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# Capability Brown and the Eighteenth-century English Landscape

*Roger Turner*

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**Roger Turner : Capability Brown and the Eighteenth-century English Landscape** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capability Brown and the Eighteenth-century English Landscape:

The idyllic landscapes which surround so many of the great country houses in Great Britain seem to be native English landscape at its best; yet they are not some lucky accident of nature but the result of careful planning, perfect taste, and a vast amount of groundwork and planting, shaped by one mans vision. This important work first appeared in 1985 and since then the author has revised the text and updated the Gazetteer. For those whose interests lie in understanding the history of gardening, landscape design or 18th-century society there is much to be found here, but equally this book will sharpen the appreciation of Browns work for all those who have visited his estates an enjoyed his enduring achievements.

From Library JournalTurner, landscape architect and writer, begins with a good introduction of 18th-century England and its gardens. He follows with a biographical account of Lancelot ``Capability" Brown and his many contributions to landscape design, including the creation of numerous parks for the English nobility. In particular, 15 of Brown's landscapes (e.g., Blenheim) are covered in detail, with illustrations ranging from original plans to photographs of the

maturity of the gardens. Turner describes the grooming of nature, the plants used, and the practical and technical aspects of the work that created the natural landscapes that have made Brown immortal. A handsome and well-written book, highly recommended for subject collections. Daniel S. Kalk, Enfield Central Lib., Ct. Copyright 1985 Reed Business Information, Inc. ... an invaluable work of reference. -- The Daily Telegraph a fine range of contemporary illustrations and recent photographs, and an invaluable gazetteer. -- Morning Telegraph

About the Author Roger Turner is an architect and award-winning landscape designer. His books include *Better Garden Design*, the first horticultural monograph ever written on the subject. He has written many articles in popular and learned journals and now lectures widely on gardens, garden design, plants, and garden history.