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A Garden for All Seasons: Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood

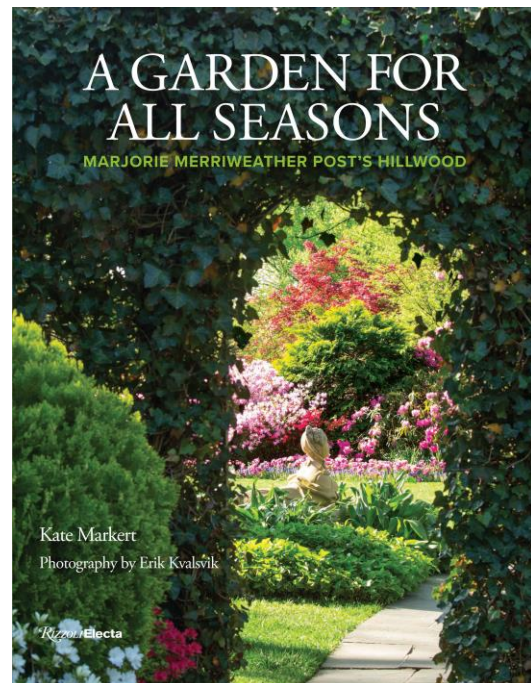
By Kate Markert, Executive Director, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens
Photography by Erik Kvalsvik, Foreword by Charlotte Moss, Afterword by Ellen Charles

Hardcover with jacket / 9" x 12" / 176 pages / 150 color photographs
\$50 / ISBN: 978-0-8478-6788-2 / Release date: April 2020

WASHINGTON—Just in time for the spring garden season, a new book explores the history and design of Washington's garden treasure, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens. ***A Garden for All Seasons: Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood***, by Hillwood executive director, Kate Markert, reveals how the visionary Marjorie Post planned and created her garden paradise. Published by Rizzoli Electa in partnership with Hillwood, the 176-page book, featuring vibrant new photography by Erik Kvalsvik, along with a foreword by tastemaker Charlotte Moss and afterword by Post granddaughter and Hillwood president emerita, Ellen Charles, will be released on April 7, 2020.

Set on 25 acres in Washington, D.C., Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens is the embodiment of Post's grand vision when she purchased the estate in 1955 at the age of 68. Working with the prominent landscape duo, Umberto Innocenti and Richard Webel, and Perry Wheeler, Post shaped a setting with a diverse and verdant array of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, offering something to see in every season.

"A renowned philanthropist, art collector, and businesswoman, Post created her most lasting legacy when she left Hillwood to the public to educate and inspire future generations," Markert explained. "She believed it was important to have and appreciate beauty in the world around us. In her greatest act of generosity, she left not just her grand mansion, with important art collection, but also a garden oasis, so that others could benefit and learn from her exquisite way of life—one she felt was fast disappearing."



At Hillwood, 13 acres of formal gardens extend from the house in a progression of outdoor rooms. Each of these spaces, meant to complement the mansion's interior rooms, encourages an intuitive flow, from the French parterre to the rose garden onto the Friendship Walk and the Lunar Lawn—location of many of Post's legendary parties. Readers will find ample inspiration in both the newly commissioned photography and historic images that give context to the gardens she took great care in crafting.

Although Post was in residence at Hillwood only in the spring and fall, she designed the gardens to flower in all seasons. Today, some 85,000 visitors come to Hillwood each year to experience the seamless integration of the gardens with the exquisite collections in the mansion. The horticulturists follow Post's exacting standards to keep the gardens pristine in every season. Flowers grow year round, either in the cutting garden or greenhouses, to provide fresh flowers for arrangements in the mansion, a charming reminder of Post's gracious lifestyle.

About the Authors: Kate Markert is the executive director of Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens. Erik Kvalsvik is a photographer of architecture, interiors, gardens, and decorative arts. Charlotte Moss is a New York-based interior designer, author, and philanthropist. Ellen Charles, granddaughter of Marjorie Merriweather Post, was president of the board of Hillwood for 25 years.

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