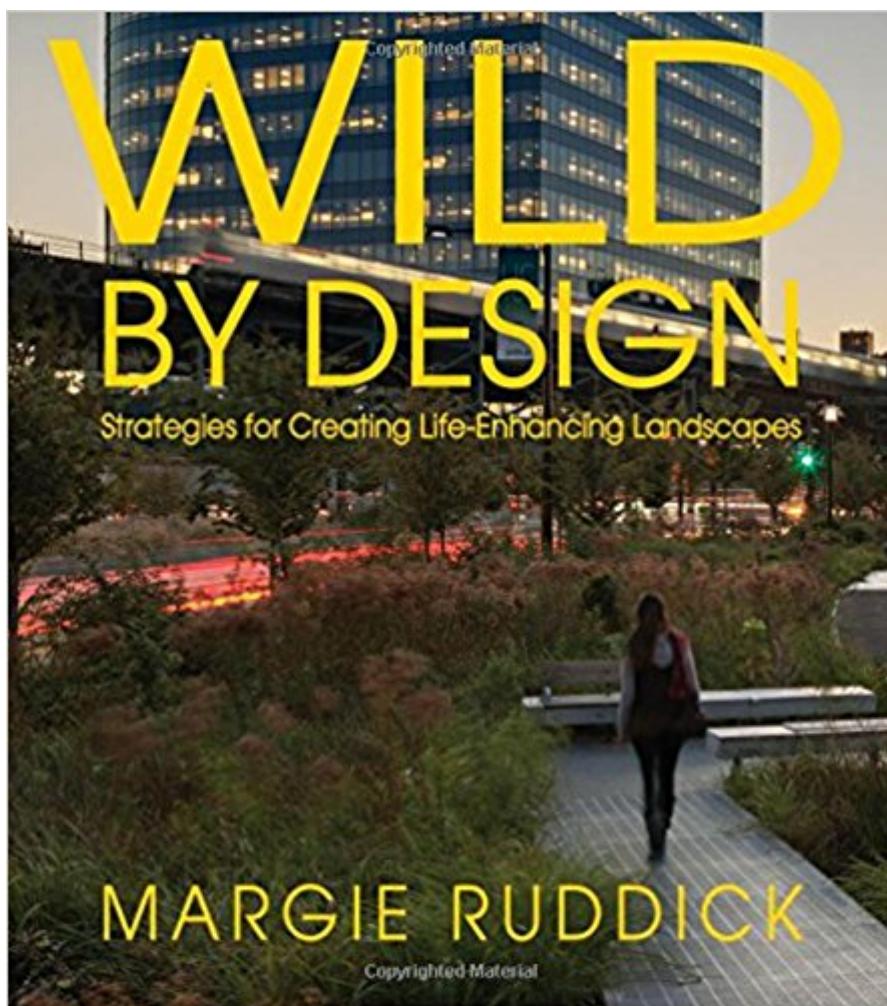


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# Wild By Design: Strategies For Creating Life-Enhancing Landscapes



## Synopsis

Can nature—â•in all its unruly wildness—â•be an integral part of creative landscape design? In her beautifully illustrated book, *Wild by Design*, award-winning designer Margie Ruddick urges designers to look beyond the rules often imposed by both landscaping convention and sustainability checklists. Instead, she offers a set of principles for a more creative and intuitive approach that challenges the entrenched belief that natural processes cannot complement high-level landscape design. *Wild by Design* defines and explains the five fundamental strategies Ruddick employs, often in combination, to give life, beauty, and meaning to landscapes: Reinvention, Restoration, Conservation, Regeneration, and Expression. Drawing on her own projects—from New York City’s Queens Plaza, formerly a concrete jungle of traffic, to a desertscape backyard in Baja, California, to the Living Water Park in Chengdu, China—she offers guidance on creating beautiful, healthy landscapes that successfully reconnect people with larger natural systems. A revealing look into the approach of one of sustainable landscape design’s most innovative practitioners, *Wild by Design* stretches the boundaries of landscape design, offering readers a set of broader, more flexible strategies and practical examples that allow for the unexpected exuberance of nature to be a welcome part of our gardens, parks, backyards, and cities.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"[one of] spring’s most enticing design books" (New York Magazine)"Profusely and beautifully

illustrated throughout with color photography, Wild By Design: Strategies for Creating Life-Enhancing Landscapes ... should be on the personal reading lists of every aspiring and practicing landscape designer." (Midwest Book Review)"Richly illustrated" (San Francisco Book Review)"Margie Ruddick artfully explores whether nature, in all its unruly wildness, can be an integral part of design." (DuJour)"Margie's amazing projects and her philosophy of going wild; maker her book Wild by Design a fascinating read." (Garden Rant)"Spaces designed to be wild should still have a beautiful feel, says Ruddick in her well-produced book with colour photographs to inspire landscape designers, landcare managers, urban planners and home gardenders alike." (Nexus)"Told in first person, Ruddick's entertaining prose is strongest when imparting valuable lessons learned from years of practice through anecdotal storytelling about her own experiments and conversations with clients and collaborators, giving readers a view into the many types of people and projects that pass through a landscape architecture office." (Spacing)"An elegant exposition of the importance of artistry in the practice of sustainable landscape design, Wild by Design is essential reading from one of the field's foremost innovators, National Design Award winner Margie Ruddick." (Caroline Baumann Director, Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum)"Wild by Design will redefine the way you think about landscapes, particularly the interaction between human activity and the natural world. What sets this book apart is the primacy Margie Ruddick gives aesthetics, beauty, and creativity in making sustainable landscapes, folding conventional green practices into a design context, and into the social and cultural elements always at play in creating or enhancing a sense of place. She offers equal parts inspiration, information, and instruction, complemented by stunning photographs." (Walter Hood Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, UC Berkeley)"Great images, good story. This is a book every architect should read." (Deborah Berke FAIA, LEED AP)"Recommended reading" (Better Homes & Gardens)

A beautifully illustrated book that encourages designers to incorporate unruly nature into creative landscape design. Â

The book is a deep review of current landscape architecture ideas. Fascinating as far as that goes! a high voltage tower beautiful? How do we relate to, improve, restore and revive our many urban areas and mindfully work on new development-- all with a global perspective.I liked some of the seeming one liners"The waterfront park is the new Central Park""Places that attract children attract lots of people" Might have wanted to hear more about the home project in Philadelphia that resulted

in NYT coverage...for the urban naturalist environmental movement fans.

This book is for gardeners of all levels and for non-gardeners interested in how 'wild' or native plants are being used in newly designed or reclaimed areas. Margie Ruddick writes well, uses lovely pictures and plans and we see her projects through her eyes. The book is interesting, informative and educational and can be enjoyed by many.

A wonderful book written by a true humanist. Margie's warmth and unique perspective will inspire you to be a better landscape architect!

Fascinating book even if you are not in landscape architecture! Understandable language and good flow to the text. I like gardens, architecture and wild nature and was fascinated by the history of all of it and the new movements emerging from merging designers and ecologists! I appreciated even the little explanations like defining the chapter headings Reinvention, Restoration, Conservation, Regeneration and Expression in the table of contents! I felt like I knew what she meant from the get go! Wild gardening...it even sounds perfect, wild by design is both wild and clearly designed, maintained but not slavishly ordered... 'natural processes are in and wasteful decadence is out'. Very interesting read!

Using her own landscape as the background in formulating her design principles, landscape designer Margie Ruddick lists five strategies that guide her work. These include reinvention which necessitates a total redo of a site, restoration or recovering that which has been lost at a site, conservation of natural resources or culture, regeneration meaning ensuring the continuance of the project, and finally expression showing the artistic and creative endeavor. In the following five chapters, each of these strategies is illustrated in specific projects such as restoration of the Queens Plaza traffic nightmare in Long Island City, NY. In Sichuan, China, The Living Water Park served as a model for the biological purification of water through settlement, filtration, and aeration. Trenton Capital Parks is another river restoration project that connects the city with the river. In Baja California, Casa Finisterra melds landscape with contemporary design. Liberty State Park in New Jersey serves as a regenerative example of a site transforming from landfill to forest, meadow, wetland. The book is richly illustrated with colorful photos of various landscapes, parks, projects and landscape designs. In preserving the natural wildness or nature of a setting, the inherent beauty of the venue is sustained, the point emphasized by the author.

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