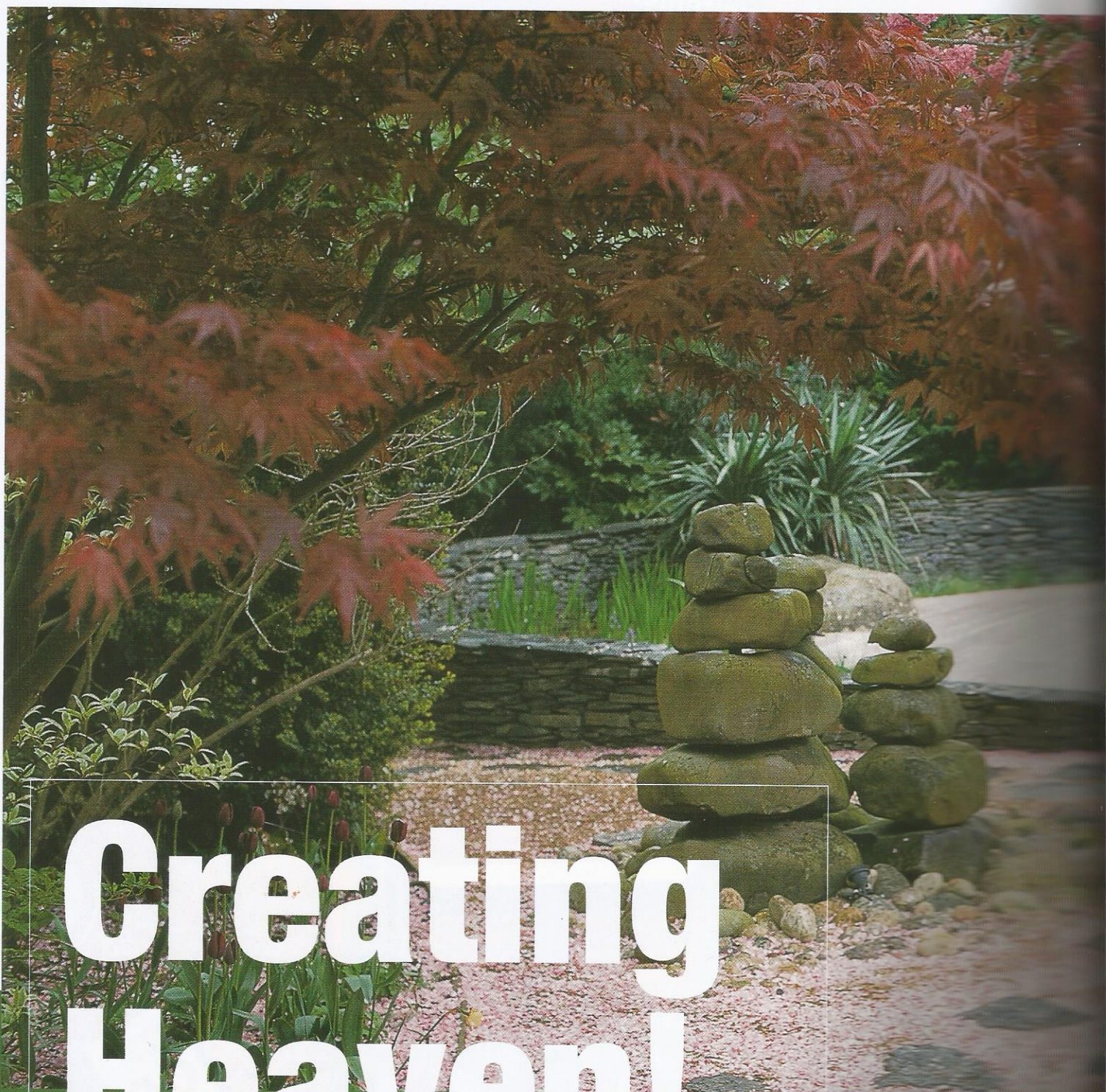
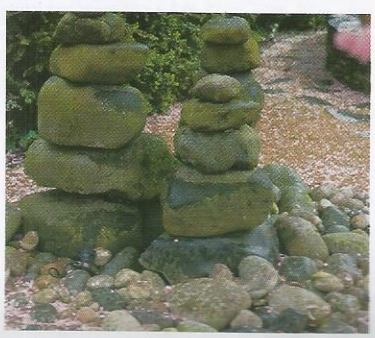


Creating Heaven!



Most of the artists I've met or read about have claimed that nature and gardens were their inspiration. So what if there is someone who designs and creates the patterns on which nature takes place? What if a person's work is the inspiration of many artists? Is this possible or is working with nature only a divine ability? **Roberto Silva** will prove to you that human beings can also create nature!

In case you haven't heard about him, Roberto Silva was born in his family farm in Pernambuco- Northern Brazil. Noticing his interest in plants, he decided to study agronomy (the science of soil management and crop production) followed by further education in garden designing in Sao Paulo. Later he moved to the UK to study formal garden design and then [illegible]



Photography by Melanie Eclare

studies by obtaining a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Greenwich. His hobby was to visit gardens by other designers, mainly to learn from them. But his learning has evolved to be influential and inspiring.

Silva believes that inspiration comes from intuition and emotions. Therefore, anything a person encounters can be influential to him. Apart from his memories and ideas, gardens also have a remarkable impact on his work. The work of Burle Marx, Christopher- Lloyd, Nicole de Vesian, Isabelle Greene, and Ludwig Van Gern have spurred and fired up Robert Silva a lot.

His philosophy can be summarized in painting a garden rather than planning it. He presents to his clients colorful sketches of his ideas. He also believes that an essential part of designing is to understand and recognize the clients' needs, ambitions and moods. His work is distinctive for its artistic stance, its bold approach, its minimal use of ornaments of well-defined proportion and structures, its splashes of color and its color schemes that fit each season. He works with high standards and quality even in the smallest of details.

The most famous piece of art he designed is the Foster garden in south London. The first view of this garden can stop you in your tracks to stare and can cause your senses to freeze. The reason for this solidified moment is that you will be taken out of earth to enter a heavenly place. This feeling will surprise you because you will be beholding something new, bold, strikingly beautiful and dazzling.







The design for this garden creates a practical yet beautiful ambiance. It is surrounded with a long sculptural wall that sneaks away from the house terrace, arching a few feet and looping around the roots of a cherry tree in the centre of the garden.

The garden's water feature looks like a rock formation, complementing the wall. Silva placed holes through the rocks and connected a pump system to create a larger version of the pebble fountains.

The wall and water feature was inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy, and the shapes in the design by the gardens of Burle Marx. The new shapes form a conceptual design around the garden and the leaves and blooms of the cherry tree create a colorful pattern on the ground in the different seasons.

The planting is designed for modern effects and shapes. Roberto Silva planted it in blocks which have bright autumn foliage, beautiful evergreens, such as silvery-grey-leafed eucalyptus and mahonia shrubs, tall tree ferns (dicksonia), ligularias which have delightful heart-shaped leaves and the tufty stipa grasses. This style of planting strongly supports Silva's philosophies as it is well thought out, unfussy and spacious.

In conclusion, the Foster garden is a vibrant piece of art, full of color, plants, texture, leaves and shapes that create a powerful breathtaking mood to whoever enters it. Roberto Silva has painted on land as if it was his canvas and plants were his palette! A taste of heaven or maybe heaven itself, I'm not sure!