The following pages offer some wonderful expressions of human relationships to the land. These gardens are idiosyncratic and certainly not within mainstream design theory. Yet their power is indisputable.

These gardens are intensely personal but transcendent, pointing to a reality beyond what is perceptible to our senses. They are low carbon and low energy, and most are pure expressions of their bioregion. There are many lessons for us as we move into the zero fossil fuels era.

In compiling these, I was influenced by Gram Parsons and his idea of a “new way forward, a way to musically heal the separation and increasing divisiveness of late modern life. His term for what he attempted was Cosmic American music.” “http://nodepression.com/article/what-cosmic-american-music-and-list-examples

Can we find a “new way forward” through Cosmic American gardens? Can our entry into the zero carbon era be eased by gardens that are synthesis of human expression and bioregional materials? If so, these new gardens will belong the Anthropocene.

I don’t offer commentary on these. Explore for yourself.
Cosmic American Gardens

Philadelphia's Magic Gardens

https://www.phillymagicgardens.org
Cosmic American Gardens

Philadelphia’s Magic Gardens

https://www.phillymagicgardens.org
“Anyone can do anything with a million dollars – look at Disney. But it takes more than money to make something out of nothing, and look at the fun I have doing it.” Tressa "Grandma" Prisbrey

Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village, California

http://www.bottlevillage.com
Grandma Prisbrey's Bottle Village, California

http://www.bottlevillage.com
Grandma Prisbrey’s Bottle Village, California

http://www.bottlevillage.com
Edward Leedskalnin: Coral Castle, FL

https://coralcastle.com
Cosmic American Gardens
steveaustin.org

Edward Leedskalnin: Coral Castle, FL
https://coralcastle.com
Kenny Hill Sculpture Garden: Chauvin, Louisiana

https://www.nicholls.edu/folkartcenter/park.html
Kenny Hill Sculpture Garden: Chauvin, Louisiana  https://www.nicholls.edu/folkartcenter/park.html
Cosmic American Gardens

The Mindfield by Billy Trip: Brownsville, Tenn

https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/billy-tripps-mindfield
The Mindfield by Billy Trip: Brownsville, Tenn

https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/billy-tripps-mindfield
Cosmic American Gardens

Samuel Perry Dinsmoor Garden of Eden, Kansas

http://www.garden-of-eden-lucas-kansas.com
Cosmic American Gardens

Howard Finster Paradise Garden, GA

http://paradisegardenfoundation.org
Cosmic American Gardens

Howard Finster Paradise Garden, GA

http://paradisegardenfoundation.org
Howard Finster Paradise Garden, GA
REM emerged in Georgia near Finster’s garden. Several of their music videos were recorded within it. In 1984, Michael Stipe worked with Howard Finster to create the *Reckoning* album cover. Stipe was inspired by the patterns in Finster’s garden. Finster created the painting.

Howard Finster Paradise Garden, GA  
http://paradisegardenfoundation.org
Cosmic American Gardens

Sabato "Simon" Rodia, Watts Towers, Calif.

http://www.wattstowers.us
Sabato "Simon" Rodia, Watts Towers, Calif.

http://www.wattstowers.us
Cosmic American Gardens

Sabato “Simon” Rodia, Watts Towers, Calif.

http://www.wattstowers.us
Fairy Land Gardens, Rock City, Tenn

Fairy Land Gardens, Rock City, Tenn

"Places for the Spirit: Traditional African American Gardens."

http://1world1family.me/chicago-african-american-folk-gardens/
Dr. Evermor’s Forevertron, Sumpter, WI

http://worldofdrevermor.com
Unknown, Boise, ID

http://www.wglandscape.com/xericoasis/
While obviously not an outsider garden, I consider this room in Bloedel to be related to the previous ones. It appears intensely personal and transcendent, suggesting a reality beyond what is perceptible to my senses. This is more refined than the others, but is more energy intensive and ecologically disruptive.

Richard Haig: Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island, WA
It would be an oversight to not include Parc Guell as one of the grandfathers of these Cosmic American Gardens. And this is a great reminder of the vital importance of learning the craft of construction.

Antonio Gaudi: Parc Guell, Barcelona