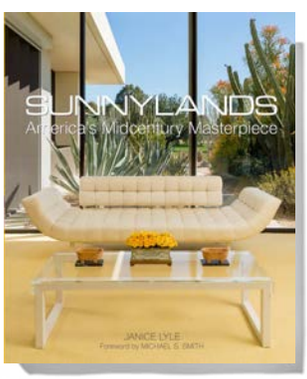
SCANDINAVIA DREAMING

To the rest of the world Nordic design is synonymous with white paint, blond timbers and a cool attitude, yet the reality is so much more. Nature is never far away in the Northern countries and informs the creative spirit, whether in an Icelandic cabin, a Stockholm apartment by Claesson Koivisto Rune, homewares by Oyoy or furniture by Gubi. The simplicity, quality and craftsmanship that is the hallmark of all Scandinavian design is the hero in this book. *Angel Trinidad, Gestalten, $95*

Foreword thinking

Works that engage from first page to last.

Words JUDY PASCOE and JANICE HOGG

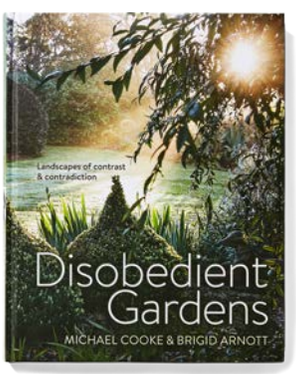


SUNNYLANDS

The iconic mid-century Sunnylands in Palm Springs is a magnet for modernist design aficionados who revel in its past life as a meeting place for presidents, movie stars and corporate heavyweights. Designed by stellar architect A. Quincy Jones with interiors by William Haines, Sunnylands epitomised glamour and power. This book offers an in-depth view not just of the candy-coloured furniture and flower power wallpaper but also photographs and letters pertaining to the protagonists in the Sunnylands story. *Janice Lyle, Thames & Hudson, $70*

DISOBEDIENT GARDENS

A great garden has "layers of interest" and will develop "a unique voice of its own", says Australian landscape designer Michael Cooke, who adds elements of wildness amid the orderly to shape his captivating landscapes. The book walks readers through five gardens he has created, including his own, lavishly illustrated with photographs by Brigid Arnott. *Michael Cooke, Murdoch Books, $59.99*



IN THE MOOD FOR COLOUR

An evocative exploration of colour that will have you reaching for the paint pot and brush. Who wants to live with bland neutrals when there are so many other desirable shades that can lift your spirits, soothe, stimulate or excite. From 'Clay, Earth & Mud' to 'Ivory, String & Parchment', the rich settings devised by uber stylist Hans Blomquist are inspired by nature and translate perfectly to interior schemes. *Hans Blomquist, Hardie Grant, $55*

AFRICA RISING

This vibrant, exotic book celebrates the flowering of design talent throughout Africa, in interiors, art, architecture and fashion. The new wave of creatives are tapping into the traditional methods and artisan knowledge in novel ways, reflecting the rich and varied culture of the vast continent. *Various eds, Gestalten, $95*

THE HOUSE AND GARDEN AT GLENMORE

Interior designer Mickey Robertson tells the tale of Glenmore, her home in Sydney's Camden, from the day her husband Larry made an impulse purchase of the rundown rural property in the 80s. The beautifully preserved colonial buildings and extensive gardens are a hive of activity these days as the couple hosts workshops, open days, and kitchen gardening and cooking events. *Mickey Robertson, Murdoch Books, $59.99*

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM SCANDINAVIA DREAMING @ GESTALTEN BY ÅKE E:SON LINDMAN, TOM GUSTAVSEN. COVER AFRICA RISING BY PAUL SAMUELS