**Document Type**
Book Chapter

"Consuming Beauty: The Urban Garden as Ambiguous Utopia"

**Naomi M. Jacobs**, University of Maine - Main

**Editor**
Annette Giesecke

Naomi Jacobs

**Publication Title**
Earth Perfect? Nature, Utopia and the Garden

**Publisher**
Black Dog Publishing

**Publication Date**
7-2012

**Publisher location**
London

**First Page**
156

**Last Page**
169

**Repository Citation**
Jacobs, Naomi M., ""Consuming Beauty: The Urban Garden as Ambiguous Utopia"" (2012). English Faculty Scholarship. 11.
https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/eng_facpub/11

**Publisher Statement**

Earth Perfect? Nature, Utopia and the Garden is an eclectic, yet rigorous reflection on the relationship—historical, present and future—between humanity and the garden. Through the lens of Utopian Studies—the interdisciplinary field that encompasses fictions all the way through to actual political projects, and urban ideals; in a nutshell, addressing the human natural drive towards the ideal—Earth Perfect? brings together a selection of inspiring essays, each contributed by foremost writers from the fields of architecture, history of art, classics, cultural studies, farming, geography, horticulture, landscape architecture, law, literature, philosophy, urban planning and the natural sciences. Through these joined voices, the garden emerges as a site of contestation and a repository for symbolic, spiritual, social, political and ecological meaning. Questions such as: “what is the role of the garden in defining humanity's ideal relationship with nature?” and “how should we garden in the face of catastrophic ecological decline?” are addressed through widening case studies, including ancient Roman Gardens in Pompeii, Hieronymus Bosch’s Garden of Earthly Delights, the Gardens of Versailles, organic farming in New England and Bohemia’s secret gardens, as well as landscape in contemporary architecture. Issues relating to the utopian garden are explored thematically rather than chronologically, and organised in six chapters: "Being in nature", "inscribing the garden", "green/house", "The garden politic", "economies of the garden" and "how then shall we garden?". Each essay is both individual in scope and part of the wider discourse of the book as a whole, and each is lusciously illustrated, bringing to life the subject with diverse visual material ranging from photography to historical documents, maps and artworks.
Indian women are considered as epitome of beauty and elegance. Indian attire is what makes their beauty look more graceful and dignified. Kurtis are preferably the first choice of every Indian woman when it comes to comfort and style.