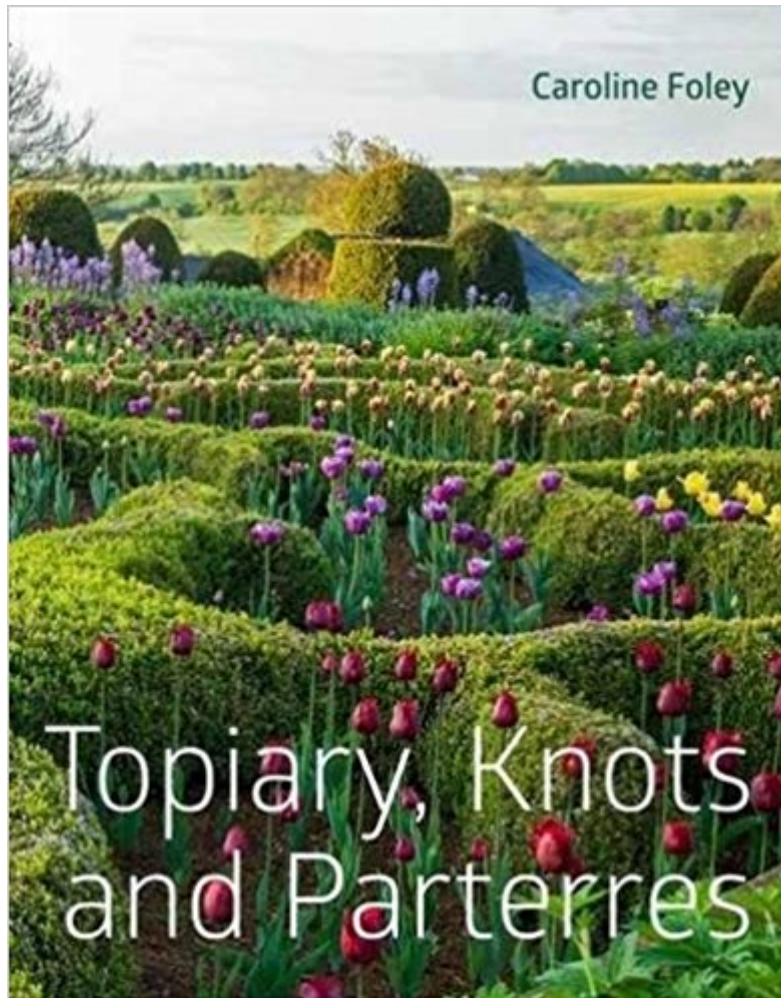




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# Topiary, Knots And Parterres



## Synopsis

After a brief survey of Roman topiary, this book moves on through the formal parterres of Renaissance Italy and the more elaborate broderies of the royal French gardens (copied in palace gardens throughout Europe), the complicated conceits of the Tudors and the geometry of the Dutch school. It takes a wry look at the 18th century, when many fine formal gardens were scrapped in favor of the English landscape school, which, in fact, was no less artificial. In the 19th century there was a revival of parterres filled with tender bedding plants. Green architecture returned with the Arts and Crafts movement, became unfashionable in the mid-20th century and has had a revival in the last decade or so in a more abstract and sculptural form, inspired somewhat by Japanese "cloud" topiary. Widening the story beyond the topiary of Europe and the west, there are chapters on the ancient art of Japanese topiary and on labyrinths and mazes from Minoan. The second half of the book brings us up to date, taking a look at topiary as used by designers such as Jacques Wirtz, Piet Oudolf, Arne Maynard, Tom Stuart-Smith, Fernando Caruncho, as well as talented private garden owners. Finally there is a projection into the future, with the potential for topiary in industrial settings and amenity horticulture and its influence on land art.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Topiary has a long history, exhaustively explored in this book...The illustrations are superb. Every page brings a new wonder." -- Anna Pavord \* House & Garden \* "A magnificent hardback comprising authoritative text matched with excellent, well-researched illustrations." \* The English Garden \* "Since its inception a couple of years ago, Pimpernel Press has carved a niche as the

garden library-building publisher. Classics-not forgotten but in need of a re-boot-have been reissued, along with more recherche flights of fancy. An essential addition is *Topiary, Knots and Parterres*, published today. Yes, it's about clipping greenery, but it's also a universal subject, covering the full gamut, as the author Caroline Foley points out, 'from the ridiculous to the sublime.'"

\* *Gardenista.com* \* "Demonstrates that this most ancient of traditions is alive and kicking, refreshed and reinterpreted by contemporary garden and landscape designers to look as relevant today as it was to the Romans. You will be reaching for those shears." \* *Sunday Times* \* "This carefully researched and entertaining book will be valuable not only to gardeners and those with an interest in garden development and history, it will also provide an excellent research book for students of horticulture and landscape. It is packed with information, diagrams and photographs and written in a lively style." \* *Reckless Gardener* \*

Caroline Foley is the author of 10 books, including *Of Cabbages and Kings: The History of Allotments*. She has been the editor of *Topiarius*, the pan-European journal of the European Boxwood and Topiary Society, for 10 years.

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