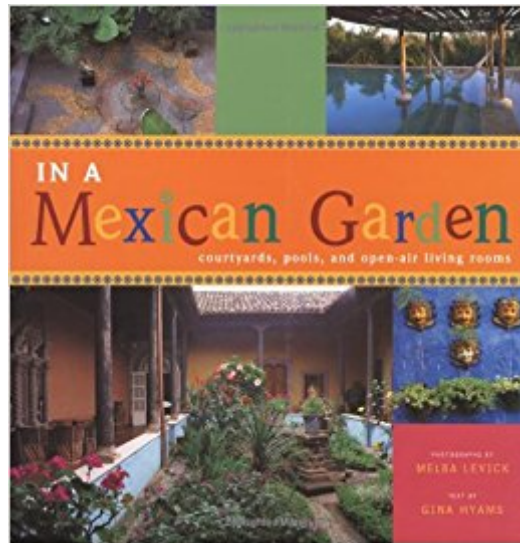




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In A Mexican Garden: Courtyards, Pools, And Open-Air Living Rooms



Synopsis

The team behind the best-selling *Mexicolor* and *Mexicasa* has unlocked the gates to Mexico's patios, courtyards, and walled gardens. From private homes to luxurious resorts, *In A Mexican Garden* celebrates Mexico's hidden oases where lovers meet for margaritas at sunset and families gather for spirited fiestas. The dazzling array of featured properties includes rustic coastal hideaways, elegant Spanish Colonial mansions, rural haciendas, and Modernist architectural masterpieces. Melba Levick's stunning photographs capture page after vibrant page of bold Mexican design elements: swirling mosaic floors, elaborate frescoes, hand-carved stone fountains, and lush native plants. Gina Hyams' informative text explains the historic roots of these uniquely Mexican outdoor spaces. Garden design enthusiasts, fans of Mexico, and anyone who appreciates a siesta in the sun need only open this book to hear the quiet babble of fountains and glasses clinking to toast another beautiful sunset.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Melba Levick has published more than 40 photography books on travel, architecture, and design, including *Mexicolor* (0-8118-1893-4) and *Mexicasa* (0-8118-2806-9). She lives in Los Angeles and Paris. Gina Hyams is the author of several books on travel, tradition, and the arts, including *Incense* (0-8118-3993-1). She lives in Northern California.

Photographer Melba Levick's images encourage the reader to relax, stay awhile,

and imagine a warm afternoon in a colonial town ensconced in a cool courtyard awash with colors. She is so accomplished that she captures the full impact of an elegantly dining room or kitchen as well as the simplicity of a roof overhang displaying ornate ceramic pots with bougainvilleas. But there are few rustic scenes of weathered but less maintained homes. In *A Mexican Garden* features the exquisite domiciles of the well-to-do, those who can afford to create and reside in a kind of Mexican paradise. Levick's subtitle for this volume is "courtyards, pools, and open-air living rooms" and she does full justice to them all. These are exuberantly rich and colorful spaces that are beautiful but staged for the professional photographer. Lavish tables are set for meals, cushions are set just right for evening company, deep azure towels are set out around swimming pools, but there is little sense of anyone actually appreciating and inhabiting these rooms, sitting at these tables, or eventually using the pools. For me, some of the magic drained away amid such static beauty. But it's unfair to criticize a book for being all that it was meant to be by the author. For that I appreciate it.

Michael Helquist, author,
MARIE EQUI: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions

I'm in the process of building on the Maya Riviera so this is important research looking for real ideas. Building in Spanish Colonial style is conducive to gardens and courtyards and we are fortunate to have two courtyards and many different type patios and open air spaces to design. This book has so many ideas it's incredible! I have many pages marked for further discussion. Even if I weren't investigating for decorating ideas this is still a coffee table book that I would be very proud to display in my house. You won't be disappointed if you enjoy viewing these type spaces. There is no detail of how the gardens were built and the type flowers but fortunately that's not of as much interest to me as just viewing the many ideas.

if looking for mexican hacienda style tips this is a good book

Perfect

the product is as advertised

Great book, loads of courtyard ideas.

I actually ordered this for a friend of mine who needed some ideas on decorating her house. So

when I recieved it in the mail, I fipped through it and was really, really happy with my choice. The pictures are colorful, and there are so many pictures to give ideas to anyone wanting to decorate their home mexican style. My friend loved the book as well, she kept thanking me for the next two weeks.

The beautiful photographs in this book will take you away. This book is all about the pictures. The text is limited. I liked that. The book is a nice size. Easy to pick up and look through. Recommend it.

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