

The Landscape Design Issue
March, 2024

KNOW
WHY
ART?



Wherever there is space, it can be filled with design. Just like the interiors, even exterior design is a copious avenue for creativity.

Plants, garden sculptures, Japanese gardens, classic French lawns - landscape design is the reason we feel a sense of bliss every time we step out to catch a breath of fresh air in a garden.

In this issue of Know Thy Art magazine, we explore this, out of the blue, design sector.

CONTENTS

History of Landscape Design

Landscaping Today

Future of Landscape Design

Facty Factorson

Ask the Editor

Freebie

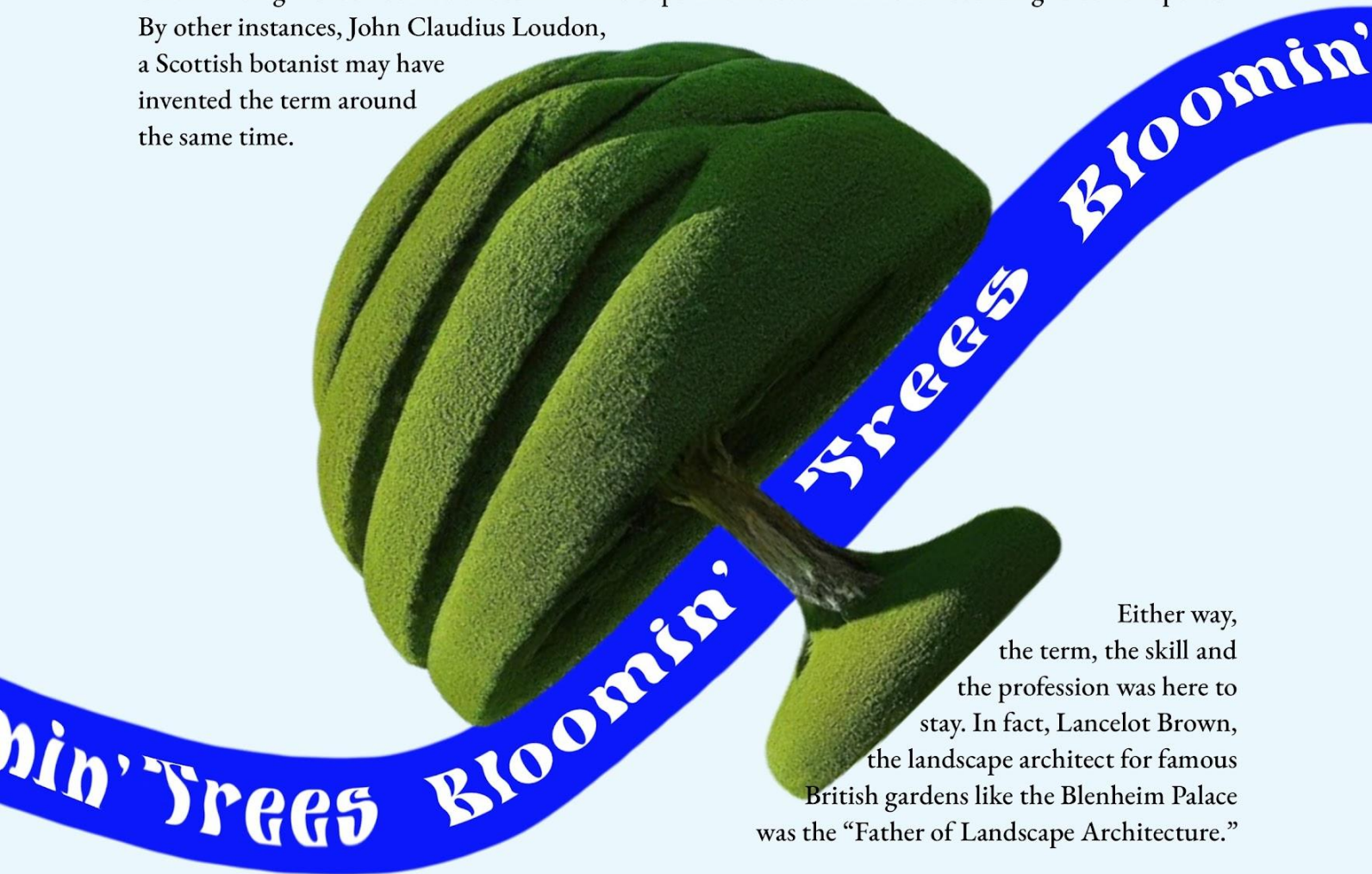
Sneak Peek into the Next Issue



HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Landscaping, Landscape Architecture or Landscape Design are sometimes used interchangeably because they share many similarities and have minor differences. But how did designing gardens and terrains become a design profession? For that, we will have to go way back to the 16th century. Planting gardens in palaces and communal spaces was already common in many old civilisations. It was European royalty that actually “commissioned” experts to work on their palatial lawns and gardens. Magnificent gardens like that of the Palace of Versailles had been commissioned to André Le Nôtre by King Louis the XIV.

Gilbert Laing Meason coined the term “Landscape Architecture” in 1828 according to some reports. By other instances, John Claudius Loudon, a Scottish botanist may have invented the term around the same time.



Either way, the term, the skill and the profession was here to stay. In fact, Lancelot Brown, the landscape architect for famous British gardens like the Blenheim Palace was the “Father of Landscape Architecture.”

Mostly open lawns with trimmed shrubbery was the place to convene for the famous afternoon high-tea. This afternoon drink was becoming more popular and cheaply acquired through the colonies. But whatever an open, green space meant to royalty, it meant much more to people around the world seeking tranquility. British, French and Japanese gardens emerged as the standard to follow around the world.

Basically, if your economy had the need or the money for open lawns or gardens, you could commission a landscape architect to do the job for you. This approach made landscape architecture the design form for the elite. Just like owning a 5 million dollar Van Gogh, throwing a frisbee in a garden with twirly-trimmed shrubs may have been only for the elite.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE TODAY

What is it that brought landscape design from the mountain tops of high-society to the masses with public parks and 2\$ botanical garden tickets? Freedom from colonies and a chance for economies to grow through the fuel of the industrial revolution did the trick! When countries made a profit through trade and exports, the governments could run non-essential departments like parks and recreation. Because of this, landscape architects and designers were flooded with projects.

A good painting is for your sense of sight. A good song is for your hearing. But a well designed garden is like an art form that you can see in the greenery, hear in the rustle of the leaves and chirping of the birds, smell in the flowers and feel through the sense of tranquility and peace you feel when you sit on soft textured grass.



Charles



Jencks

Laurie



Olin

Peter



Walker

GROW

FUTURE OF LANDSCAPING

Lawns were never really good for the environment. Now that climate action is a strong focus, vast lawns are even more frowned upon.

Historically, gardens and green spaces served dual purposes. It was either a leisure garden along with growing veg, botanicals for academia or even medicinal purposes. This dual use maximised the garden's utility. Modern landscape designers, we see, are once again adopting the same philosophy. Leisure gardens will have athletic training areas, party gazebos, vegetable patches, koi ponds and more.

This is how a green space no longer needs to be a vast lawn that does nothing for birds, bees, pollination and very little for oxygen production. These little pockets of oxygen among concrete jungles is getting more and more important.

Speaking of concrete jungles, landscape artists have a challenge of accommodating green patches in small and odd spaces. Vertical gardens on overpass (flyover) pillars are getting common as a result. Cafes, restaurants and leisure spaces are adopting innovative green strategies like bioluminescence, herb and bee gardens and even whimsical fairy gardens.

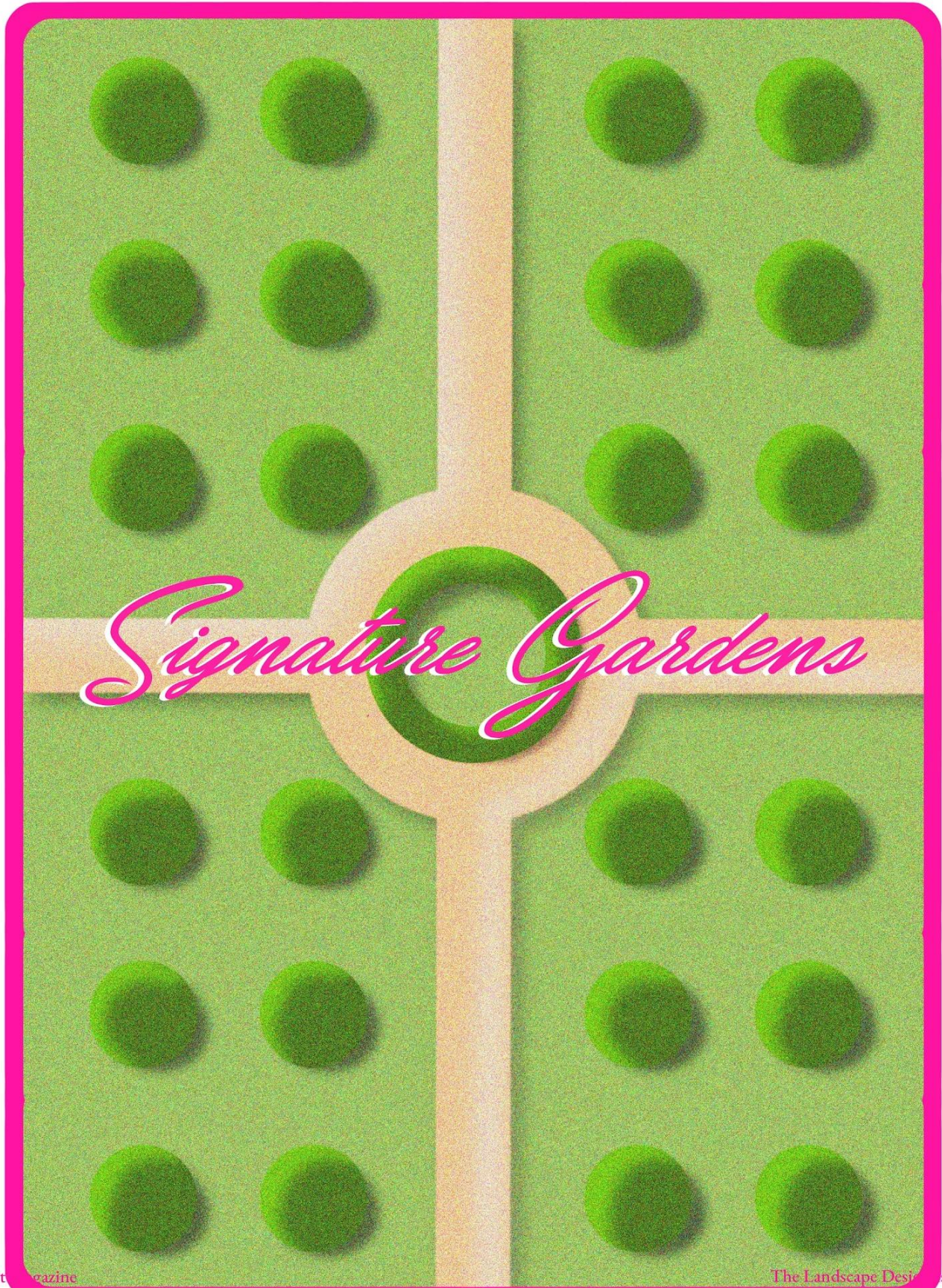
Gardens and green spaces hold special places in our lives. With childhood memories, happy picnics or even for our daily morning walks, we love our gardens. Gardens of the future are likely to adapt to our future needs. Who knows, maybe we will have remote work spaces fitted into future gardens. Monty Don might be the first to set up his desk in such a workspace.

FACTY FACTORSON

Topiary, is the technique use to “mould” trees and shrubs into shapes.

At \$26 Million, the Ace of Diamonds garden in the UK is the most expensive garden in the world.

Orto Botanico is known to be the world’s oldest botanical garden that was founded in 1545 in the University of Padua in Italy.



ASK THE EDITOR

How would one pursue a career in landscape design?

- Anya,
Poland

Landscape design is not conveniently self-taught as something like graphic design. Like architecture, even landscaping requires the knowledge of laying out drainage, infrastructure stability, physics, engineering and more.

While mastering the use of a CAD software is a good place to start, acquiring a degree in architecture with a specialisation in landscaping is crucial. More so, you may need valid licensing and certification in some parts of the world to undertake landscape architecture. Acquiring all of this might lead to getting lucrative government contracts for designing public spaces, recreational areas, signature gardens and parks.



"A LIFE IS LIKE A
GARDEN.
PERFECT MOMENTS
CAN BE HAD,
BUT NOT PRESERVED,
EXCEPT IN MEMORY."

•Leonard Nimoy•

FREEBIE



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SNEAK PEEK OF THE NEXT ISSUE

JEWELLERY DESIGN

Let's just say o that next month's issue will be brilliantly glitzy!



