

IN BLOOM, BY NGOC MINH NGO (RIZZOLI, £29.99)

BOTANIQUE HANGING TERRARIUM, £330, BOTANIQUE-BOUTIQUE.COM



Power PLANTS

BOTANICAL MOTIFS ARE TAKING ROOT THIS SEASON, SAYS HAYLEY MAITLAND

Tahitian hibiscus, lilies from the Nile, Chinese peonies... When 18th-century explorers returned from overseas with Wardian cases of tropical flowers, they started a craze for plant collecting. The botany boom reached its peak in the 1800s – when amateur taxonomists combed country hedgerows, magnifying glasses in hand, displaying their findings in meticulous illustrations, and the drawing rooms of great Victorian houses were lined with terrariums of lush ferns, orchids and mosses.

For its autumn pre-collection, Dolce & Gabbana drew on the foliage in Palermo Botanical Gardens, and a revival bloomed. Depictions of plants also cropped up throughout the resort collections: from dresses decorated with 3D peonies and gardenias at Giambattista Valli to a parka hand-embroidered with 17th-century botanical designs by Creatures of the Wind. And it's not just our wardrobes that are blossoming. Look at *In Bloom*, photographer Ngoc Minh Ngo's latest book, for inspiration on how to bring the natural world indoors this autumn. Included within its leaves are exquisite plaster casts of flowers (an 18th-century technique) by Rachel Dein and painstakingly detailed sculptures based on Victorian etchings by Carmen Almon.



MILLER HARRIS COEUR DE JARDIN EAU DE PARFUM, £95

FELICITY JONES PRESSED-FLOWER PORCELAIN VASE, £165, AT PETERSHAM NURSERIES

GUCCI PRINTED LEATHER BAG, £1,510



CREATURES OF THE WIND HAND-EMBROIDERED PARKA, £6,000, AT FARFETCH.COM

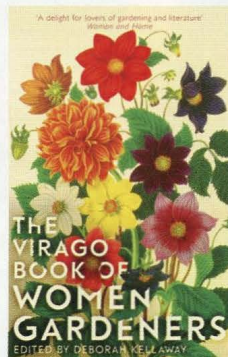
RODARTE BRASS EARRINGS, FROM £265



HOUSE OF HACKNEY PORCELAIN AND BRASS TABLE LAMP, £425, AND LAMPSHADE, £130



LIEF MID-CENTURY-MODERN CABINET, £8,700, AT 1STDIBS.COM



THE VIRAGO BOOK OF WOMEN GARDENERS, EDITED BY DEBORAH KELLAWAY (VIRAGO, £14.99)



IN BLOOM (TOP) FEATURES THE BOTANICAL SCULPTURES OF CARMEN ALMON

