architectural concepts in terracing and in erosion control but this work offers plenty of 'food for thought' about properly supporting berms, walls, patios, terraces, walkways and the like. Van Sweden has always been a strong proponent of drawing the architecture of a property out into the landscape/garden spaces. This work particularly

articulates his basic thoughts on that subject. Van Sweden takes the time-honoured 'case study' approach with the pluses and minuses of learning about particular places and particular clients and particular solutions. I learned something I value from this book in regards to structure and architecture...but what I learned here is fairly rudimentary. The photography is instructive as are some line drawings. I found the 'inspiration' here to be a bit repetitive...but path-breaking designers do tend to develop their distinctive 'vocabulary.' The first section of the book does speak to 'philosophy' or theory and it introduces concepts any client should consider. Students will 'breeze' through this volume to pay homage to a leading designer...but the concepts presented here are (today) rudimentary. 31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Making good bones By Valerie Fletcher Adolph James van Sweden has been designing gardens for over 30 years and he is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In this book he shares with the reader the essential role that architecture plays in organizing the garden landscape. With carefully chosen examples he shows how man-made features of the garden - paths, walls, gates etc. - create the framework for a garden that is both beautiful and easy to live with. This book is readable and anecdotal in style, yet it covers the fundamental principles of design and shows how they can be put into practice to enhance many different types of garden. It is extensively illustrated, mostly with the author's own photographs, and these support the text in clearly delineating the applications of design principles to town gardens, seaside gardens, country gardens and so on. Despite the author's relaxed approach this is a very thorough book and it will be invaluable to anyone planning a garden. My only quibble is that many of the gardens might be called estates, measured in acres, and to some extent this limits the book's practical value to the gardener with a standard city lot, or less. But good "bone structure" is important in all gardens and this book will help any gardener pull together the significant man-made pieces of the garden into a graceful and beautiful whole. 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Making good bones By Valerie Fletcher Adolph James van Sweden has been designing gardens for over 30 years and he is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In this book he shares with the reader the essential role that architecture plays in organizing the garden landscape. With carefully chosen examples he shows how man-made features of the garden - paths, walls, gates etc. - create the framework for a garden that is both beautiful and easy to live with. This book is readable and anecdotal in style, yet it covers the fundamental principles of design and shows how they can be put into practice to enhance many different types of garden. It is extensively illustrated, mostly with the author's own photographs, and these support the text in clearly delineating the applications of design principles to town gardens, seaside gardens, country gardens and so on. Despite the author's relaxed approach this is a very thorough book and it will be invaluable to anyone planning a garden. My only quibble is that many of the gardens might be called estates, measured in acres, and to some extent this limits the book's practical value to the gardener with a standard city lot, or less. But good "bone structure" is important in all gardens and this book will help any gardener pull together the significant man-made pieces of the garden into a graceful and beautiful whole.

The elements of garden architecture paths, walls, gates, fences, terraces, sheds, lighting, furniture, waterworks, and art together form the backbone of any well-designed garden. In this beautifully illustrated and accessible book, legendary landscape architect James van Sweden explains how to design and build a garden like a professional. He leads his readers on a tour through some of his most exquisitely designed gardens in the country, in the city, in the suburbs, and by the shore. When it comes to planning a comfortable and rewarding garden, van Sweden writes in his Introduction, the challenges that confront the owner of an estate or a weekend cottage are often substantially the same. The principles and techniques used for organizing a large site work equally well in a more modest setting. Each case study highlights a particular architectural element, breaking it down into practical ideas that any gardener can apply to his or her own garden or yard. The book includes dozens of detailed schematic drawings that can be used to build many of the elements described by the author, along with an extensive, illustrated glossary. Architecture in the Garden is sure to inspire you with its many practical ideas on how to domesticate your landscape and design an outdoor space that suits your taste as well as your lifestyle.

From Publishers Weekly In this first-person how-to, van Sweden builds on the success of *Gardening with Nature* and *Gardening with Water* to reveal more about his own process of developing a garden design, showing readers how to come to their own decisions along the way. A landscape architect in partnership with Wolfgang Oehme for the last 35 years, the Washington D.C.-based van Sweden has a knack for cool, precise prose that matches the carefully planned yet free-feeling pathways that he finds essential to a garden's "good bones." After three opening chapters covering van Sweden's "Inspirations," "The Gardener's Need for Architecture" and "Elements of Garden Architecture" respectively, van Sweden presents six case studies of differing sites, from "country" to "town" to "seaside" gardens of varying scales, climates and surrounding architecture. Bullet-pointed questions at the end of each chapter train readers to notice the elements of their own terrains and begin to work with them in terms of, for example, plant choice and "slope" as a means of creating "drama." A final "Gallery of Architectural Features" shows paths, decks, edging, stone, fences and gates, walls and many more "features" in situ; van Sweden's calm intelligence shines throughout. (On sale Jan. 21) Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Landscape architect Van Sweden's celebrated

style might be summarized in a notion he sets forth early on in his latest book, that of "marrying house and garden." Thoughtful descriptions of an appropriate process and approach to creating a harmonious garden plan flow from the importance of initial planning to the concept of breaking down the space into the virtual floor, walls, and ceiling of the garden. To inspire inexperienced garden makers, Van Sweden elucidates upon examples of gardens he has created. Accordingly, whether an individual faces the task of transforming acreage in the countryside, or simply wishes to enliven a lilliputian urban lot, there is fluent guidance to help build confidence and know-how. Van Sweden brings readers along on his own creative path, and in doing so, sets up myriad ways of viewing garden architecture. A final section highlights further insights, contained in an array of special architectural features and appealing possibilities. A sophisticated primer for the budding designer. Alice Joyce Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Van Sweden has an intuitive gift for assessing a garden, but in this book he explains how this has been developed by a disciplined and logical thought process, in which everyone can share. All in all, garden designing is a dialogue between artifice and nature....As the book explains and beautifully illustrates, every garden needs an architectural background to hold the design together. from the Foreword by Penelope Hobhouse Architecture in the Garden provides a good read for anyone interested in what happens beneath and before the planting material of a garden. The author draws upon the breadth of his practical experience and his panorama of interests to provide a text, which is lively and informative and not too technical. The book is ideal for all students of garden and landscape design. John Brookes, author of The Garden Book and The Indoor Garden Book