



Terrarium Craft: Create 50 Magical, Miniature Worlds

Amy Bryant Aiello , Kate Bryant , Kate Baldwin (Photographer)

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A terrarium is nothing less than a miniature world—one that you can create yourself. It might be a tiny rainforest, with lush foliage and bright tropical flowers. Or a desert, with strange succulents planted among colorful stones. Or a Victorian fernery. Or a minimalist composition with a single, perfect plant.

Or it might not contain any plants at all. It might be made with crystals, feathers, bones, seashells, bits of wood, porcelain trinkets—anything that catches your fancy and helps create a mood or look. Whatever they contain, terrariums are the ultimate in modern, affordable, easy-care décor.

Terrarium Craft features fifty original designs that you can re-create or use as inspiration for your own design. Each entry comes with clear step-by-step directions on how to assemble and care for your terrarium. You'll also find helpful information about selecting a container, using appropriate materials, choosing the right plants, and maintaining your terrarium. (Hint: It's easy! In fact, many terrariums are self-sustaining, requiring no maintenance whatsoever!)

Terrarium Craft: Create 50 Magical, Miniature Worlds Details

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Author : Amy Bryant Aiello , Kate Bryant , Kate Baldwin (Photographer)

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From Reader Review Terrarium Craft: Create 50 Magical, Miniature Worlds for online ebook

Pam says

Nice book to help you make your own terrarium

Bert says

I've yet to make my first terrarium, but this delightful little book has got me pretty pumped to start. Visually beautiful and easy to follow, with cute descriptions of each design like 'a little bit dotting grandma, a little bit sassy young auntie' - our flat is going to look super-Seventies when i'm done with this shit.

Tamara says

Oh, oh, oh...!

I want to hug this book. Page 67, page 72, page 169...

The forest terrariums are by far my favorites, but the fantasy ones are magical as well. Love how each terrarium is presented with a recipe.

Most certainly the best DIY guide I've seen for terrariums, but I still wish someone like the Franklin Park Conservatory would buy all of the supplies & offer a class to take some of the guesswork out of the process. (Hint, hint, hint.)

Herschel Lisette says

If you want to build a pleasing terrarium that will probably die, go for this book. This book loves using succulents like cacti to build terrariums. Given that terrariums are high in humidity, cacti might die in this environment.

Ilene says

Simple and straightforward directions on how to make terrariums. Clear explanations of materials used and how to improvise. Beautiful photography.

Kimberly Bower MLIS (gladeslibrarian) says

Terrarium Craft is a colorful feast for the eyes. The photographer's attention to detail reveals the highlights of each small terrarium. At 9 x 8" it falls short of the customary size of a coffee table book, but it would serve well there nonetheless. Terrarium Craft's intended purpose is for crafters. Each terrarium is shown on a full page. The facing page lists the necessary supplies, directions and care instructions. The author also includes a brief paragraph where she shares the thoughts that went into the design of each piece.

As a crafter, had I been provided with all of the necessary supplies I would have enjoyed making my own interpretation of the terrariums that interested me. I did attempt to find supplies that could substitute for those in the book but was somewhat unsuccessful. To the author's credit she did note that there are specialty terrarium shops and provided contact information for twenty of them.

Had Terrarium Craft been marketed with the added angle of a book for display, the star rating would have been higher because in those respects the book shines. However, the book's intended purpose has to be taken into consideration.

NOTE: I requested and received a copy of this title via NetGalley.com but made no commitment to review it.

3 of 5 stars.

Linda B says

My love for terrariums goes back to the 1970s when those large, spaceship-style plastic orbs were so popular. Terrarium Craft by Amy Bryant Aiello and Kate Bryant is a wonderful book that has inspired me to bring some updated terrariums back into my home.

What I liked most about the book is that the authors' creations are from found materials. Instead of expensive Wardian cases, this book shows how to create beautiful scenes from a variety of glass objects you may have around the house or something you will be able to pick up at a thrift store.

The authors provide good instructions for choosing containers and the proper planting materials to provide for a healthy environment for added plants. There are many pages of inspiration for natural and unique materials to add beauty and charm to the desired scene. Plants and mosses are also explained. There are full-page sized photographs of most of the designs.

I especially appreciate the photographs that show step-by-step how to assemble the terrarium. There are 50 terrarium projects with a list of contents and instructions for assembly. They are divided into four groups based on inspiration – Forest, Beach, Desert, and Fantasy. If you are not a plant person, some of these are so pretty that you don't need to add plants! Just in case you don't have time to hunt and gather supplies, there is a list of resources to purchase a variety of plants, mosses, and décor.

This is a wonderful book for inspiration and instructions for creating terrariums. It would also make a nice gift book.

Ligaya says

Beautiful photography and a great source of inspiration but so many of the terrariums featured seem impractical as living, thriving environments. I'm certain the high humidity that will inevitably develop in many of these pieces will cause their perfectly placed elements to slip and slide into chaos, like nature often does.

jess says

I am a big, big fan of terrariums, as evidenced by the half dozen of them sprinkled around my house. And, small aside, I appear to have inadvertently passed this onto my stepson, who has been caught stealing perlite from my stash in recent weeks and begging to go to antique stores for interesting glassware. whoops! Generally I prefer the 1970s "A World Under Glass" sort of terrarium books. If you've been my GR friend for long, you have read my rants at other terrarium books. So it was almost pointless for me to even pick this book up, but I did anyway, damn you blogosphere marketing blitz.

At first glance, I thought this book was kind of a novelty one-trick pony, in the vein of many of the other terrarium books I despise. However, upon more careful examination, I decided that it is actually useful and interesting. The list of resources is helpful for anyone who struggles to source some of the more interesting pieces of glassware & plant species for their terrariums. The designs are mostly not my taste, exactly, but the instructions on how to build and care for each type of terrarium is pretty helpful and clear. For the clear instructions & interesting resource list, I give this three stars. "I Liked It." Yes, I did.

The book is broken into practical matters, and then each type of terrarium style: forest, beach, desert, fantasy, with each small world recalling elements from these inspiration sources. I'm going to go super dep-lez confessional and admit that the terrariums with crystals and various rough-hewn gems were my favorites. My heart is on the plaid sleeve of my favorite wolf-howling-at-the-moon tshirt, here. It's just SO MYSTICAL.

Also, apparently the authors own a terrarium store in Portland, where you can source bits & bobbles of necessarily terrarium equipment (of course). When I told my recently terrarium-obsessed stepson about this store, he was dismissive, "Well, that takes all the fun out of it, doesn't it? If you can buy everything in one place?" He likes the hunting and searching for just the right pieces and bits, just like me.

Alanna Frick says

In terms of Terrarium books, I would say this one is great for the slightly more experienced terrarium lover looking more for inspiration than terrarium basics. This book is perfect for sparking a little terrarium magic. If you need a book to better understand terrariums and how they operate as a whole I recommend Terrariums - Gardens Under Glass: Designing, Creating, and Planting Modern Indoor Gardens. This book is a super quick read with lovely images and writing.

Terri Lynn says

First of all, I have no idea why the description of this book says that it is in Korean. It is not. It is in English.

I have always loved terrariums from the time I was a little girl and we made them in school. These are definitely NOT like those school terrariums. This is much more upscale and artistic. This book marries art/crafting with nature to create decorations you will be proud to display in your home or give as gifts. Sources for the things you will need are given so you are not left floundering around wondering where to get things called for in each design. Each project is easy to do. Each project is pure magic.

If you love surrounding yourself with beautiful things and giving beautiful gifts, you will love this book.

Alethea A says

Full review and giveaway (ends 9/15/2012) at <http://rnslnitelite.blogspot.com/2012...>

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I confess: after downloading the review copy on Netgalley, I placed an order for my own copy straight away. Amy Bryant Aiello owns Artemisia, a store that sells terrarium supplies as well as teaches workshops on how to put them together. Kate Bryant is an author and contributes articles about plants and gardening to publications like Portland Monthly. Together they have created a great beginner's book that includes great inspirations for designs that appeal to a modern aesthetic. It also includes resources and suggestions for finding containers and materials to make your own tiny green wonderlands.

As someone who has tried and failed to keep even the simplest, pre-grown bonsai alive, I have to say terrariums are slightly less intimidating. There's something so accessible about the instructions in this book (though I haven't yet read another upcoming release, Keshiki Bonsai, which might do the same for those tiny trees I dread) that makes me feel like I could try one without disastrous results.

While the trend is turning up everywhere from newspapers to hipster DIY forums, it's easy for erstwhile newbies to turn a simple project into an expensive eyesore, especially when it involves living things. I highly recommend that if you get this book, you attempt to follow at least a couple of the projects to the letter rather than just getting all creative from the get-go. The book contains great advice to get the chemistry and biology of your terrarium right so you don't end up with goopy plants or worse, like gnats or mold. Ugh!

This book has gorgeous photos and great information. My only criticism would be that some of the spreads don't quite make sense, but it's only two out of fifty that give me this impression, so I still give the book 4 stars out of 5.

Stacy says

My daughter is a crafter and she loves making arrangements of various things so this book jumped out at me when it appeared in my Recommendations. I requested it and was not disappointed. My daughter (who is 8) has gone through this book several times and made lists of all the things she wanted to use. We didn't recreate any terrariums from this book but it certainly inspired us. In the past week she has made at least a dozen terrariums, all with glass items from around the house or from Goodwill. She's used everything from shells and hemp rope to raw sugar and plastic rings (many of ours are temporary terrariums) and has had so much fun.

Annette McIntyre says

There are a lot of gorgeous and very different terrarium gardens in this book

Pipper says

Terrarium Craft: Create 50 Magical, Miniature Worlds by Amy Bryant Aiello is a great book to read over and over again for creative beautiful ideas. Terrariums are little or big containers filled with trinkets, plants, grains (sand, dirt), even shells. This book doesn't have any characters except if you count the terrariums. The book has many designs and ways to create your own little terrarium, or jar filled with stuff that you want. Anyway, Terrarium Craft is a great book to have. I recommend this to everyone.
