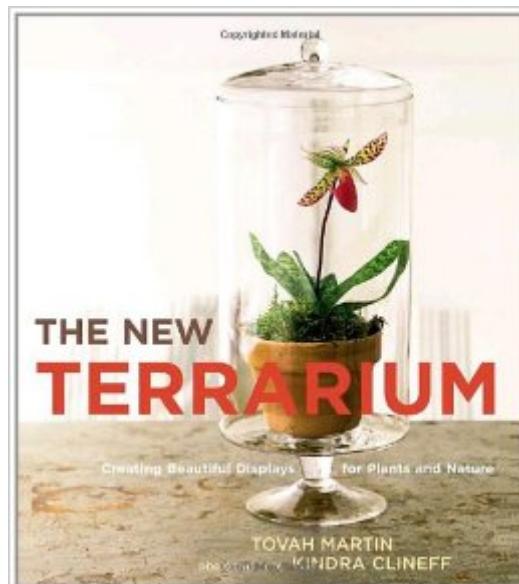


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# The New Terrarium: Creating Beautiful Displays For Plants And Nature



## Synopsis

If you live in the city but want to be close to nature . . . If you call the countryside home but have no time to step outside . . . If you are confined to an office fifty hours a week . . . If your home needs the soothing touch of the natural world . . . In *The New Terrarium*, Tovah Martin, one of America's favorite gardeners, introduces you to the whimsical yet practical world of gardens under glass—a no-fuss way to bring snippets of nature indoors. Wherever you are, in whatever little time you have, terrariums are the perfect tool for nature lovers and gardeners everywhere. With gorgeous photography, *The New Terrarium* reveals how this classic garden tool has been reimagined in a modern way. When encased in glass, plants thrive with almost no help from outside their little enclosed world, so you can host a plant almost anywhere—in your apartment where the air is dry or in your cubicle where there's little natural light. Tucked inside something crystal and contained, the bounty of the forest or treasures from the beach or the meadow can merge seamlessly into your home or office environment. It's amazing how some frothy fern fronds or colorful blossoms can transform a room by giving it a burst of vibrant green life. With clear, simple step-by-step instructions and photographs to inspire and guide you along the way, Martin shares her years of experience growing and tending terrariums and shows how terrariums can enrich your life, including: different venues for cultivating your terrarium—plants that flourish in these gardens under glass; ideas and designs for creating your first terrarium; how to care for and maintain the environment you've made; Martin has designed a unique range of imaginative terrarium projects, including ones that are suitable for children, enliven the seasons, incorporate plant propagation, and show off a nature collection. Whether you are a gardener or city-dwelling nature lover, *The New Terrarium* is the perfect way to spark your creativity, while helping you to bring your favorite plants into your home and giving them a place to thrive. When nature is out of arm's reach and you crave a little greenery, *The New Terrarium* can show you how to bring all the benefits of the outdoors close to you.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Subtitle should be: Now you, too, can put a glass cloche over an already-potted plant! I gave this book three stars because in aspects it deserves one star and in other aspects it deserves 3. Obviously, I was feeling generous. One star aspects: The terrariums themselves. You know, THOSE THINGS FOR WHICH THE BOOK IS NAMED. I don't know, maybe you've chanced to notice the cover. Perhaps you've said to yourself, "huh, that looks pretty much like a normally potted orchid placed in a glass apothecary jar." I said to myself the same, but thought perhaps the more elaborate/interesting/inspiring terrariums would be inside the book...like maybe Tovah wanted to keep the cover simple; uncluttered. But apparently Tovah truly believes that inspiring terrariums are potted plants neatly placed in glass container. Or--to get really creative!--an airplant in a martini glass on a bedside table. Three star aspects: There is some good information, such as a lengthy list of plants that work well in terrariums (and sometimes she even specifies closed or open terrariums, which is helpful), and some pretty good assembly instructions (though you can find equally good instructions on the internet). Unfortunately for Tovah, when I first got the book I happened to open right to the section on where to place your terrarium so it receives adequate light to grow. Then I saw these sentences: "The suggestions here are aimed at terrariums with plants. If your case is filled with nonplant treasures from the forest--in other words, inanimate objects--then it's not necessary to concern yourself with the details of positioning in relation to light sources, and so on." "What a fascinating and insightful tidbit of information, Tovah!"

I read a book called "Terrarium Craft" before this one, and although it had many creative designs in it, it suffered from numerous flaws â  "namely an over-reliance on succulents planted in sand instead of "real" terrarium plants. This book, although much better in some ways, has flaws of a different sort. First off, the good parts. This book has a lot of excellent information in it â  "from an exhaustive description of terrarium vessels to a really solid section on care and maintenance, this book is a wealth of great, practical information. I also really liked the section on the history of terrariums, which was very fascinating, and it must be said that the list of good plant species to

choose from is really invaluable. Indeed, most of the information is great...that is, if you can stand to read it. This brings us to the bad...the author is really fond of verbose, overly wordy sentences and also of repeating the same ideas ad nauseam. I nearly tore my (already short) hair out when trying to get through her introduction section where she makes the case (over and over again) for why everyone in the world would benefit from having terrariums. She even goes so far as to imply that terrariums may cure depression and increase your boob size (joking about that one!) and that there is literally no one who wouldn't benefit from having a terrarium. Yes, lady, we get it â “ terrariums are cool. You don't have to sell it to us â “ we already bought the book so we clearly already like the idea of terrariums! I nearly quit reading after the introduction, but thankfully I soldiered on. Once you get past that part, well, things are still entirely too wordy, but at least the information becomes relevant and useful.

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