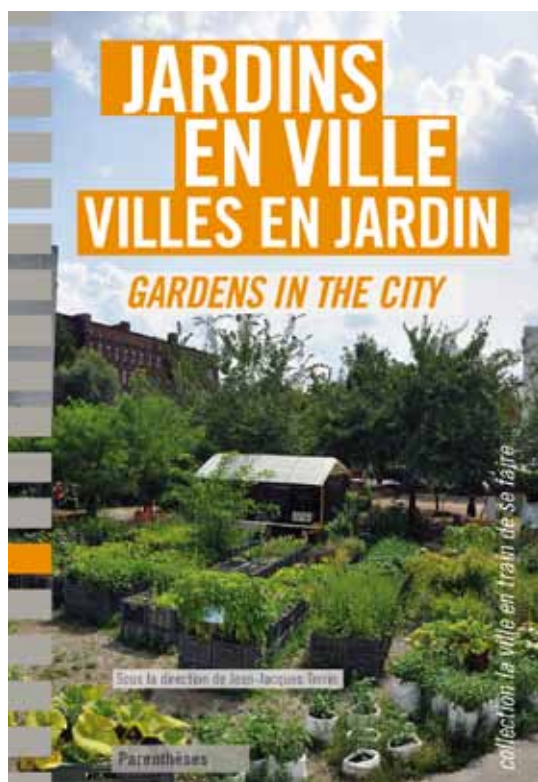




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Gardens in the City

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Gardening in the city is not a new phenomenon. Yet in this time of crisis, the garden is no longer simply ornamental and recreational; it has taken on environmental, social and economic dimensions at every scale in the metropolis, from the smallest family unit to the entire urban area.

In Amsterdam, abandoned city plots are being transformed into community vegetable gardens; in Berlin, an airport has been converted into a vast public space and market gardening is developing; in Brussels, wasteland has been redeveloped as a semi-natural site; and in Lyon, a city block garden is dedicated to festivities and art. In Nantes, there is now a wetland reserve that encourages biodiversity, Strasbourg has its natural urban park, and in Toulouse, a neighbourhood garden is managed according to the principles of participatory democracy. In Paris, vegetation is being used to improve the living environment for the inhabitants of council flats. The many European examples studied in this volume are expressions of new urban expectations; they invite us to re-examine the boundaries between public and private spaces and to consider nature as an essential driving force in city planning.

Texts : Pascal Amphoux, Amar Bensalma, Nathalie Blanc, Suzanne Brolly, Juliette Castay, Béatrice Charre, Adèle Dubrulle, Yvonne Flaux, Nicolas Gilsoul, Femke Haccoû, Véronique Hartmann, Ares Kalandides, Markus Kather, Serge Kempeneers, Martine Koenig, Jean-Baptiste Marie, Bruno Marmiroli, Marjorie Musy, Anne Péré, Isabelle Quet-Hamon, Coralie Scribe, Jacques Soignon.

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