

# TRANSFORMING THE AMERICAN GARDEN: LOOKING BACK AT “12 NEW LANDSCAPE DESIGNS”

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## 1 **ABSTRACT**

*In the mid-1980s, an emphasis on lightness, authenticity, and artful presentation defined new movements across a broad range of subjects from gastronomy to physics. In the field of landscape architecture, a similar attention to playfulness, truth (the search for a philosophical base), and representation characterized many works of the era, and was evident in a key exhibition of “new” landscape design held at the time. Through extensive literature review the author examines the historical and critical context of this exhibition to assess what trends influenced landscape architects at that time, and what paradigms evolved in the intervening decades to “transform” American garden design. She finds a renewed valuation by landscape architects of the garden as a source of creative expression and ground for theoretical discourse, and concludes that the exhibition served as a significant marker of an emerging postmodern aesthetic in landscape architecture.*

### 1.1 **Keywords**

Landscape Exhibitions, American Gardens, Conceptual Design, Landscape Architecture, Postmodernism