

**Article Review, Nature abhors a garden**

Niloofar Soleymani

Brandenburg University of Technology

Faculty of architecture, civil engineering, and urban planning

World Heritage Studies Master Program

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Dr. Francesc G. Rodríguez

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## Summary

In this article, the author describes his/her situation in dealing with a destructor animal in regard to the garden and the approaches she/he takes to tackle this issue. at the start point, she/he has two main debates to try to be loyal to; first, do not use fences, and second, do not make environmental colonization in the rural area with the city man line of action.

to illustrate the first, it is necessary to know that based on the local opposition in American states there should not be something like fences between the lands; it is not an obligatory issue but each family that makes one in their land, either means they are antisocial or have something to hide. in total, it seems dividing lands with fences is like throwing the concept of Sacred land and space away. America is a liberal democratic country where no border in the land is accepted in the mindset of the nation. to clarify this debate better, she/he brings out some writings and poems that show how Americans, have different approaches to gardening in comparison with other places like England; for instance, as Frank J.Scott mentioned in his writings, "to narrow our own or our neighbor's view of grace's nature was selfish and undemocratic", Vita Sackville-West, the novelist stated that Americans have no sense of private enclosures, and in another part, he/she exemplifies the Massachusetts colony's first poet, Anne Bradstreet who tore down the conventional garden wall in a writing about a traditional English garden ode. The American landscape is considered God's second book. She/he describes how she/he tried to make a stone wall, affected by this American mindset, in a way that the natural landscape resumes untouched by designing it in harmony with the plants in the route and how they get higher and rougher in some parts. In the second debate, it seems that the author wishes to keep his/her distance from the action that can have effects such as environmental colonization is made.

from his/her point of view, this conflict at first is a game that the winner is the author even if she/he loses once or twice in this struggle, the game has one winner and it is humans. So, she/he starts taking action without having much knowledge about the animal's (specifically here woodchuck) behavior. First, She/he tried to ban block the woodchuck's house with rocks and soil and the next day, he/she faced the place dug and destroyed by the woodchuck. On the second try, She/he tried a mixture of different substances and sent them inside the hole and afterward, she/he tried to burn the hole which did not work since there was no Oxygen in the tunnel underground; not only it did not burn but also was close to destroying his own land by spreading fire the trees beside.

Ornamental gardening will be difficult if you look at the landscape as a moral realm, but Allen Lacy also discovered that American gardeners had not discussed color or scent prior to 1894. Aesthetic enjoyment was not one of the reasons they gardened; They gardened for moral, spiritual, therapeutic, and financial reasons, and even now, they aim to present more natural gardens by concealing the artist's hand. While to be again more specific, the author considers the American gardening style not separation from nature; "A garden should be continuous with the natural landscape in harmony with the natural landscape"(page 4).

In between his/her efforts to find a solution, she/he finds a 19 century abandoned place of living, called Dudleytown, in between the forest where the traces of human beings is still visible there is noticeable while it also considerably has been swallowed by nature and he relates to this happenings in a way that it looks like nature had tried to resent its presents to the place that use to be its territory before being seized by human life and she/he start to make new debates inside mind about the relationship between nature and human and the debate that if we shield nature from the horrific effects of Darwinian struggle in return for nature's aesthetic value and usefulness.

The author indicates the relationship between nature and humans as being either Dominant or Acquiescence. He defines Domination by taking the context of lawn lands. The symbol of a totalitarian government and the subjugation of the forest into a parking lot and removing every other thing from the landscape which is an appealing sight to Americans. Acquiescence is the other way of facing nature from his/her perspective. However, he/she believes that the benign gaze is completely useless in a way that produces outcomes akin to Dudleytown.

The final approach she/he comes into is something in between and she/he describes this middle ground as a place space between Dudley town and the parking lot, which is called "Garden", and a place of coexistence of nature and humans. The fact is, the middle ground approach needs perpetual human intervention to conserve and keep this relationship between the two. Finding a proper response to this needs a lot of research and examination to avoid mistakes. Thought we are the one and only species that has the power to alter its own habitat, it does not mean that we can look at it and behave with it carelessly. The author also mentioned an essay by Frederick Turner that makes a statement against a phrase in one of Shakespeare's works, which is about spurning a hybridized flower because it is unnatural while the truth is this is an Art of changing and nature itself is also Art.

the author draws this conclusion that maybe we just have to accept that there is something natural in making a wall between the landscape and society's gaze on another side by on one hand bringing up some points based on different sources and searching for the Etymology of the word Garden, which basically comes from a German word for enclosure with the definition of "an enclosed piece of ground"; and on the other hand, she/he emphasizes George Washington's statement about how a garden used to be an enclosure that implied a superior to the owner that impeached by American perspective and became American while it lost its purpose of being a garden. It should be considered that it's possible that the fences violate American ideals of democracy and unending landscape holiness, but we also need to take into account the potential that the fence's absence violates the concept of a garden.

the final decision the author makes is to accept fences in the garden and she/he draws a high-tech fence to protect the territory and also with a special trick the underground to prevent making tunnels the woodchuck. after that, the woodchuck also respected the fences, and finally, the garden cabbages and... grew nicely. but defeating the insects is more problematic for him/her. and the author comes to the idea of using some things like ladybugs and so on instead of using chemical products by relying on o the three-and-a-half-billion-year evolution of nature. accordingly, she/he takes his/her action as a connector between nature and culture.

**Critique:**

I should start by saying that it was a fascinating interdisciplinary subject that involved anthropology, zoology, and environmental studies. Additionally, it is crucial that any multidisciplinary argument has extremely confined lines and challenges creating logical connections so that the reader can make and discover this link while reading the texts.

to begin with, I have to point out that following the article was quite difficult for me since I could not relate the paragraphs after each other easily. I would say, there were lots of distractions in between the observations, personal beliefs, pop culture, worldwide view of the definition of a garden, and so on. It was not that clear what is the main point of the author for the reader to follow. Whether Americans face the concept of the garden, how their beliefs have been made throughout history, whether it is about investigating the best solution for conserving a garden, or how humans should intervene. is it about the relationship between humans and nature or examining the effects that have been made on each other?

Another thing I'd like to mention is how challenging it would be for a casual reader to read and comprehend this content. The hardest part is understanding the specialized phrases, ideas, and words so that it's easy to grasp by creating a short, straightforward footnote. For instance, mentioning the Darwinian struggle might require a brief explanation of what it is or a reference to resources the reader can use to learn more about it. maybe it might be best to explain what environmental colonization is when it is addressed.

moreover, I found the Quotations not comprehensive due to the time, place, and relation of people to the context of gardens in America. while also there was not any citation even. accordingly, that would be good if a survey attaches to the article to show the current view of Americans on this issue.