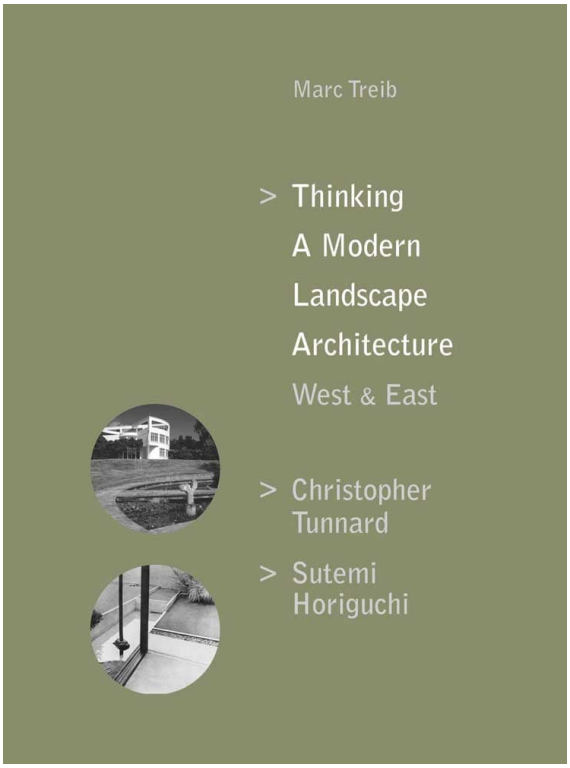
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Thinking a Modern Landscape Architecture, West & East

Christopher Tunnard, Sutemi Horiguchi

Marc Treib

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- A cross-cultural study of the origins of modern landscape architecture in England, USA and Japan as seen through the work of Christopher Tunnard and Sutemi Horiguchi
- First true study of the subject
- Establishes the background in those countries for the arrival of modernism
- First English language study of Sutemi Horiguchi
- Places landscape architecture in a formal, environmental, and cultural context

The complex story of modern landscape architecture remains to be written, as does its precise definition. ***Thinking a Modern Landscape Architecture, West & East***, written by one of the field's most prolific and insightful authors, provides a rare cross-cultural study that examines the written and design contributions made by two of the movement's most influential early protagonists: Christopher Tunnard (1910-1979) in England – and later the United States, and Sutemi Horiguchi (1896-1984) in Japan.

Tunnard's pioneering manifesto, *Gardens in the Modern Landscape*, first published in 1938, laid out the thinking and provided the direction for a landscape architecture engaged more strongly with contemporary life, adopting ideas from modern art as well as the historical gardens of Japan. Rather than a book, it was the architect Horiguchi's 1934 essay *The Garden of Autumn Grasses* that initiated a new direction for garden making in Japan, with a considered and artful use of seasonal plants and a stronger connection to the modern architecture it accompanied. Unlike Tunnard, who sought inspiration and sources in contemporary art, Horiguchi looked to the eighteen-century Rimpa School of painting for insights into the composition of the new garden by carefully placing individual plants against a simple background. Although the two theorists-practitioners never met, Tunnard's interest in Japan, and use of Horiguchi's work as illustrations, links them in a shared quest for a landscape architecture appropriate to their times and respective countries.

Marc Treib is Professor of Architecture Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley, and a historian of landscape and architecture who has published widely on modern and historical subjects in the United States, Japan, and Scandinavia. Recent books include *Landscapes of Modern Architecture: Wright, Mies, Neutra, Aalto, Barragán* (Yale, 2017); *Austere Gardens: Thoughts on Landscape, Restraint, and Attending* (ORO, 2016); and *The Landscapes of Georges Descombes: Doing Almost Nothing* (ORO, 2018).







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