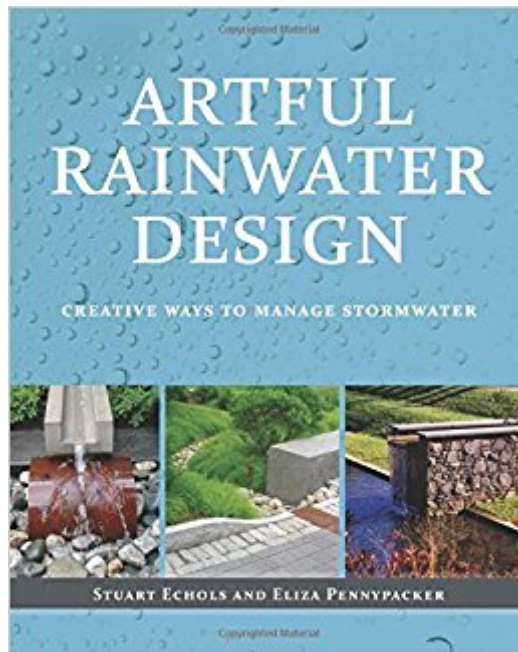




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Artful Rainwater Design: Creative Ways To Manage Stormwater



Synopsis

Stormwater management as art? Absolutely. Rain is a resource that should be valued and celebrated, not merely treated as an urban design problem—and yet, traditional stormwater treatment methods often range from ugly to forgettable. Artful Rainwater Design shows that it's possible to effectively manage runoff while also creating inviting, attractive landscapes. This beautifully illustrated, comprehensive guide explains how to design creative, yet practical, landscapes that treat on-site stormwater management as an opportunity to enhance site design. Artful Rainwater Design has three main parts: first, the book outlines five amenity-focused goals that might be highlighted in a project: education, recreation, safety, public relations, and aesthetic appeal. Next, it focuses on techniques for ecologically sustainable stormwater management that complement the amenity goals. Finally, it features diverse case studies that show how designers around the country are implementing principles of artful rainwater design. Artful Rainwater Design is a must-have resource for landscape architects, urban designers, civil engineers, and architects who won't let stormwater regulations cramp their style, and who understand that for a design to truly be sustainable, people must appreciate and love it. It is a tool for creating landscapes that celebrate rain for the life-giving resource it is—and contribute to more sustainable, healthy, and even fun, built environments.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"We depend on water for our very existence, a fact which has thrust water management into the

front line of public policy. Unfortunately, a common result has been the proliferation of single-purpose, utilitarian solutions. Echols and Pennypacker present compelling alternatives to ugly stormwater management facilities through artful, landscape-based rainwater interventions and illustrate how we can better interact with water through creative design." (Frederick Steiner)"This book is a treasure and an inspiration for owners, architects, and civil engineers working with landscape architects to create function and beauty in creative ways on sites. One learns why and how to get two-fers and three-fers while collaborating to provide innovative and functional stormwater solutions." (Judith Nitsch)"Features some of the most innovative solutions to rainwater collection and retention." (American Gardener)"In redefining the relationship between 'problem' and 'amenity,' the authors of Artful Rainwater Design have produced a capacious catalog of exemplars for harnessing excess runoff. Well organized, documented, and illustrated, this trove of techniques demonstrates how landscape designers and engineers can transform public perception and thus policy goals for urban stormwater management." (M. Elen Deming)"Building on a decade of research, travel, and development, Echols and Pennypacker explain the design of every stage of rainwater's path through crowded cities. Their Artful Design paradigm restores the urban water environment, and articulates the places where people live, making them active parts of their lives." (Bruce K. Ferguson, Creator of Ferguson's Portal, former Director of the School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia)"...[Artful Rainwater Design] instills hope that the days of drab detention ponds may soon be coming to an end, ushering in a new era of rain-celebrating landscapes." (ASLA's The Dirt)"Stuart Echols and Eliza Pennypacker rethink traditional stormwater treatment systems and offer innovative solutions for managing heavy rainwater and the runoff in ways that are valuable and beautiful. From the book's opening pages, readers are reminded that rain is a resource, not a waste product." (The College)"A timely book that provides needed solutions to challenges occurring simultaneously in urban and suburban built environments across the nation: new development and aging infrastructure...Artful Rainwater Design has the potential to cross over into practice in ways that textbooks often do not—an important quality." (Journal of Planning Education and Research)"What was once considered to be a nuisance or of little consequence has become the focus of city leaders around the world, triggering a call to action to support the better management of the critical, life-giving natural resource: water. Artful Rainwater Design: Creative Ways to Manage Stormwater is a timely book that provides insight into the strategies, implementation methods, design parameters, and amenities that creative stormwater design can yield." (The Nature of Cities)"The book is practical as well as visionary—the gorgeous photographs on almost every page make an eloquent case for

twinning beauty with sustainability. — (Planning)

The go-to resource for designers creating new stormwater systems that are exciting, creative, and fun.

The subject material is well researched and the case examples are on point. Excellent reference for today's storm water management professional.

I picked up this book thinking it would be all about landscaping around the house in relationship to rain water. It is anything but that. This book is actually a collection of serious essays about rain water management in urban settings, from an urban planning perspective. Most of the chapters swirl around the epicenter of municipalities in the Pacific Northwest -- Portland, Seattle, Tacoma, etc. -- and each chapter presents some different but overlapping perspectives on moving rain water productively out of the way of urban demands for such things as parking lots, sidewalks, and buildings. As you can see in my images, many of the chapters focus on creating landscaped, vegetation depressions and/or swales, always with a buried and hidden architecture of rock and drainage pipe. So from this last description you can see that residential readers who want to work on the areas around their houses can actually learn and extrapolate a lot from this book. While most of us don't need to add large parking lots to our houses, we do need to enact (on smaller scales) much of what is described in this book. So even if you're "just" a homeowner, I think you can pull some interesting ideas from this book. Note that at least one chapter deals with a more arid area (Arizona), so it's not only geared toward designing for high-rainfall areas. But the Pacific Northwest is certainly the main concern of this book.

Artful Rainwater Design is beautifully illustrated yet extremely informative and well presented. It lives up to the title, thoughtfully educating on the various ways that rainwater is collected, showcased, stored, and disseminated. From watersheds to storm drainage, nature preserves to art pieces. There's something for everyone here: landscapers, scientists, policymakers, environmental advocates, urban planners, and even home gardeners looking for inspiration. The book breaks down as follows: Part 1: The history of storm water management and background for artful rainwater design. Part 2: Achieving amenity with artful rainwater design (education, recreation, safety, public relations, and aesthetic richness in artful rainwater design). Part 3: Achieving utility with artful rainwater design (gray and green infrastructure techniques for sustainable storm water

management; the ARD utility axioms)Part 4: Case studies of artful rainwater design. Included: Educational applications, recreational applications, safety applications, public relations designs, and aesthetic richness examples. Although highly technical, the case studies are definitely the highlight of the book. Needs and design are merged at places such as The Dell at the University of Virginia, Rain Garden at the Oregon Convention Center, Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, and the Queens Botanical Garden. Examples of great rainwater designs cross the US - from Arizona's deserts to rainforest Portland. Though mostly of an industrial nature, I learned quite a bit and, even more, greatly inspired. This isn't a book full of pretty pictures; great pains were taken to thoroughly discuss the subjects presented. As well, inner City to nature locations give testimony to the scope of the book. In all, a fascinating book that is well researched, nicely photographed, and useful for both education and inspirational purposes. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

This is a book for communities and businesses who are willing to think outside the box. What can you do to ease drought and help flooding? What can you provide as a first flush to help filter road and other contamination from water...and not follow the make it go away crowd? This is a useful tool in business and urban design. It is likely above the capacity of homeowners but an excellent manual to find workable solutions to water issues that affect us all.

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