

Booklist

Issue: November 1, 2012

The Layered Garden: Design Lessons for Year-Round Beauty from Brandywine Cottage.

Culp, David L. (Author) and Levine, Adam (Author)

Nov 2012. 305 p. Timber, hardcover, \$34.95. (9781604692365). 635.09748.

A spartan home sits on a modest piece of property tucked into the suburban sprawl of southeastern Pennsylvania. It is surrounded by an effusive explosion of plants of every shape and hue. Vibrant magenta alliums send their pom-poms skyrocketing over drifts of pale blue forget-me-nots. Hillsides overflow with cascading ferns and hostas, while a vegetable garden banked with perennials dominates the sunny foreground. Rainbow pots of herbs and annuals carry the eye on a radiant journey of discovery—an ancient stone trough here, a gnarled wooden trellis there. So imaginative is Culp’s genius and so resourceful his passion for plants and design that his layered garden offers more sensory delights per square foot than most gardens manage to achieve over acres. In no mere “how I did this” memoir, Culp, with help from award-winning garden writer Levine, offers solid advice on design technique and plant selection. Famed garden photographer Rob Cardillo’s swoon-inducing images showcase Culp’s vision for maximizing a garden’s potential. A stunning chronicle of the way Culp and his garden evolved over the years.

— Carol Haggas