

style


INSPIRATION FOR THE WAY AHEAD

SUMMER
2009

carefree highways

MDX EXPLORES STEINBECK COUNTRY

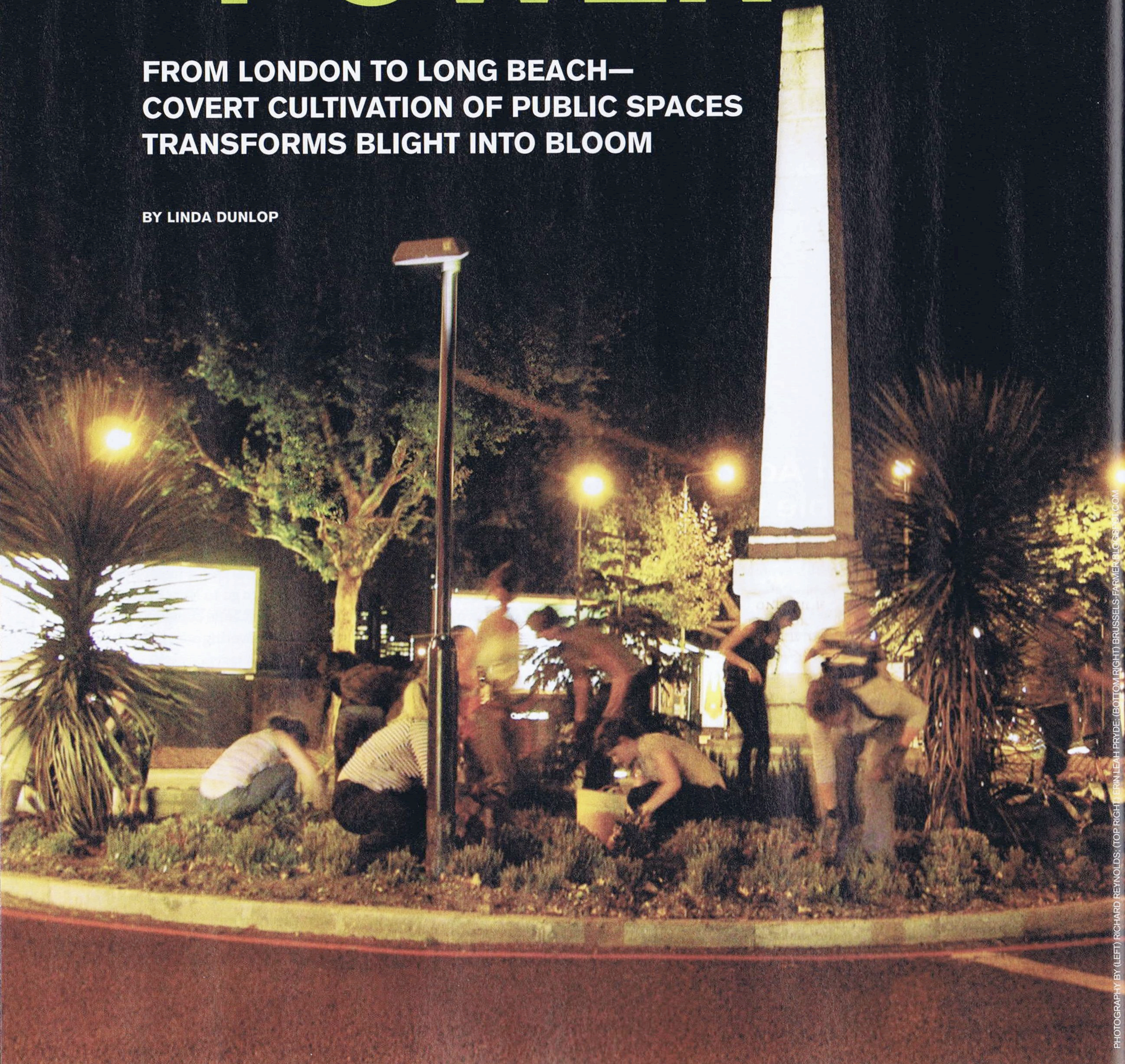
GUERRILLA GARDENERS » CULINARY MEMORIES »
TSX V-6 ROAD TEST » BHUTANESE VISTAS

 ACURA

FLOWER POWER

**FROM LONDON TO LONG BEACH—
COVERT CULTIVATION OF PUBLIC SPACES
TRANSFORMS BLIGHT INTO BLOOM**

BY LINDA DUNLOP



'Tis the season to roll up your sleeves and assist Mother Nature with her yearly beauty regimen. So how about a nod to those enterprising citizens who've expanded their territory beyond their own backyards?

They're called guerrilla gardeners. Their mission—to beautify aesthetically challenged cities one potted honeysuckle at a time. Armed with hoes, shovels and seedlings, this covert band of dedicated horticulturalists operates mainly at night, transforming neglected lots, unsightly overpasses and just-plain-ugly medians into attractive green spaces.

Richard Reynolds, the movement's London ringleader and author of a book, *On Guerrilla Gardening* sees no harm in the illicit planting of fresh flowers. "What else to do of an evening?" he asks. "You can sit at home watching television, go to the pub, or you can meet strangers in the dark, in a curious corner of the city, and get creative together."

It's not just the Brits who are engaging in such clandestine operations. Armies of guerilla gardeners have sprouted across the globe, largely thanks to the cultivating power of the Internet. Scott Bunnell, an enterprising Long Beach mailman, won reluctant praise from city officials for a multi-year project tending a traffic island near his home. He's since started a website to rally the green troops in his Southern California community.

New York, Sydney, Amsterdam, Berlin, Miami, Vancouver, Montreal, and San Francisco—all are now beautifully dotted with guerrilla-produced creations. Now that's the power of grassroots in action. 

www.guerrillagardening.org
www.socalguerrillagardening.org

PHOTOGRAPHY BY (LEFT) RICHARD REYNOLDS; (TOP RIGHT) LERN LEAH PRYDE; (BOTTOM RIGHT) BRUSSELS-FARMER FLORES ETIENNE



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GUERRILLA GARDENING GLOSSARY



troop digs

Organized events inviting armies of guerrilla planters to spend an evening beautifying public spaces. The Internet serves as community-builder, informing rebel horticulturalists of upcoming planting operations, and sharing the before/after results on the pages of Flickr.

seed bombs

These compressed balls of soil, seeds and fertilizer can be lobbed into hard-to-reach plots of land, and left to root into unexpected gardens. Often homemade, such weapons of horticultural cultivation date back to 1970s New York and the origins of the guerrilla gardening movement.



Has your community been invaded by a vibrant surge of yellow sunflowers? Perhaps they're the product of International Sunflower Guerrilla Day. Each May 1st, since 2007, a group of intrepid Belgian gardeners has encouraged green thumbs the world over to sow these striking annuals in overlooked urban spaces. The sunflower's giant blooms are guerrilla favorites—often sprouting to six-foot bursts of color in a matter of weeks.

brussels-farmer.blogspot.com
(English/French)