

Of course what particularly appealed to me was spotting in the illustrations the tools and implements used in the cultivation and harvesting of fruit. Ladders and baskets of all sizes, pouched aprons, cider presses, spraying equipment, and the ubiquitous deck chair in which to receive your orchard tea. Last year I was in Granchester, near Cambridge, ready to take my cream tea in the orchard made famous by poet Rupert Brook. But alas! unlike the sunny orchard with dappled shade depicted in the book it was pouring with rain as well as dripping with fruit!

Australia has great stories about orchards and fruit cultivation but I wish we did more to encourage the interpretation of this heritage. Certainly this is one of the aims that the Australian Museum of Gardening has set itself at Carrick Hill and this Shire publication shows us how well it can be done.

**Richard Heathcote**  
Director, Carrick Hill

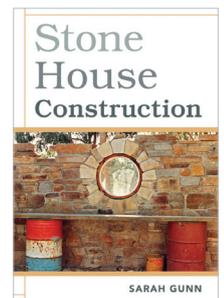
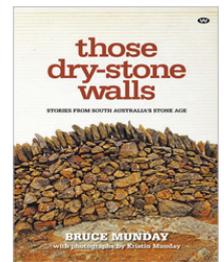
Sarah Gunn, *Stone House Construction*, CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Vic., 2012 (ISBN 9780643096370): paperback, 232pp, RRP \$69.95

Bruce Munday with photographs by Kristin Munday, *Those Dry-stone Walls: stories from South Australia's stone age*, Wakefield Press, Kent Town, SA, 2012 (ISBN 9781743051252): paperback, 192pp, RRP \$39.95

Vernacular building in stone is the shared subject matter of these two books. In many other aspects they differ widely, reflecting the backgrounds of the authors and the end results of two quite separate impulses. Gunn is an architect and the premise for *Stone House Construction* was established when she set out to construct a stone house and could

not find the comprehensive guide she desired. Gunn's is thus a source book of construction methods, techniques, and specifications. Buildings are the book's strength but a chapter, 'Stone in the landscape' includes an impressive array of sketches and photographs of traditional and historical ways of using stone in landscape design, drawing on international and local examples. Gunn also captures the romance of traditional stone buildings and their construction through her interwoven theme of historic stone buildings and structures, with examples patiently gathered from around Australia—though Victoria predominates. *Those Dry-stone Walls* tells a thematic environmental and social history of rural South Australia through the framework of dry-stone walling. It is by and about people with a long-held passion for stone walls and its outlook is infinitely more romantic. Where Gunn explains how you might excavate a stone quarry, what kind of stone to look for, how to reserve topsoil, how to backfill, which stones to reserve for building, and which would be better deployed for landscaping, Munday explores how many millions of years the stone has taken to form, when and by whom it was excavated, then presents local examples and makers. Munday's fondness for the age-old craft and the qualities dry-stone walls impart to the landscape is reflected in the book's more personal and idiosyncratic style. The focus of *Those Dry-stone Walls* is South Australia. However, practical advice is sprinkled throughout (from the authors' direct experience as well as reproduced from historical documents) and forms the basis of the final chapter, 'So, you want to build a wall', which should make this book appealing to readers and would-be stone wallers from a much wider pool.

**Christina Dyson**



## Recent releases

Milton Cameron, *Experiments in Modern Living: scientists' houses in Canberra 1950–1970*, ANU E Press, Canberra, 2012 (ISBN 9781921862700 online; 9781921862694 print version): RRP online free; print version \$29.95

Available in four digital formats (PDF, View online, ePub, and mobi) as well as a print-on-demand, this is an intriguing study of houses commissioned by the 'highly educated, cultured and well-travelled intelligentsia' who comprised Canberra's mid-century scientific community. Based on a thorough physical and historical survey as well as oral histories, Cameron focuses on five case studies,

including the 28-year-old CSIRO plant physiologist John Zwar who commissioned well-known Sydney architect Harry Seidler in 1955 to build a house for £5000. In a city renowned for experimentation, 'scientists were responsible for commissioning the most highly acclaimed houses in Canberra'. In each case study the worlds of science and design meet, and although gardens are not the author's specific remit, the scientific background of the clients and their modernist preferences have inescapably influenced attitudes to site, function, planting, and unity of design.

<http://epress.anu.edu.au?p=1825891>