An aisle of oaks at the bocce court at the Fordham campus in North Salem, NY—the home of Dick Butten and a founding member of the Garden Conservancy’s Open Day Program.

Outstanding American Gardens—A Celebration: 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy
By PACE Dickey (Alans)
For 25 years, the Garden Conservancy, headquartered in Westchester County, has helped save and share American gardens that might otherwise be lost to time and neglect or hidden behind private gates. Containing over 500 pages of photographs, this book highlights 50 diverse and distinct gardens from coast to coast, including a classic Southern garden in Charleston, NC, the gardens of Alcatraz prison in San Francisco, CA and several gorgeous local examples. This volume is truly a testament to the dedication of the nonprofit Garden Conservancy. $50

A detail of Ken Eisold’s fourore woodgarden in Nogia, CT.
1b. *Elle Décor* magazine, September 2015

**SAVING GRACE**

Just as historic preservationists save significant buildings, the Garden Conservancy rescues and maintains private gardens, making them accessible to the public. Outstanding American Gardens (Stewart, Taboří & Chang), a new book celebrating the organization’s 25th anniversary, features Marius Brenner’s photographs of 50 sumptuous oases across the country, from a topiary garden in South Carolina filled with fanciful abstract shapes to a Japanese-style haven on Long Island, complete with a traditional teahouse, to the flower beds of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay, once tended by prisoners and guards alike and again thriving after years of neglect.

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1c. *Sunset* magazine, September 2015

**Seed Saviors**

When Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration crossed our desk, we saw the book’s subtitle (25 Years of the Garden Conservancy) and thought, Oh, Connecticut favorites and Virginia dogwoods. Then we opened it. Of the 50 public and private properties in this volume, 14 are, in fact, in the West—including this stunner, right, in Eugene, Oregon. And here’s an even more important Western connection: Frank and Anne Cabot may have been Easterners, but it was visiting Ruth Bancroft in Walnut Creek, California—and hearing her worries about her collection’s future—that led Frank to found the nonprofit. “As we drove away, I said to my wife, ‘We have to find some way to help this woman.’ And she said, rather facetiously, ‘Why don’t you start a garden conservancy?’” The rest, thanks to them, is gardening history. $30; abramsbooks.com.

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