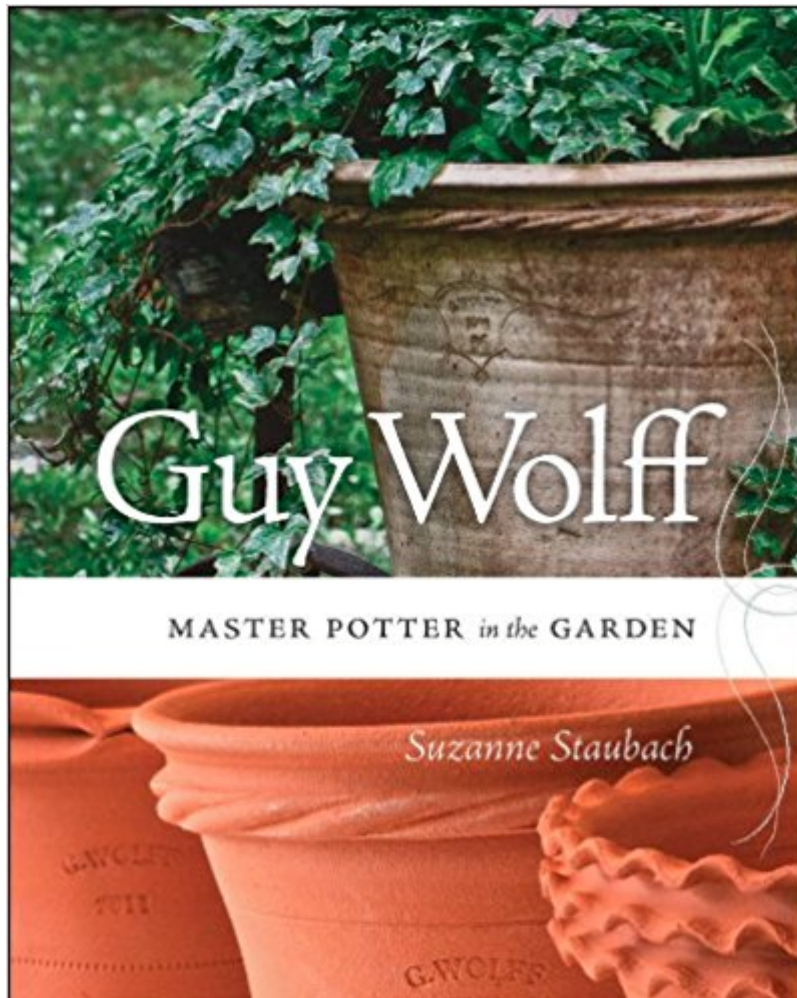




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# Guy Wolff: Master Potter In The Garden



## Synopsis

If you mention Guy Wolff to a serious gardener, that gardener will almost certainly admit to either owning a Guy Wolff flowerpot or coveting one. Wolff's pots "some small and perfect for a sunny windowsill, others massive and just right for a favorite outdoor spot" are widely considered to be the epitome of gardenware. Their classical proportions, simple decoration, and the marks of Wolff's hands all combine to make plants look their best. His pots possess an honesty and liveliness that machine-made flowerpots lack. Wolff is probably the best-known potter working in the United States today. In gardening circles, he is a highly revered horticultural icon; gardeners flock to his lectures and demonstrations. His work also appeals to lovers of design and fine arts: visit the personal gardens of landscape designers, and you will see Guy Wolff pots. Step inside the gates of estate gardens, and you will see Guy Wolff pots. Yet he is a potter's potter. He's a big ware thrower, a skill few have today. He thinks deeply about what he calls the architecture of pots and the importance of handmade objects in our lives. Whether you are a longtime collector of Wolff's pots, anxious to buy your first one, or simply intrigued by the beauty and practicality of hand-crafted goods in our fast-paced era, you'll want to add this richly illustrated book to your library.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is Staubach's fourth book, and UPNE is reissuing *Clay*, an earlier work, in September. The longtime manager of general books at the UConn Co-op and potter said that she is able to do so much, because she needs very little sleep. "Most days I get up early in the morning. I work long

days, but try to do something productive before and after each work day," says Staubach. The book "about a well-known potter whose work graces the gardens of designers" had its official launch on July 14 at Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, CT. "Publishers Weekly" says Staubach, a potter and gardener herself, has produced an illustrated biography that joins the details of Wolff's career with a lively discussion of the frequently competing demands of craft and business. "Boston Globe

"Staubach has done a masterful job of weaving biography, history, aesthetics, technique, and philosophy into an eloquently crafted story. She moves seamlessly from ancient Egypt, China, Japan, and England through Jugtown, to end up in modern-day New England, all the while including encounters with Arthur Miller, Louisa Calder, Martha Stewart, and Steve Jobs. Staubach gives us access, not just to the how but also to the why of Guy Wolff's incredible journey. A fantastic read!" (John Britt, John Britt Pottery and author of *The Complete Guide to High-Fire Glazes*) "Guy Wolff is a great potter. He is also a great scholar. His work is exceptional, beautifully made, true to form, unique. I cannot more highly commend him. He is an American national treasure." (Joe Eck is the author or coauthor of several books, including *To Eat: A Country Life*, *Elements of Garden Design*, and *Living Seasonally: The Kitchen and the Table at North Hill*) "Like countless others, I met Guy Wolff's garden pots through Smith & Hawken. I became a very modest collector. The pots, filled with flowers and foliage, and placed in and around my gardens, became focal points of hardy beauty. Now, thanks to Suzy Staubach's outstanding book, I know more about the man himself. A nice fantasy would be to find him standing in my garden next to one of his pots, and we would talk." (Tomie dePaola, artist and author of books for children)

A book about Guy Wolff and his distinguished career is long overdue. His work is widely admired and increasingly acknowledged the most beautifully crafted horticultural pottery produced in modern times. Beyond that, Guy Wolff has brought forgotten or neglected design to the attention of those who maintain the most important gardens, museums, and estates in the country. He is celebrated, in part due to his exceptionally charismatic good humor and genuine interest in all who meet him, but he remains far more modest than a man of his talent and popularity should reasonably be. I have been fortunate in knowing Guy Wolff for much of my life, and this book is a thorough and sensitive account of the experiences and influences that brought this notable body of work into being. Suzanne Staubach, the author, has pieced together a story that reflects the history of art and

craft from Mid-Century America to the present day. Her obvious enthusiasm for Wolff's work animates her prose, and her research has been thorough. The photographs by Joseph Szalay could not have been more effective in illustrating the evolution and range of Wolff's craft. This is a beautiful book; I can't imagine any reader not dropping happily into its well connected chapters, then moving immediately to buy as many of Wolff's pots as this craftsman can produce. I risk hyperbole in asserting that Wolff is a national treasure and one very much deserving of a project such as Staubach, a potter herself, has produced.

Guy Wolff started producing the classic English style planters, throwing these huge pots in his pottery studio which he built himself. He had studied the masters from England. Guy has been featured in many gardening magazines. He throws on the wheel standing up because of the mass of the clay needed to create the huge pots. This book is about his life and how he has sustained himself being a potter. Very interesting reading with wonderful pictures. His pots are terra cotta and created to hold plants in the garden. Guy decorates with his signature design and sometimes a simple texture on the rims, or tops of the vessels. The planters are large with plenty of room for the roots to grow. They are strong with large drain holes the water can drain out easily. The author met Guy when he delivered pots she had ordered for her store. She loved them so much she ended up placing her plants in all of them. Guy had delivered the load of pots packed in straw in the back of his pick-up truck. An informative look at a down-to-earth man who has his hands in clay. I remember reading about Guy Wolff in Martha Stewart's magazine years ago. Now, he still is creating and adding some utilitarian dishes and plates to his collection for sale. A great book for those interested in pottery and gardening.

This book is a great effort to document a unique person and his work. It very much captures the subject, even though as the author admits, that is a challenge with someone such as Guy Wolff. Creating this record of the man and his work is deserving of praise.

Love this book

The best American Potter for garden's ever. The Rockefeller farm used them. Classy story and well printed volume.

Good read .

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