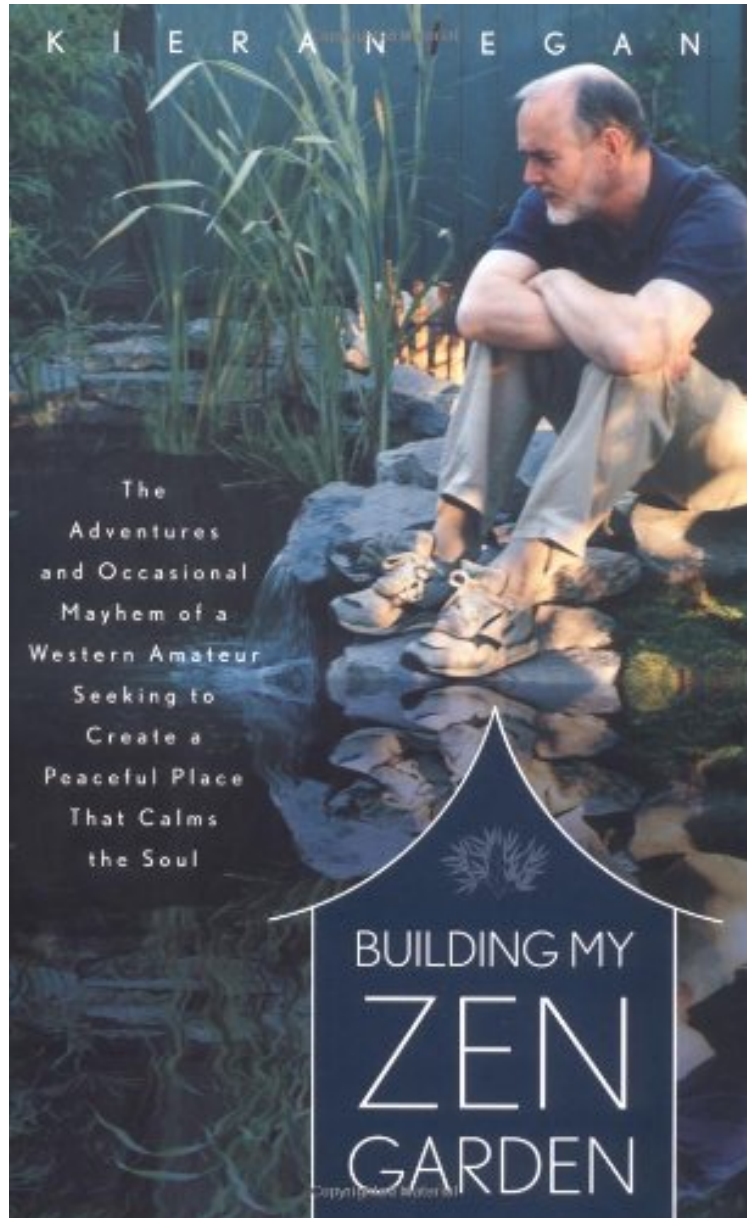


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## Building My Zen Garden

*Kieran Egan*

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#2669563 in Books Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2000-11-10 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .69 x 5.50l, #File Name: 0618063781224 pages | File size: 37.Mb

**Kieran Egan : Building My Zen Garden** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Building My Zen Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book! By WVgrrl I enjoyed the author's witty and honest tale of what turned out to be like most of my "how-hard-can-it-be?" projects. He is a great story teller and I like the photos of

the progress. I did feel that, near then end, he lost some of his early enthusiasm in writing it and perhaps was just trying to get the book finished, as his project segued from into a book deal with a deadline. Or perhaps, like some of my own projects, he was tired and just looking forward to finally getting it finished so he could sit back enjoy the results of his labors. But he did a beautiful job both building the garden and writing the book; it was worth the cover price and it's a book I have kept.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Building My Zen GardenBy Heather D. MuirKieran Egan's account of his adventure into the relatively unknown world of backyard landscaping was wonderful. I could relate to his story so well and found his writing style so readable, witty and engrossing. Egan's decision to relate his experience of building his Zen garden gives hope to anyone who aspires to creating something similar in their own backyard. A practical and very amusing account of backyard landscaping for the novice.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Donnie Morehousegreat

Kieran Egan had a fantasy. Inspired by a visit to a friends miniature Zen garden on a balcony in Nagoya, he returned home determined to build his own Japanese garden. Like many men his age, with kids grown up and moved away, he was ready to tackle something new and tackle was the right word. Even before he began, he had to spend days hacking at the overgrown thicket where his garden would be. At night, dreaming of roots with nothing to do but grow, he thought less about Zen masters than about Dorothy Parker, who observed, Every year, back comes spring, with nasty little birds yapping their fool heads off and the ground all mucked up with plants. In spite of the running conflict between Zen philosophy and his own rather slapdash methods, he succeeded in creating a treat for the eye and spirit. Like Michael Pollans A PLACE OF MY OWN, BUILDING MY ZEN GARDEN will appeal to men, and to women as a gift for men. In these prosperous times, when men of the baby-boom generation are often looking for something new, building a Zen garden could very well be it even if, after reading and laughing at the authors adventures, they never build one themselves.

From Library JournalIn his first foray into the world of garden writing, Egan (education, Simon Fraser Univ., BC; The Educated Mind) endeavors to teach readers the principles that inform the design and meaning of Zen gardens through this personal account of building his own garden in Vancouver, Canada. Unfortunately, he does not quite achieve his goal. The narrative is an amusing and heartfelt chronicle of his Zen garden adventure with a desultory sprinkling of observations about the "Zen" principles that guided his work. Egan makes only passing references to unnamed Japanese garden books and web sites he consulted for his project, though readers interested in creating Japanese gardens themselves would have found a specific list of these resources useful. An optional supplement to more standard works on Japanese garden design.ABrian Lym, City Coll. of San Francisco Lib. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.About the AuthorKieran Egan, originally from Clonmel, Ireland, has published sixteen academic books. He holds two Ph.D.'s in education, from Stanford University and from Cornell. He is a professor at Simon Fraser University.