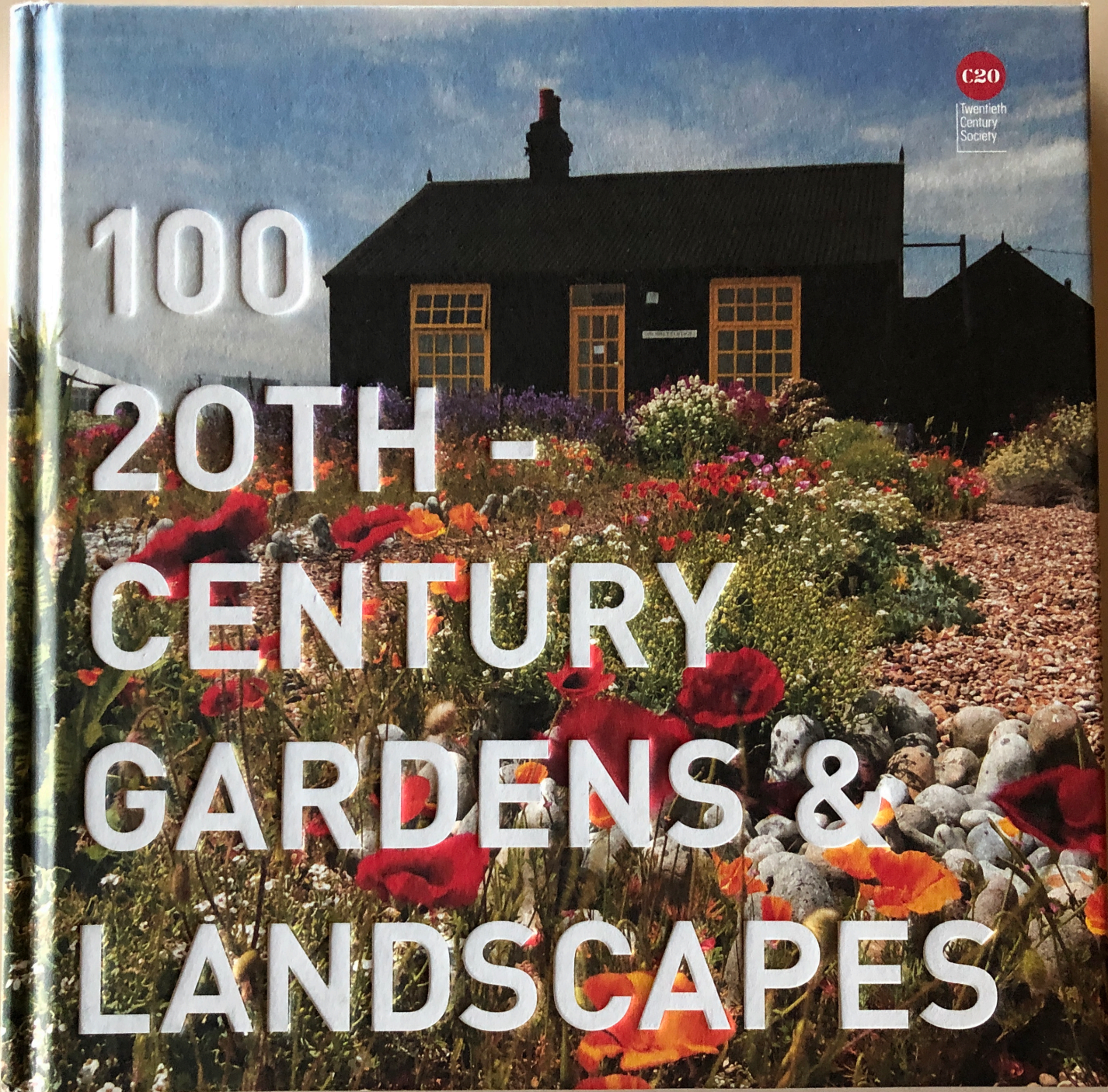


C20

Twentieth  
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Society

# 100 20TH - CENTURY GARDENS & LANDSCAPES





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Edited by  
Susannah Charlton  
and Elaine Harwood

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PAGE 2 Hemel Water  
Gardens, Hertfordshire

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derelict site into a joyous yet robust landscape  
ing down in a series of stone steps and  
andscape softens the austere Jespersen 12M

s a pioneering designer of children's  
tingham City Architect's Department. Her  
nature playground movement, and were  
s influential book *Planning for Play*. The zig-  
e at Blackburn is set into one of the hillocks  
rescued from the large-scale demolitions then  
or a new shopping centre. The steps down  
kerbs, the toddler's playground from stone  
cks paved with setts from demolished streets.



## Robin Hood Gardens

Location: Poplar, London  
Designed by: Alison and  
Peter Smithson  
Created: 1972

At the heart of the Robin Hood Gardens estate, shielded from the heavy passing traffic, Alison and Peter Smithson conceived a scenography of two monumental grass mounds to create a spacious 'stress-free zone' between the two seven- and ten-storey concrete social housing slabs. The grass mounds were made from the rubble of tenement buildings originally on the site.

Peter Smithson designed the facade's syncopated patterns of vertical fins; Alison was responsible for the overall landscape design and detailing of the public spaces, including the circular play spaces for toddlers, and playing area for older children on the south border. Garages were discretely located at the lower level in a 'moat' and partly covered by the landscape.

The Smithsons, generally recognised for their contribution to the New Brutalism, saw their intervention as in the tradition of London inns and squares and the picturesque, of which they were avid admirers, bringing an idealistic image of an inviolable landscape into the city.

Dirk van den Heuvel