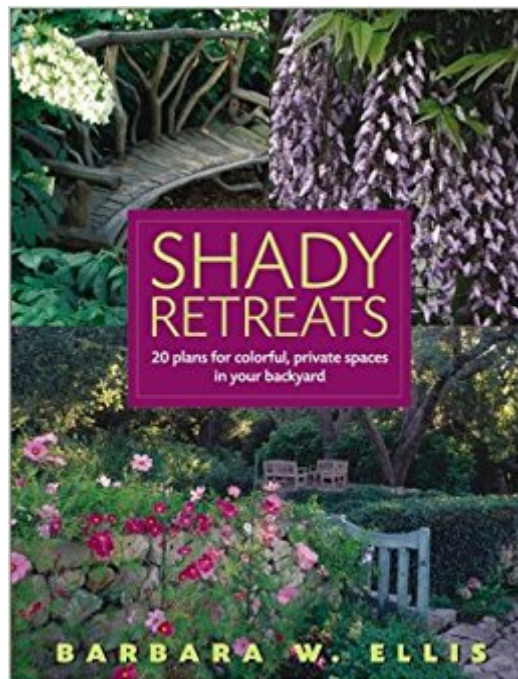




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# Shady Retreats: 20 Plans For Colorful, Private Spaces In Your Backyard



## Synopsis

Most flowers and vegetables love the sun, but the gardeners who tend them crave the shade. A comfortable hammock strung between two trees. A set of Adirondack chairs arranged for conversation beneath a vine-covered arbor. A stone bench tucked into a quiet nook. These out-of-the-way outdoor retreats provide busy gardeners with cool relief from the hot sun, as well as precious hours of quiet, privacy, and peace. In *SHADY RETREATS*, lifelong gardener Barbara W. Ellis provides detailed plans for 20 gardens with shade as the theme. Each design includes easy-to-read blueprints and a glorious oil painting of what the garden will look like. Ellis also provides specific plant lists; suggestions on how to bring color into the shade; and practical advice on how to use shrubs, trees, vines, and man-made structures to create attractive, inviting, shady sanctuaries in any garden or yard. The garden design concepts are easy for even novices to grasp, and experienced gardeners will appreciate the unique inspirations and down-to-earth advice on how to adapt the concept of the shady retreat to fit their own garden's configuration. Complete with suggestions on how to use gazebos, containers, fountains, and other garden ornaments, plus an encyclopedia of approximately 100 shade-loving plants, *Shady Retreats* is an easy-to-use handbook that helps even beginning gardeners make the move out of the house and into a cool, inviting outdoor sanctuary. [IV>](#)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An intimate sanctuary shaded from the heat of the sun--Ellis believes every garden should have just

such an inviting space, and points the way to creating one regardless of the attributes, or unfavorable conditions, of an existing yard. Whether starting with a blank slate or introducing a renovated area within a maturing garden, Ellis' guide addresses budgets great and small, as well as landscapes ranging from expansive properties to petite lots. In all, 20 garden plans suggest intriguing possibilities, from bringing in a formidable hardscape element such as a gazebo and surrounding it with greenery to inserting a small terrace under existing trees and enhancing it with container plantings. A congenial writing style provides plenty of encouragement, while a final section describes an array of tender specimens, perennials, trees, and shrubs to handsomely furnish the new space. Alice Joyce

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“This is the book you’ll turn to after accepting that your garden has lots of shade | Accept the shady deal and learn to love the cool green.” Seattle Post-Intelligencer

“If you’ve got a shady yard” or you want a shady yard “this is the book for you. Shady Retreats | provides step-by-step advice for creating everything from a shade nook to an entire garden.” Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

“a wonderfully written paperback | gives step-by-step instructions and detailed illustrations on how to create delightful retreats in the shade.” The Indianapolis Star

“In all, 20 garden plans suggest intriguing possibilities | A congenial writing style provides plenty of encouragement.” Booklist

“[G]arden expert Barbara Ellis’s book of outdoor designs has something for everyone.” Tulsa World

Also featured in Detroit News and Free Press, St. Paul Pioneer Press, Nashville Tennessean, The Morning Call, Oklahoman, New Orleans Times-Picayune, Riverside, CA, Press-Enterprise, CNNMoney online, [www.gardenerspath.com](http://www.gardenerspath.com), “If you’ve got a shady yard” or you want a shady yard “this is the book for you.” Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Good addition to my collection of shaded garden books.

I purchased this book while in the planning stages for adding a Japanese garden in a shady part of my yard. It was very helpful and informative.

Very good book to inspire you to find a "retreat" in your own backyard to rest, read, or just dream. The pictures and ideas are very inviting. Great book to add to my collection.

I LOVE this book! So many designs to choose from. Great buy, gorgeous pictures.

Shady Retreats: 20 Plans for Colorful, Private Spaces in Your Backyard"Let me show you my private get-away", said the prospective client when she answered the door. Then, she led me into her back yard, overgrown with wild vegetation, and pointed to a clearing in its center, where slabs of antiquated patio stones paved the ground in the middle of the wild garden. There, she had placed an equally old, glass-topped, black, wrought iron table, with matching chairs. "This is where I eat my breakfast in the morning and sip martinis with friends in the late afternoon", she explained. "I love the sound of the birds chirping and the rustling of the wild foliage when the wind blows".At very little cost, this homeowner created for herself a shady garden retreat, a secluded, private, destination. Whenever she visits that part of her property, she leaves behind her usual routine, enters a soothing oasis, and for the brief time that she spends there, readjusts the pace of her life. Here, she is at peace with herself, at one with nature, and ready to engage in any activity, relaxing or exciting, that brings her pleasure.A shady retreat is in the range of possibility for most homeowners. All that is required is a bit of imagination and the guidance that this versatile publication supplies. With the help of the book's author Barbara W. Ellis, the architectural plans of Julie Burns, and the exquisite painted garden illustrations of Gary Palmer, any part of one's exterior home, no matter how small or large, can be transformed to serve as a retreat. Even a small porch or deck, will do.To help the reader navigate the subject and select a retreat that best suits one's property and budget, the author presents twenty different plans. Each is elaborated in detail over several pages, starting with an awesome, painted rendition of the retreat at its completion. These illustrations give the book a dual purpose: It is both a versatile garden publication and an art book.The illustrations for each plan are enriched with architectural drawings, complete with numerical references that indicate where specific plants and garden furnishings should be placed. A recommendation for suitable plants follows, along with ideas to enhance the basic design. For example, in the first plan, the author explains how a small retreat can be transformed to feel more interesting, deeper, and farther away, by winding a short path out of sight, behind shrubbery and trees.Among the twenty potential areas around one's home that the author identifies for the creation of shady retreats are:- woodland edges, the terrace, a gazebo, a deck in the woods, a pool house, arbor, pergola, pavilion, seating area, a clearing in the woods, and a tree perch.The book rounds out with an appendix listing plants that are appropriate for these projects. Each is described according to its contribution to overall garden design. Where useful, a list of preferred cultivars is included, as well as a short note on the special uses of each plant; some make effective ground cover, while others show at their best when they are grouped in drifts.Storey Publishing prides itself on supplying the public with practical

information that encourages independence, in harmony with the environment. This book is a successful realization of that goal. It has been a great pleasure to take this journey into shady garden retreats with the author.

Reward yourself for gardening. Most of the gardeners I know love to get their hands in the dirt and work at whatever it takes to make their garden beautiful. But there comes a time to sit back, either alone or with friends and family, and just enjoy what you have created. This book gives you plans for twenty shady retreats where you can sit back, relax and just enjoy. Each of the 20 retreats is shown in a painting by Gary Palmer (the idea of a painting rather than a photograph is a novel approach and it worked well with this topic) and a detailed design layout is provided too. I would have found it helpful if more construction details were included, but this is an idea book rather than a how-to book. The strength of this book lies in the recurring themes such as "Colour in the Shade" and "Ideas for Great Design" that enrich each of the major designs. There are also ideas of plants to select for each and a goodly list of favourite shade plants at the end of the book. The illustrations throughout the book are right on target with the theme and illustrate ways to incorporate your own requirements - peace? an active area? a working space? entertaining? - into a design for a shady retreat. Definitely a reward book. Every gardener deserves a shady retreat like these.

The majority of my large yard is covered in deep shade. Hence my interest in the subject of this book. It will be my go to reference on planting in these areas. I had hoped it would provide more information than it did, but it is still a very informative book

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