Book Reviews

Color Atlas of Postharvest Quality of Fruits and Vegetables. Maria Cecilia do Nascimento Nunes. 2008. Wiley-Blackwell, Blackwell Publishing, Ames, Iowa. 480 pages. List price \$219.99, Hardcover, ISBN:978-0-8138-1752-1

The quality of harvested fruits and vegetables is affected greatly by storage temperature and storage period. Although this fact is self-evident to practitioners in the field, the visual impacts of these effects have not been shown in one reference source before. This book fills this gap by providing a unique and comprehensive overview of time and temperature of storage across a wide spectrum of crops.

There are eight chapters in the *Color Atlas of Postharvest Quality of Fruits and Vegetables*: Subtropical and Tropical Fruits; Pome and Stone Fruits; Soft Fruits and Berries; Cucurbitaceae; Solanaceous and Other Fruit Vegetables; Legumes and Brassicas; Stem, Leaf and Other Vegetables; and Alliums. Within each chapter, there is a referenced overview of the main fruit and vegetable types, comprising sections on quality characteristics, optimum postharvest handling conditions, temperature effects on quality, and time and temperature effects. In addition, a collage of photographs showing the effects of time and temperature for each crop and, where appropriate, specific disorder symptoms, such as chilling injury, are provided. For example, for 'Marsh' grapefruit the appearances of the fruit at 5- to 8-day intervals at 0, 5, and 10 °C for 76 days, 15 °C for 54 days, and 20 °C for 70 days, are shown, along with specific illustrations of chilling injury and decay in fruit stored at 5 °C and 15 °C. Other crops, such as sweetcorn, have daily photographs of quality changes taking place at 0, 5, 10, 15, and 20 °C. In all, quality changes of 37 fruit and vegetable types at five storage temperatures are described in the book.

The effort to obtain these photographs is impressive and represents painstaking and careful work by the author. In most cases, the reference material to support the overview within each crop is appropriate and well chosen. Overall, this book is a valuable and useful resource for food industry professionals, academics in horticulture and food science, and students. In addition, this book is timely because of the increased interest in "local food." Many smaller farm operations do not have the resources to store products at the optimum temperatures; these photographs, while illustrating the need for good temperature management, also show that quality can be maintained satisfactorily at non-optimum conditions, albeit for shorter periods.

This book is unique, the closest resource available being Anna Snowden's *Colour*

Atlas of Postharvest Diseases and Disorders of Fruit and Vegetables. That book, now out of print, provides a more comprehensive overview of specific diseases and disorders, but it does not show the effect of temperature of quality in any comprehensive way. Therefore, the *Color Atlas of Postharvest Quality of Fruits and Vegetables* is an important complement and addition to the library resources of any individual working on post-harvest quality of fruits and vegetables. I recommend this book without reservation.

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Residential Landscape Architecture: Design Process for the Private Residence, 5th edition. Norman K. Booth and James E. Hiss. 2008. Prentice-Hall, Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458. 576 pages. Hardcover. \$104.40. ISBN-10: 0136126979; ISBN-13: 978013612697

As we know, among other interests, landscape design is concerned primarily with aesthetics. *Residential Landscape Architecture: Design Process for the Private Residence* provides readers with numerous fundamentals and techniques that are functionally and visually pleasurable and that affect the quality of the design. This book offers wide coverage of the design process and techniques from initial contact with the client to a completed master plan for residential sites, and impressed me with its breadth. In addition, the authors cover a new approach in landscape design that is known commonly as sustainable design. The authors were able to retain my attention with their numerous sketches, which helped to explain their ideas.

This book is intended for the beginning and aspiring designer. Some of the site projects provide alternative solutions that could help beginning practitioners to creatively widen their thinking. However, some of the fundamentals discussed are explained in detail and appear intended for professionals.

The body of the book is organized into three sections with a total of 15 chapters. Each section contains several chapters that discuss Philosophical Framework in Section 1, Design Process in Section 2, and Applications in Section 3. Each chapter ends with a summary, and a number of the chapters contain helpful case studies. These chapters are interconnected like webs that assist the reader to gain a background in design. Therefore, the designer's application of these processes will result in thoughtful, comfortable, and environmentally friendly designs. I will not comment on each of the chapters but have selected a few to indicate the contents of the book.

Sustainable design and management strategies presented in Chapter 3 (Section 1) outline six primary principles of sustainable

landscape design and their strategies. These six principles are creating designs characterized by low maintenance, environmental friendliness, regional context fitness, minimal site impact, use of recycled materials, and conservation. The authors recommend that the design reflects and sustains the rhythm of our lives and our homes while creating a healthy environment. The authors discuss the best way to apply each individual strategy practically by providing illustrated drawings and examples, such as ways to preserve vegetation, remove toxic soil, study sun and shadow patterns, and use local materials from the region. They succeed in preparing the designer to use these concepts. The chapter is well written and organized to convey their concepts.

Chapter 8 (Section 2) addresses functional diagrams and provides useful guidelines. These guidelines include functional diagram, size of elements, location, proportion, and configuration that are practiced by the beginner. The chapter on form composition (Chapter 10, Section 2) is very extensive with many clarifying sketches that show several themes to help create a design composition. This presentation is basically a good idea "because shapes have a number of inherent geometric characteristics and components that influence their use in design" (p. 267). For example, using circles is challenging in design because it is easy to lose their identity if used unwisely with other themes, due to the components of the circles. The components include center, circumference, and radii. In addition, studying the relationship of form to the existing structure and how it influences the design will result in a better design for a proposed site. Some of the form themes were published in a book titled *From Concept to Form in Landscape Design* (1993) by Grant W. Reid. However, these themes have been improved by Booth and Hiss and updated with their book.

Chapter 11 (Section 2) is devoted to spatial composition. The introduction of this chapter states that "spatial composition is built on the form composition framework by adding the third dimension" (p. 319). This chapter gives the reader a good understanding of the scope of how to develop a three-dimensional space. As a result, the designer will be able to construct the spatial shell of the outdoor rooms of the design. In addition, this chapter recommends using plant materials as an element in the spatial composition. Plants play major roles in architectural, aesthetic, and engineering aspects as they help improve the design appearance and quality. Some information, such as spatial color and spatial expression, will add more value to the book if included in a new edition.

The final section of the book provides information on applying the design process to different client and site conditions. There are separate chapters on rendering techniques, design guidelines, and case study design projects. In addition, the authors demonstrate the new techniques for using digital images to present the design in perspective. I found this

particularly interesting, because it helps the designer to be creative and explore different ways and techniques to present their design.

Overall, I see *Residential Landscape Architecture* as an excellent reference and guideline book for the student and anyone who enjoys landscape design, due to its richness of case studies and alternative solutions throughout the text. Moreover, the chapter on sustainable design is presented to complement and address the current trends in the field of landscape architecture. I believe that readers, especially those who have not

practiced landscape design, will enhance their basic design skills and knowledge. The step-by-step explanation of the design process and the summary at the end of each chapter help readers to review the significant chapter content and to test their knowledge of the key points. Although many rendering techniques are throughout the book, it would be helpful and would add interest for readers if some techniques involving rendering software were illustrated more clearly to increase the quality and the speed of development of the final design.

This new edition is a useful reference for both students of landscape architecture and current designer practitioners, because it provides specific procedures in the required strategies and adds contribution to the residential landscape.

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