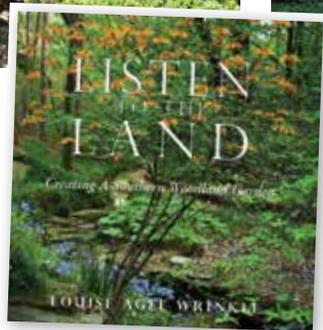




Listen to the Land: Creating a Southern Woodland Garden

READING LOUISE AGEE WRINKLE'S BOOK about her garden in Mountain Brook, Alabama, one is struck by her devotion, perseverance, and unflinching curiosity. Gardening is not for the faint of heart, as this book relays so well, and its success depends on many factors. Wrinkle and "The Committee," as she has dubbed her advisers, have taken up the challenge beautifully over the years. Her affection for the property took root during her childhood, and she returned after her parents died to take over and to make the garden her own. As the title informs, her focus is on listening to the land, not trying to dictate. "My lifelong connection with this piece of Alabama woodland has taught me how to hear its particular voice," she writes. In the book, she takes us along on her delightful path through that woodland. As Robert Dash wrote in *Notes on Madoo*, "All gardens are a form of autobiography," and Wrinkle's is no exception.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Wrinkle added native crab apple to her mother's original sunken garden. • St. Fiacre, the patron saint of gardeners • A crisscross pattern of Confederate jasmine graces the parking court. • "To gain a 'natural look' demands men and machines," writes Wrinkle.



LISTEN TO THE LAND: CREATING A SOUTHERN WOODLAND GARDEN BY LOUISE AGEE WRINKLE (PITH PUBLISHING INC., 2018), \$40. FASHION AND VERSAILLES BY LAURENCE BENAIM (FLAMMARION, 2018), \$65. COVER: © PHILIP DE MARCHELIER/ART CO. WIERCE; PHOTO: GLEE DERUJINSKI; REPRINTED FROM 'PLANTS & FLOWERS' (PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN A. STEWART) LIVING OMNIMEDIA, INC.; PUBLISHED BY CLARKSON POTTER PUBLISHERS, AN IMPRINT OF PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE LLC; PHOTO BY JOSE PICAÑO