



RENAISSANCE GARDENING LTD.
PO BOX 131, 495 MAIN STREET
HOPKINTON, RI 02833

Dear Garden Enthusiasts of Greater Cincinnati:

Thank you for joining me on February 25 to explore the history and hope for better privacy in our gardens and landscapes. As we've seen, hedges are a peculiarly handy focus for our creation, discovery, and rediscovery of new fashions in both our horticulture in particular and our culture in general. So this hedges-and-privacy lecture could only be an introduction to such a self-consciously innovative area.

To help you spark up your own horto-spectrum, I've included a source-list for books on both the intellectual and horticultural sides of hedging. Also, you'll enjoy returning to www.RGardening.com for the March 09 updates. And www.DirtOnTheKeys.blogspot.com is where I update everyone weekly on the projects and puzzles at my own gardens in the country in Rhode Island.

Don't hesitate to stay in touch!

Louis@RGardening.com

C: 401-413-0044

Thanks again for your interest and enthusiasm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Louis Raymond'.

Some of the amazing Books that helped me discover how we are Hedging the American Dream

The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds of Small Extent, Frank J. Scott, 1870, republished by Read Books, 2008. Scott's confident design advice and unselfconscious misogyny are both engaging and unsettling by turns. An hilarious, horrifying read—and the origin of much of today's classic suburban landscape.

Borderland: Origins of the American Suburb, 1820 - 1939, John Stilgoe, Yale University Press, 1988. The motherload of visual and scholarly astonishment at the convoluted struggles of Americans to make living out in the "country" practical, affordable, and attractive.

Creating Small Formal Gardens, Sir Roy Strong, Conran Octopus, London, 1995. Formality is, essentially, all about good hedging and firm lines. So it's no surprise that formal gardens always excel at privacy. Let Sir Roy inspire you!

Garden Craftsmanship in Yew and Box, Nathaniel Lloyd, Garden Art Press, Woodbridge, Suffolk, England, 1995. A re-issue of the original hedge how-to, with a preface by Lloyd's famous son, Christopher.

Levittown: Two Families, One Tycoon, and the Fight for Civil Rights in America's Legendary Suburb, David Kushner, Walker & Company, 2009. Levittown famously prohibited sales to non-whites. This book recounts the protests and near-riots—as well as the diverse allies that defense of integration and human rights brought together—that resulted

from a private 1957 sale of one of the houses to a black family, Daisy and Bill Myers.

Populuxe: The look and life of America in the '50s and '60s, from tailfins and TV dinners to Barbie dolls and fallout shelters, Thomas Hine, Knopf, NY, 1986. One of the publishing highlights of the '80s. An irresistible, affectionate, and extravagantly illustrated look at a privacy-challenged era.

Pruning and Training Plants, A Complete Guide, David Joyce, Firefly Books, 2001. Everything possible with pruning, from ornamental flourishes like hedges, topiary, and pleaching to food-production pruning for orchards and berries.

The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities, Richard Bushman, Knopf, NY, 1992. Covering 1700 to 1850, this is the pre-suburban preparation for all the upheavals so dramatically explored in *Borderland*.

Small Period Gardens: A Practical Guide to Design & Planting, Sir Roy Strong, Rizzoli, NY 1992. Sir Roy again. Places centuries of formalism in the compact spaces often found in gardens today. An excellent design resource for those of us with (or without) that stately home in the Cotswalds.

Towards a Greater Perfection, Francis Cabot, WW Norton, 2001. Instinctively-detailed and photographed story of Les Quatres Vents, Cabot's far-north hedge-happy estate in Quebec. Lavish, extensive, and expensive—with inspiration, sophistication, and dedication to match—just like the property itself.