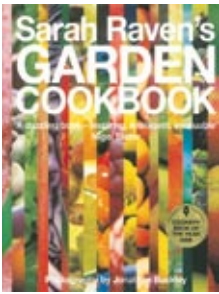




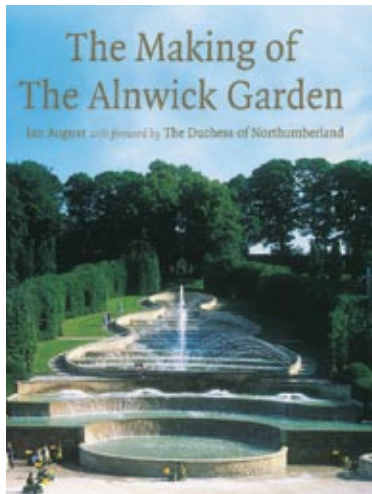
Always on the look out for new sources of inspiration, landscape designer Franchesca Watson lists her favourite reads for 2009

# Take a Leaf

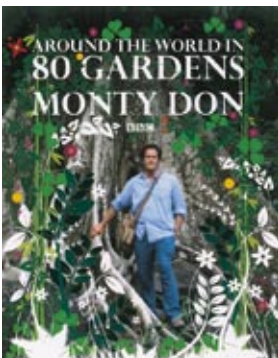


**SARAH RAVEN'S GARDEN COOKBOOK** Sarah Raven is the United Kingdom's expert on all things to cut, grow and eat from your garden, and runs courses on planting vegetables, cutting flowers and cooking from her home in Sussex. Perfect for both gardeners and cooks, this book features the most superb range of recipes, which place seasonal vegetables, fruits and herbs at the centre of every meal, all year round.

**THE MAKING OF THE ALNWICK GARDEN** One of the most exciting modern gardens in Britain today and the brainchild of the Duchess of Northumberland, this garden was designed as a multi-use public space by Jacques and Peter Wirtz. I stayed up all night over two days reading Ian August's no-holes-barred account of the ten-year process, from choosing the designer to all the financial and technical vicissitudes. I'm off to see this garden.

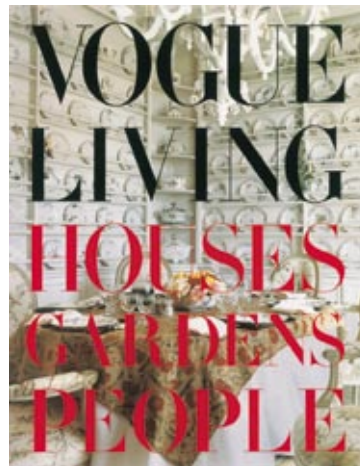
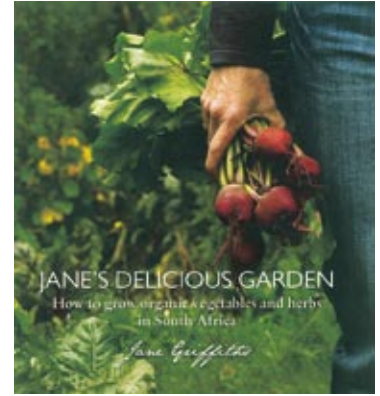


**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 GARDENS** This BBC television project is also available on DVD. It's a really ambitious series in which well-known British gardening personality Monty Don travels the world in search of the most inspirational gardens.



It covers a full spectrum, from modest domestic gardens to the Taj Mahal, giving Don's personal opinion on what makes each space special. I found it refreshingly broad in approach and very easy to read. Plus, it features nine South African gardens.

**JANE'S DELICIOUS GARDEN** A pretty little South African volume by zany redhead Jane Griffiths, I found it well presented, very thorough and up-to-date, with many useful ideas. There's a good A-to-Z section on vegetables and herbs, and I found her section on pests, diseases and other problems most helpful with many gentle solutions I had not known of before.



**VOGUE LIVING HOUSES GARDENS PEOPLE** Although not strictly about gardening, this is a purchase for a lifetime. It's big and jaw-droppingly beautiful, as it should be coming from the Vogue stable. Captured through wonderful photography, this tome showcases the houses and gardens of personalities from the worlds of fashion, culture, entertainment and society. My favourite is Marella Agnelli's garden in Marrakech.

**PAUL BANGAY'S GARDEN DESIGN HANDBOOK** I really like Paul Bangay, an Australian garden designer who specialises in a classic modern ornamental style. This book takes the reader through his design process and shows construction methods as practiced down under. It's relevant as his garden spaces are designed with a similar lifestyle to ours and most of the plants are familiar to South African gardeners.



■ Franchesca Watson ☎ 082 808 1287



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