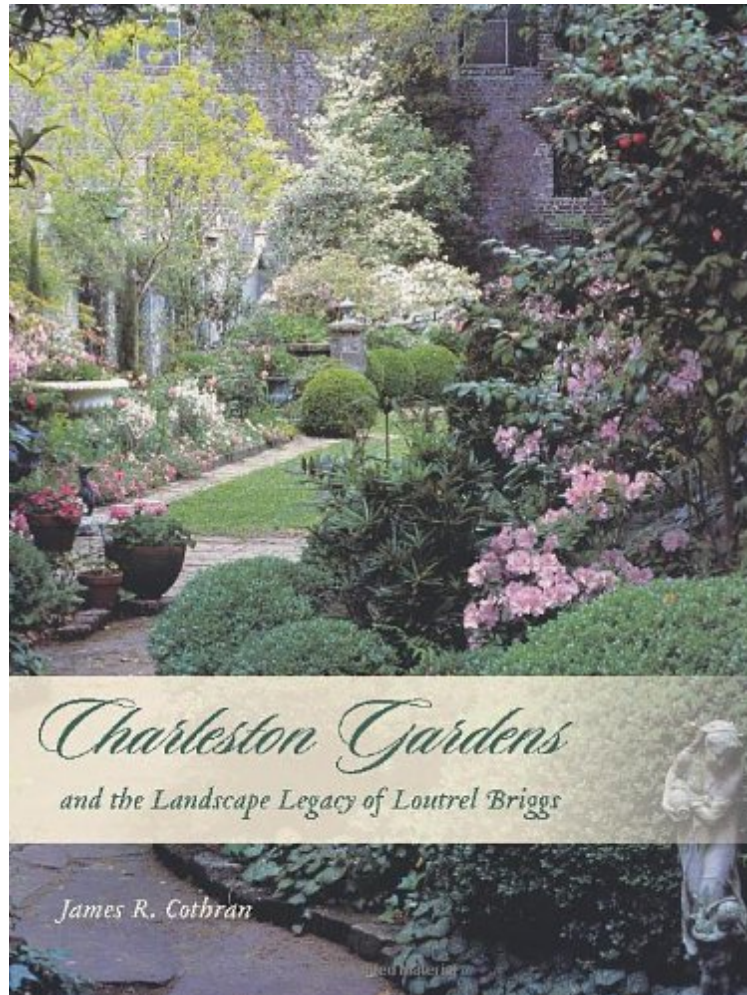


## Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs

*James R. Cothran*

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**James R. Cothran : Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must have for those who love gardens, especially Charleston gardens!!!By Cornelia VerderyNot just a pretty book!--a definitive history and guide to the glorious gardens of Charleston. Add this one to your collection.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. extremely overpriced for what you actually getBy Kaye M.I have never returned a book, however, this is one of two that I am returning - both about Charleston gardens. Of the 210 pages of this book, 50% consisted of appendices and indexes. While there is excellent information about Loutrel Briggs, that 50% means nothing to the majority of people who garden and especially admire the gardens of Charleston. At half the price, this book would still be somewhat overpriced. Very

disappointing!5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Loutrel Winslow BriggsBy Joy E. ThacherI met Loutrel Briggs when I was a little Girl. My father, Frank Winslow Elliott was Loutrel's cousin. My husband and I have visited many of his gardens in Charleston and I own a copy of Loutrel's book "Charleston Gardens". I will welcome James Cothran's new book and savor his appreciation of the outstanding landscapes designed by artist, Briggs. Hopefully, his designs will be preserved for future generations. What a Treasure!!!! Joy Elliott Thacher

Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs provides a fascinating account of the life and career of renowned landscape architect Loutrel Briggs (1893-1977), the individual most directly responsible for the development of Charleston's distinctive garden style. Accomplished landscape architect and award-winning garden historian James R. Cothran provides the most complete portrait to date of Briggs, his continuing impact on the iconic gardens of Charleston, and his legacy in the complex historical tapestry of the lowcountry. A native of New York and a graduate of Cornell University, Briggs first visited Charleston in 1927 to experience firsthand the city's incomparable springtime beauty and picturesque charm. He opened a seasonal office in Charleston in 1929 and for the next three decades divided his practice between his summer office in New York and his winter office in Charleston. Briggs became a permanent resident of Charleston in 1959. Briggs completed an impressive array of private and public landscape projects, including Mepkin, McLeod, Mulberry, and Rice Hope plantations; Charleston's Gateway Walk; the William Gibbes house garden; and the South Carolina Memorial Garden, but he is best known for his designs of many small Charleston gardens. He is credited with designing more than one hundred private gardens in Charleston's historic district alone. In these plans Briggs drew on his remarkable sense of scale, harmony, and tradition to work wonders in limited urban spaces. Featuring a distinctive emphasis on "outdoor rooms," some of these gardens survive today while others have been lost over time to natural causes, redesign, or neglect. Today Charleston is in danger of losing one of its most enviable but fragile assets--its legacy of Briggs' gardens. Cothran's comprehensive work champions a renewed appreciation of the contributions Briggs made to Charleston's landscape tradition and serves as a timely call to action to preserve Briggs' gardens and legacy. The book also provides an inventory of Briggs' projects found in Charleston archives as a resource for further research, exploration, and documentation.

The remarkable artistry of Loutrel Briggs profoundly enhanced Charleston's gardens and parks and made a beautiful city even more so. His work has been captured in innumerable paintings and photographs and is carried in the minds and hearts of all who have been inspired by the spaces he created. Jim Cothran's most interesting book does justice to Briggs and his legacy and will forever enrich this city. The Honorable Joseph P. Riley, Jr., mayor of Charleston  
Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs is a significant contribution to southern garden history, especially Charleston garden history. Few individuals have had as profound of an impact on Charleston gardens, their renaissance, understanding, and appeal as did Loutrel Briggs. Cothran's summary, review, and documentation of Briggs' long career, design genius, and eventual legacy will no doubt help rekindle and inspire preservation efforts. A. Jefferson Lewis III, president, Southern Garden History Society  
Charleston Gardens and the Landscape Legacy of Loutrel Briggs is about the landscape architect most responsible for the look and livability of Charleston's gardens. It is also a call to action to preserve these exquisitely calibrated spaces. Briggs' use of carefully framed views, easy flow of formal spaces, and exquisite attention to detail and planting defined gardening for a city justly proud of its past. Now these twentieth-century gems are threatened. Cothran's work is beautifully presented. This book sets the stage for a revival of interest in preserving Charleston's important legacy. Bill Noble, director of preservation, Garden Conservancy  
Loutrel Briggs contributed to Charleston's twentieth-century garden renaissance by preserving and renewing many historic gardens and by extending Charleston's unique landscape idiom into new spaces, always with respect for the city's culture and traditions. Much of his work in public and private properties throughout the historic district survives and is cherished today. Gardeners, historians, and all who appreciate the charm of Charleston gardens will be grateful for this careful study of his legacy. What James Cothran has achieved is no less than preservation through documentation. Katharine S. Robinson, executive director, Historic Charleston Foundation  
The garden design legacy of Loutrel Briggs is captured through James Cothran's passionate investigation and detailed exploration of Briggs' landscape style, tried and true plant selections, and visionary efforts toward historic preservation. Cothran provides fascinating details regarding Briggs' desire to focus much of his career on the Charleston landscape, which ultimately has had such a lasting impact on his adopted city. Besty Steele, president, Garden Club of South Carolina  
From the Inside Flap  
An elegantly rendered account of the central figure in the twentieth-century Charleston garden renaissance  
About the Author  
James R. Cothran is a practicing landscape architect, urban planner, and garden historian in Atlanta. He holds degrees from Clemson University, the University of Georgia, and the Georgia Institute of Technology. Cothran serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia and Georgia State University, where he teaches graduate courses on America's historic gardens and landscapes. A fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects, Cothran is past president of the Southern Garden History Society and currently serves on the boards of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, Trees Atlanta, and the Cherokee Garden Library-Center for the Study of Southern Garden History. He is the author of Gardens of Historic Charleston

and Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South, which has been honored with awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, the National Garden Clubs, the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, the Georgia Historical Society, and other organizations.