

1 IN BLOOM

IN HER NINTH BOOK, DOYENNE OF DESIGN CHARLOTTE MOSS TAKES READERS ON A GRAND TOUR OF HER EAST HAMPTON ESTATE—THIS TIME, TURNING OUR ATTENTION OUTDOORS AND INTO HER BELOVED GARDEN.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY MIRANDA AGEE

It's early in the morning in East Hampton, and the scene reads like the opening of a poem: birds chirping, sun shining, the scent of freshly mowed grass is in the air. Charlotte Moss, stepping off her back terrace with a cup of coffee in hand, beelines it to her favorite spot in her nearly 3-acre garden—the fountain. "That's where you can find me most often," says Moss. "It's in a large area and I like to sit there and take in the quiet. It can be quite magical."

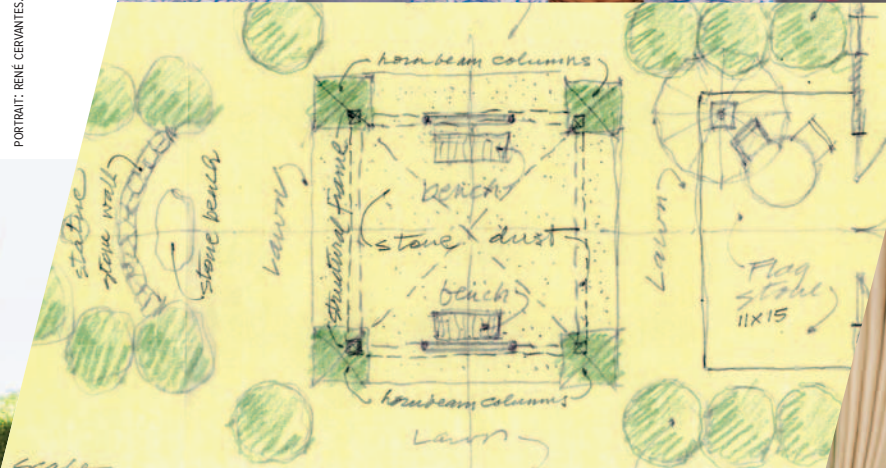
For her latest tome, *Garden Inspirations*, focusing on the garden seemed like the natural thing to do, Moss says. Taking many of the featured photographs herself, the pages are lined with images of her beloved rose garden; original, hand-drawn plans that evolved throughout the decades and espalier-style walkways inspired by her travels. "The way the French have coaxed trees into doing whatever they want is incredible," she says. "To me, that's the architecture of the garden."

PORTRAIT: RENÉ CERVANTES. FLOWER BORDER PHOTO: CYNTHIA LYNN.



This page: Clockwise from above: *Garden Inspirations* by Charlotte Moss / Rizzoli / \$50 / charlottemoss.com.

Moss with her beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. Original hand-drawn plans of the designer's back garden. Amongst espalier-style hedges, a stone fountain creates a calming sanctuary. **Opposite:** The lush gardens of Moss' East Hampton home.



Though now a veritable garden maestro, Moss was charting new territory when she and her husband purchased their estate 27 years ago, as the landscaping required the most work. Trees needed to be planted, flower beds installed and an edible garden, which had to be conveniently located for easy access for snipping herbs, took priority. Moss admits that, "Planning the type of outdoor space I wanted was completely out of my realm of knowledge." So she enlisted the help of Lisa Stamm and Dale Booher from Homestead Garden Design to guide and shape the space. In the end, she says, they taught her everything she knows about garden design and they have been collaborating ever since.

Although Moss realizes that not everyone has a garden, she holds true to the idea that the creation of the book was to inspire people on a number of different levels. The way she looks at it is simple: "When I'm in the Hamptons, what I see out of every window is just as important as the room I am sitting in itself." For Moss, the garden is the great equalizer. ■

