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The 2011 NY ASLA Awards Exhibition

APRIL 1 – 22, 2011

Exhibition Program and Guide

1.
Restoration of the Central Park Lake **New York, NY**
Central Park Conservancy

The 20-acre Lake in Central Park is the largest of the naturalistic water bodies conceived by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the Park's designers and it was the last of them to be restored in the course of the Park's turnaround during the last 30 years. The purpose of this project was to restore the Lake to its former prominence as a signature landscape in the heart of Central Park, recapturing its inherent qualities that had been degraded or obscured over time and improving the scenic quality of the landscape.

The project included the restoration of inlets and coves along the Lake, many of which had been completely silted in; the stabilization of the shoreline with coir log, boulders, and geocell; the restoration of historic architectural elements, including the reconstruction of Oak Bridge based on its original design; and the restoration of surrounding landscapes, which included the reconstruction of paths, utility infrastructure, and site furnishings and the addition of new plantings, both along the shoreline and in the Ramble uplands.

The Lake was created as the heart of the Park, the culmination of a scenic sequence that began at the southern entrances. As one of the first areas of the Park to be opened to the public and as a multi-faceted and intricate picturesque landscape, it played a significant role in establishing both the experience and meaning of the Park. This project has aimed to restore these original ideals, and particularly the ability of this quintessential Central Park landscape to provide visitors with a sense of wonder, pleasure, and a respite from city life.

Images (clockwise from top left)**:**

A. Site Plan: The Lake and surrounding landscapes include some of the Park's best-known landmarks and vistas. Originally intended to serve as a transitional area between the formal Mall and the picturesque landscape of the Ramble, the Lake is considered by many to be the heart of Central Park.
B. Bow Bridge, 2008: One of the most characteristic architectural features in Central Park, Bow Bridge had been incomplete since the 1920s when eight cast iron planting urns that originally graced the bridge were removed. As part of the Restoration of the Lake, new urns were cast based on one remaining original urn in storage and reinstalled on the bridge.
C. Bank Rock Bay after reconstruction, 2010: The reconstruction of Bank Rock Bay included the removal of excess sediment, stabilization of the shoreline, installation of a new freshwater feed, reconstruction of paths and utility infrastructure, and the planting of aquatic plants along the shoreline and variety of native trees, shrubs, and perennials along the slopes and upland. Oak Bridge was rebuilt based on its original design, with steel and cast aluminum to ensure durability, while also incorporating wood in the handrail and decking. This is the first time the Central Park Conservancy has reconstructed such a significant historic structure in the Park.
D. Bank Rock Bay before reconstruction, 2007: By the 1970s most of the Bay had silted in and was overgrown with *Phragmities* and other vegetation. Around 1935 the original Oak Bridge, which had been repaired and rebuilt multiple times due to the regular deterioration of its woodwork, was replaced with a more utilitarian structure. Although built to be temporary (plans were approved by Art Commission to replace it with a masonry bridge), this structure remained in place for over seventy years, until the Conservancy began this project.
E. Bank Rock Bay, c. 1870: Bank Rock Bay is the largest of the many inlets and coves that form the undulating shoreline of the Lake and was designed to create the impression of the Lake continuing indefinitely. Oak Bridge, originally constructed in 1860 based on a design by Calvert Vaux, was one of the larger and more elegant of the Park's wooden bridges. Similar to Bow Bridge, this bridge was created as one of the major entrances to the Ramble, leading visitors into the area from the path along the West Drive.
F. Cofferdam Installation, 2007: A 1,050 foot long cofferdam was installed to enable the removal of excess accumulated sediments on the north side of the Lake, while keeping the rest of it open to Park users.

2.

Fort Totten Park Conceptual Master Plan **Bayside, NY**

Nancy Owens Studio, LLC

Fort Totten is a 147-acre peninsula in Queens, located at the confluence of the East River and Long Island Sound. The space has a rich military history and outstanding potential for redevelopment as a recreational and cultural park. The City of New York Parks and Recreation received 49.5 acres of land at Fort Totten after the Department of Defense moved to close excess military bases. Fort Totten's distinctive landscape is notable for the quality of its historically significant fortifications and buildings, open space, water views, and tree-lined streets.

The Master Plan Report includes an extensive environmental, cultural and administrative history of Fort Totten Park and its regional context. The site analysis section outlines the unique resources and constraints at the Fort including historic buildings and fortifications, potential archaeological sites, and the possible presence of live ordnance from previous military occupation.

The first challenge in the development of the Conceptual Master Plan was to classify cohesive areas within the discontinuous park property, which is interwoven with land owned by other governmental agencies. The classification of the zones was based on the site's physical characteristics, cultural and ecological resources, and potential uses. It was essential to identify opportunities for linking the areas and creating a cohesive park experience. The delineation of the zones creates a framework for defining the park's constraints and maximizing its assets.

Individual plans illustrate proposed vehicular and pedestrian circulation, ecological zones, planting strategies, materials and sustainability, as well as events and activities. Proposed improvements for the park are identified by zone, followed by a detailed description of the strategies employed in the recently implemented Fort Totten North Park. The report concludes with 'Capital Works Priorities' and recommendations for potential property transfers to create a more cohesive public park site.

Images (clockwise from top left)**:**

A. Vegetation zones
B. Aerial view, circa 1940s
C. Existing asset: Water Battery
D. Existing asset: Endicott Batteries
E. Conceptual Master Plan

Pedestal:

Conceptual Master Plan & Summary

3.

Fort Totten North Park **Bayside, NY**

Nancy Owens Studio LLC

The Fort Totten North Park is a distinctive landscape, exemplified by the quality of its historically significant military fortifications and buildings, magnificent water views and varying terrain. On a limited budget, the landscape architects employed several large scale landscape design gestures using native vegetation and manipulation of terrain to organize the site and frame the views. Design priorities included the regeneration of native habitat, storm water retention and enhanced opportunities for cultural and ecological education.

Nancy Owens Studio was engaged to design the new waterfront park in Queens on a site that was occupied by circa-1960 U.S. Army Capehart houses. The project included the demolition of nineteen buildings, several roads and parking areas to make way for the new park. Through meetings with community stakeholders it was determined that North Park would be dedicated to scenic passive uses, ecological restoration and providing an enhanced setting for education and culture.
Defining features of the new nine-acre park include shifting panoramic views of the water, rolling topography, interpretation of the site's historic fortifications and new wildlife habitat.

The North Park undulates as it steps and slopes down to the water, retaining building traces and markings of previous site history. Open spaces are organized by a series of plateaus defined by meandering Switch Grass ribbons that follow the existing contours. The buried King Battery is denoted by an eight-foot high, 200 foot long mound. Integral to the design of the North Park design is a one-acre bioswale at the site's lower edge to restore the filtration and stormwater processing functions of the land. The densely planted bioswale catches stormwater runoff that formerly drained directly into the Long Island Sound.

Images (counterclockwise from top right)**:**

A. Planting of bioswale
B. View of bioswale
C. Switch Grass ribbons and bioswale
D. View to Long Island Sound
E. North Park plan

4.

Governors Island Park and Public Space Project **New York, NY**
West 8 Urban Design and Landscape Architecture

Governors Island offers a world apart from New York City as well as an extraordinary vantage point on the New York harbor and its icons. The design team, led by West 8, created the Master Plan for the Island's Park and Public Spaces based on this unique setting for an Island like no other. The creation of a world-class park is essential to the transformation of the Island from an abandoned military base, accessible only by boat and closed to the public for nearly 200 years, into a vibrant, thriving mixed-use destination for the region. The Master Plan of the 87-acre Park and Public Space project is the first phase of a multi-phase process to unlock the potential of Governors Island.

Transformation of the Island through topography is the central animating principle of the design, integrating the Island's two halves and addressing the impacts of rising sea levels to ensure that the park, and its trees, will last for generations. The Master Plan also builds on the Island's unparalleled setting, including its many places to revel in the visual experiences of sea and sky and the 360° views of the harbor. The design protects the Island as an oasis of car-free bicycling, play, the arts and the imagination.

Sustainability and feasibility also underpin the design. The topography and hills are shaped around the elevation of the predicted 100-year flood of 2100, providing sustainable, productive habitat for a wide variety of plantings, birds, trees, grasses, and insects. This new ground plane allows for more than 1,300 native and locally-adapted trees to be planted and thrive as temperature ranges in the region change. The Master Plan design is rooted in a deep understanding of the Island's inherent attributes and challenges. The West 8 team is currently in Design Development for Phase One of the Governors Island Park and Public Space project.

Images (clockwise from top right)**:**

A. The hammock grove has shade, lawns, and hammocks for relaxing. The trees are located to showcase the botanic beauty and splendor of their species.
B. Governors Island Park and Public Space Master Plan
C. Perimeter Views: The Park and Public Space design offers a slowly shifting 360° panorama of the New York Harbor.
D. The hills draw visitors down a pathway into a canyon-like landscape toward the harbor.
E. At Liberty Terrace, a visitor can recharge and watch activities on the Great Promenade. The Shell at Liberty Terrace, designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro, is integrated into the landscape, providing a sculpted seating area.

5.

Master Plan for Shoelace Park on the Bronx River Greenway **Bronx, NY**
Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects

The Shoelace Park Master Plan establishes strong connections between an inner-city community and its most important natural resource, the Bronx River. The plan makes structural proposals for immediate improvement in river health and outlines sustainability guidelines for the long term. The goal is a revitalized park along 47 acres of riverine open space that will energize a critical link in the Bronx River Greenway and interpret the rich history of the site. Mathews Nielsen acted as the prime consultant for the development of this community-based master plan for Shoelace Park, a 20 block segment of the Bronx River. The planning process included a strong outreach component, work with a Youth Design Team, charrettes, development of a website and work with a stakeholder advisory group.

As a living document, the final plan makes six clear recommendations that are part of an overall Zoned Phasing Plan which was developed in collaboration with the Client and vetted with maintenance and operational staff. Specific recommendations include: expansion of the forested buffer along the waterfront, relocation of park features from the floodplain, reduction of the upper pathway along with reuse of the original path width for plazas, play spaces, fitness stations, and stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), bring to light the rich history of the area, improvement of park access from the north and south linkages to the Bronx River Greenway and the provision of a holistic system of stormwater management.

Images (clockwise from top right)**:**

A. Shoelace Park Master Plan Vision
B. Bronx River Reservation, early 20th century
C. Unregulated development, early 20th century
D. Garbage removed from the Bronx River, 2007
E. Removal of debris after flooding , 2007
F. Bronx River Alignment (caption embedded in the graphic)
G. Shoelace Park annotated site plan
H. Stormwater strategies

6.

Community Garden **Brooklyn, NY**

Landgarden

This site, owned by the New York Restoration Project, was developed with funding provided by the Target Corporation, fulfilling the community's desire for a local, versatile and green shared space. A partnership between the community, a non-profit organization and a corporation, this project successfully revitalized an underused urban space, transforming a vacant lot into a popular garden and gathering place.

The community-developed design, formulated at on-site meetings, focused on creating a space for social gathering, gardening and relaxation, in the dense and diverse Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. The small lot features an inviting front entry court, a raised sheltered patio and a central lawn, allowing for a variety of activities for groups or individuals. Plantings include fruit trees, a rose border, privacy hedges and garden plots for the neighborhood green thumbs. The garden's multifunctional design has delighted and served this diverse community since it's opening in the fall of 2007.

Images (clockwise from top)**:**

A. Garden plan
B. The inviting entry court
C. The central lawn and rear raised patio
D. A rich mix of plantings

7.

Citygarden **St. Louis, MO**

Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

Citygarden is a three-acre public sculpture garden in the heart of downtown St. Louis, Missouri. Situated within the Gateway Mall and surrounded by city streets and skyscrapers, these two urban blocks are an oasis for art, exploration, and play. Funded by a private foundation as a gift to the City, the garden realizes a long-term vision to revitalize downtown with an active public gathering space. Citygarden is free and open to the public, is not bound by perimeter fences or walls, has no gates, and contains no signs prohibiting the touching of sculpture. There are no handicap ramps. Every public place in the park is accessible by walks of less than 5% grade and lawns are reinforced for universal access. Since its opening in the summer of 2009, the garden has become a magnet for residents and tourists alike and has played a primary role in reinvigorating the City's center. The design weaves innovative stormwater management strategies with abstractions of local geology, hydrology, and plant communities to create a multi-faceted public space. The design of Citygarden derives from the cultural and natural histories of St. Louis and its environs. It is a site of excavation in search of local stories. A few blocks west of the Arch and the Mississippi River, Citygarden is structured as three precincts delineated by two walls – the arc wall and the meander wall. Plants are predominantly native to the region and emphasize seasonal variation. Twenty species of trees shade the garden in the hot summer months. Three fountains cool the senses and encourage play. Rain gardens and green roofs collect stormwater from two thirds of the site's surfaces.

Images (clockwise from top)**:**

A. Aerial view across the site. The primary entrance is in the foreground where the sculpture *Eros Bendato* (artist: Igor Mitoraj) is mounted on a 34-foot diameter tilted granite disk with a water scrim that sheets gently from its base. *Eros* has become a popular landmark for meeting people. The historic Civic Courts Building anchors the far end of the park.
B. Sustainable design strategy: porous pavement
C. Sustainable design strategy: steel grate over rain garden
D. Sustainable design strategy: green roofs
E. Plan for sustainable site design strategies

F. Six rain gardens cover over 5,000 square feet of area that collect and infiltrate stormwater from over two-thirds of the site. Rain gardens are planted with native grasses and wildflowers – in this case, with Swithchgrass (*Panicum*) and Bee Balm (*Monarda*).

8.

Pilgrimage for Henry Hudson **Woodstock, NY**

Todd Rader + Amy Crews Architecture and Landscape Architecture, LLC

This temporary installation commemorated the Quadracentennial of Henry Hudson's visit to the Hudson River in search of the Northwest Passage in 1609. It ranged over existing woodland requiring the viewer to make a physical, as well as a conceptual, journey of exploration that paralleled the historical events being commemorated. Each visitor was encouraged to draw their own conclusions from information meaningfully arranged in the landscape.

Modern pilgrims are invited to embark on their own search for the northern passage conveniently contained on the Byrdcliffe property. A walk through the woods leads to a series of shrines that celebrate the farthest landfall reached on each of Henry Hudson's four known voyages. Each shrine interrupts the search much as Hudson's quest was repeatedly interrupted by the unfortunate realities of geography. Compass headings lead to each successive shrine located at distances matching those Hudson traveled – scaled down to one foot for every fifty miles.

Shrines are constructed of plywood panels showing an image of the place and bearing inscriptions describing Hudson's journeys and contemplating the subsequent legacy of Hudson's "discoveries" as western culture has impacted each location over the last four centuries. The shrines also include relics from the actual places represented in hope that viewing pebbles from a remote Arctic beach might result in the achievement of a higher level of geographical enlightenment. An actual sample of each landscape allows us to look beyond our current digital age to contemplate an object that is genuine and that physically traveled the distance.

The final pilgrimage of Hudson's life was for something that did not exist and that he could never reach. The installation dramatizes these conclusions by recreating the physical experience of searching the landscape for something of dubious existence. Hopefully, we are rewarded by what we find along the way.

Images (top to bottom)**:**

A. A typical shrine displays an actual relic collected at the location. A drawing shows an image of the place. Text panels describe the place as it was viewed by Hudson and how it appears today. A map shows this leg of Hudson's journey and a small panel credits the relic's collector.
B. Modern pilgrims are invited to embark on their own search for the northern passage conveniently contained on the Byrdcliffe Arts Colony property. A walk through the woods leads to a series of shrines that celebrate the farthest landfall reached on each of Henry Hudson's four known voyages.
C. The Nova Zembla shrine was located 96 feet (4,800 miles) up the slope in a small clearing next to a fallen tree. The Nova Zembla relic was several pieces of simulated radioactive waste commemorating its role as the primary Soviet nuclear bomb test site from 1956 to 1990. A radioactive symbol suggests caution. The image depicts a walrus colony on the shoreline of the island.
D. The Pilgrimage Plan shows the route that pilgrims take as they search for the north passage to the Orient. The path parallel's Hudson's exploration at a scale of 1 foot equals 50 miles. Compass headings provided at each shrine are the only clue to the next location.
E. Sculpture: Spitbergen Shrine

9.

Medlock Ames Tasting Room and Alexander Valley Bar **Healdsburg, CA**

Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architecture

The client is an organic winemaker and farmer with a commitment to land stewardship and protection of biodiversity and native wildlife in a sustainable agricultural context. While their 375-acre property (75% oak woodlands and chapparal / 25% working farm and vineyard) is not open to the public, the client envisioned the adapted reuse of a 1920s-era gas station in nearby Healdsburg, California to serve as a tasting room and farm stand. The design of the associated landscape transforms the one-acre site, surrounded on two sides by vineyards, into a series of hospitable garden spaces that demonstrate the client's commitment to organic, sustainable farming as well as conservation and practices that consider the health of local ecologies. The design offers the immersive experience of an olive grove scaling the different garden spaces and framing views to vineyards beyond; an organic vegetable and herb garden parterre constructed of raised steel planters; native meadow; and a site drainage strategy that locates vegetated swales and a rain garden at the center of the experience. Flexible courtyard spaces paved with gravel and decomposed granite create an additional opportunity for rain that falls on the site to recharge the

groundwater. Repurposed wood from demolition of existing site structures was put to use in the design of a fence, benches, and other site features.

Images (counterclockwise from top)**:**

A. Axonometric plan of one-acre site.
B. View out from patio to courtyard and olive grove with rain garden and raised steel planters in foreground.
C. View to vineyard beyond from tasting room and patio framed by olive trees, bioswale, and rain garden.
D. Board-formed concrete seat walls edge the back of the main courtyard space. In the background, perimeter fence panels featuring repurposed wood with galvanized steel frame.

10.
The Farm at Cape Kidnappers **Hawke's Bay, New Zealand**
Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

The Farm at Cape Kidnappers is located at the internationally acclaimed golf course, Cape Kidnappers, in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. The program included a lodge with four guest rooms and dining facilities along with 13 individual buildings each comprised of two guest rooms. The project included preparation of a master plan and the design of specific site spaces that would help shape the marketing image. The site, set a half mile back from the coast, affords sweeping views of the picturesque 2,000-acre property. The architecture of the lodge is an abstraction of traditional agricultural buildings establishing the narrative that the lodge occupies a working farm. The assemblage of buildings recalls the regional cultural history as well as the grazing practices that continue on site.

The landscape architecture reinforces this narrative by creating spaces akin to working agricultural courtyards, incorporating planting strategies such as shelterbelts to protect outdoor living areas, and through the development of a series of details inspired by local materials. These include the rough stone retaining walls, the reinterpretation of a concrete watering trough as a fountain basin, and simple pipes used as fountain sources. The site topography was a major challenge, as there was little level ground and virtually no relief from constant and buffeting winds. The master plan nestled the buildings into the steep site by creating a series of long narrow terraced gardens and walks that would offer level ground for circulation, gardens and create landscape spaces for guests to explore and learn about the native flora. A palette of native coastal plants was selected at the start of the project to mitigate the steep slopes, provide a contextually appropriate plant community, and to encourage native wildlife. The designers went to great lengths to minimize the grading and disturbance of this fragile site. The result is a remarkable place that feels tied to the wildness and history of the locale, but offers small and graceful moments of rest and hospitality.

Images (counterclockwise from bottom right)**:**

A. Site plan for lodge and 13 guest cottages, and outdoor gardens.
B. Set ½-mile from the coastline, the Lodge commands sweeping views of the 2,000 acre property. The architecture of the lodge is an abstraction of traditional agricultural buildings establishing the narrative that the lodge occupies a working farm.
C. A palette of native coastal plants was selected at the start of the project to mitigate the steep slopes, provide a contextually appropriate plant community, and to encourage native wildlife. The designers went to great lengths to minimize the grading and disturbance of this fragile site.
D. Site furnishings and details were inspired by regional agricultural context.
E. The site topography was a major challenge. Buildings are nestled into the steep site by creating a series of long narrow terraced gardens and walks that provide level ground for circulation, gardens, and landscape spaces for guests to explore and learn about the native flora.

11.
Orongo Station Conservation Master Plan **Poverty Bay, New Zealand**
Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

The Orongo Station Conservation Master Plan for a 3,000-acre sheep farm in New Zealand establishes a vision for the extensive regeneration of a devastated ecology while expanding agricultural production and revealing a cultural landscape rich in history. Completed in collaboration with a team of public officials, private stakeholders and local experts, the project serves as an important model that can expand the current definitions of sustainability and Landscape Architecture. In 2003, Orongo Station was a typical sheep farm on the East Coast of New Zealand's North Island. Grazing sheep and livestock was tough due to the brutal salt spray and erosion on the exposed slopes. The Station's only notoriety came from the prominent cliffs on its northern peninsula – Te Kuri a Paoa, also called Young Nick's Head. This promontory is important to the history of New Zealand both as

the landing site of the Horouta Canoe, bringing Maori to the island, and as the first land spotted by Captain Cook's crew, the first whites to visit the island in 1769. The ecology of Orongo Station, like that of much of New Zealand, has been under assault ever since the arrival of mankind in the 13th century. Lush, temperate rainforest covered the North Island and teemed with a rich diversity of birds, amphibians, and invertebrates. Early Maori settlers cut much of the forest for fire, shelter, and agriculture. The later arrival of English colonists brought further destruction of the forests for lumber and grazing while introducing mice, cats, weasels, rabbits, and other alien mammals that quickly decimated native bird and amphibian populations. The master plan proposes major wetland and habitat restoration, reforestation of five miles of coastline, and design strategies that celebrate the rich cultural history of the landscape while maintaining a productive sheep farm.

Images (clockwise from top)**:**

A. The Master Plan for Orongo Station (which includes Maraetaha and Mapere Station) encompasses 3,000 acres and weaves together multiple ecological restoration strategies with a working sheep farm and a rich cultural landscape.
B. The redesign of the Maraetaha River floodplain included the design and placement of a bridge, layout of the farm road and work yards, and the establishment of the agricultural patterns. By collaborating with farmers, a relationship to the broader landscape was accomplished.
C. Completed road networks, shoreline reforestation, beach restoration, salt and freshwater wetlands, and re-fenced grazing paddock demonstrate the complete landscape vision for the Orongo Valley (image taken January 2011).
D. The planning of the wetland included careful arrangement and sizing of the islands to provide particular habitat for birds and amphibians. The steep banks help provide protection from predators during critical nesting periods.
E. A typical Orongo Station reforestation planting. Planters brave the steep slopes to drill, spot spray, and plant the reforestation-grade seedlings. Each stake represents a single plant that will quickly provide cover for the next stage of succession.

12.

Landscape for Living **Port Washington, NY**

terrain-nyc landscape architecture, PC

Landscape for Living is a project born from a two-year collaboration with an architecture firm specializing in modernist inspired homes. Understanding our client's desire for a real connection with a dynamic landscape, we were inspired to create a group of spaces that subtly communicate a unified living experience.

Our firms worked together from the conceptual stage – studying ways to transition between the indoors and outdoors by using related materials and forms to create flow. From the moment one arrives to the house, it is evident that there is a gentle unity between the landscape and the architecture.

The original 1950s ranch house was expanded by adding a glass pavilion for the daily living, cooking and dining activities. A series of terraces and gardens, a swimming pool, and outdoor living spaces were designed for the surrounding site.

The striped beds of native perennials, grasses and summer vegetables between the house and the pool forms a low, lush, and dynamic garden. This linear, textured garden frames the views towards the neighboring properties, adding a rich and layered landscape vista from the house. The transparency of the pavilion allows for a visual connection to the gardens on either side. A warm grey basalt stone was used for the interior floors and exterior paving, walls and curbs for continuity.

New trees and tall shrubs were added under the existing high canopy of mature Oaks and Maples. These include Magnolias, Dogwoods, Serviceberry's, and additional Maples. Plantings of shade-tolerant perennials and native ferns create dense carpets of dark green groundcovers that highlight the vertical landscape and add new collections of native plantings to the surrounding landscape.

Landscape for Living has provided the clients with an elegant realization of their desire for indoor/outdoor transitions in a simple flow without barriers or obstacles.

Images (top to bottom)**:**

A. Night view of glass pavilion
B. View looking northeast towards the perennial gardens, shade structure and glass pavilion
C. View looking south out of main living room towards dogwood grove
D. View looking north towards the dining room garden including service berry, evergreen groundcovers and native ferns

13.

Iron Mountain House **Northwestern Connecticut**

Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

Iron Mountain House is a contemporary residence on a dramatic hillside overlooking a 300-acre working farm in northwest Connecticut. The landscape design was developed at two scales: the residential and the greater landscape. At the residential scale a series of gardens interact with the volumes and contemporary gestures of the house while revealing the landscape beyond through framed views and constructed thresholds made of stone, board-formed concrete garden walls, and COR-TEN™ steel panels. The greater landscape scale seeks to connect the residence to its natural adjacencies of exposed stone ledge, forest edge, hillside meadows, and cultivated fields. A wildflower cutting garden and woodland cutting garden bring plants from the adjacent ecologies in to the courtyard spaces. A series of walks and trails were designed to connect various points of interest on the farm including a guest house, lake, stream, woodland lot, and remnant orchard. The garden rooms adjacent to the house include an herb and vegetable garden amphitheater with beds retained by COR-TEN™ steel, an overlook terrace, pool terrace, and the wildflower and woodland cutting gardens visible from many rooms in the house.

The plant palette is derived almost exclusively from a native palette of trees, shrubs, and grasses, many of which occur naturally adjacent to the residence. Two primary factors influenced the design and material selections. First, is the consideration that the client is an art collector (primarily of sculpture) with an interest in contemporary formal expression and materiality. Large Richard Serra COR-TEN™ steel sculptures are installed in fields elsewhere on the property. Secondly, the unique mineral composition of the stone ledge on what is known locally as Iron Mountain results in a remarkable range of warm tones.

Images (clockwise from top)**:**

A. Low, board-formed concrete wall engages directly with stone ledge and creates threshold between entry walk and vegetable garden.
B. Wildflower meadow hillside below house.
C. Detail of COR-TEN™ steel retaining panels and gravel paths at herb and vegetable garden amphitheater.
D. View of herb and vegetable garden amphitheater from above. Field stone retaining walls wrap around the house creating occupiable space.

14.

Sagaponack Residence **Sagaponack, NY**

LaGuardia Design, Landscapes Architects and Planners

Located on Long Island's East End, this property's twenty-seven acres marries open farmland and rolling sand dunes together into a refined minimalist environment with disciplined architectonic detailing. The project required that the owners relocate their award-winning house from the encroachment of the Atlantic Ocean while consecutively re-creating a new landscape of undulating sand dunes and grassy meadows. With the considerable fill needed to recreate the new coastal landscape, a plan was devised to sustainably mine the requisite fill from onsite, while creating a convoluted pond in the process. The design of the pond followed the "hidden shoreline" device, allowing only portions of the pond to be viewed from any given perspective. This technique helps to create an illusion, leaving the pond's true size unknown.

Closer to the house at the entry garden, a juxtaposing space highlights the effect of refinement as one enters the home. Here, a fescue meadow gives way to a rectangular mowed green, set squarely against the house and natural landscape. Complementary textures of native sedge and liriope line the axial walkway while a specimen native shadblow accents the space and softens the building scale. With the property's harmonious palette of indigenous plants and subtle gestures in grading, the project strives to demonstrate restrained minimalism, in tune with its natural surroundings.

Images (clockwise from top)**:**

A. Complementary textures of native sedge and liriope line the entry garden while juxtaposing a bent grass lawn panel. A specimen native shadblow accents the space and softens the building scale.
B. Relocated "Record House", nestled into a refined landscape of rolling fescue meadows and mowed paths.
C. Man-made pond showing "hidden shoreline", native plant thickets and emergent pond vegetation.
D. Excavation of the pond showing the irregular shape and volume of fill needed to recreate the dunes.

15.

Tidal Garden **Brooklyn, NY**

Joanna Pertz Landscape Architecture

This project approaches the challenges of a small urban garden with grace and innovation. How do you create the movement of an open natural landscape within the confines of a 25'x35' townhouse backyard? How do you create this with a minimum of plant material for ease of maintenance and still have the soft textures and fragrances of a secret garden? The Tidal Garden takes the paved ground, lifts and rolls it; increasing its surface and guiding the path of water from the fountain.

The requirements of the design were as follows: to maximize the area for children to play and the family to entertain, to keep maintenance requirements low, provide storage, rich fragrances and natural textures and transform what was a dank rear lot into an open, soothing space that would complement the new townhouse renovation.

The philosophy of the design held that static materials can create visual movement and that manipulating the ground plane changes the scale of a space. The design recalls a dry river bed that allows the addition of water at will from an in ground spigot. The spigot can provide either a trickle or a 15 foot high spray. The water can be dammed to create a pool. When bathing is complete, this water can be routed into a hose to water the garden.

Images (top to bottom)**:**

A. A mix of evergreen, deciduous and native ferns, tartiva hydrangea, hardy geranium and brunnera macrophylla, provide a soft lush zone the garden.
B. Nicholas watches as a yellow egg floats down a stream fed by a shooting water spray.
C. Hand laid stone pavers create a stream bed. A linear storage bench provides adjustable backrests. Excavated boulders gain a new life.
D. Custom stainless steel and mahogany swinging bench, designed by the landscape architect.

16.

Indian Wells **Long Island, NY**

Edmund D. Hollander Landscape Architect Design PC

Indian Wells is situated on the historic site of a turn-of-century tennis club on Long Island. The original clubhouse on the property was restored and reconfigured to serve as the main house. The clients requested a modern garden which uses today's environmental approach to site design while still respecting the vernacular beauty of the site's pastoral landscape.

The gardens and lawn surrounding the house are all carefully planned to concentrate plant material based on water requirements, limiting large areas of heavy irrigation. A special fescue sod blend was used due to its high disease tolerance and pest resistance, requiring up to 50% less water than traditional mown lawns. All gardens, including the vegetable, soft fruit and orchards are 100% organic, relying on the organic fertilizers and non-chemical pesticide and fungicide practice. Paved areas on site were limited to high traffic areas and were sand-set, allowing water to recharge the subsurface aquifer on contact as opposed to collection through traditional drainage systems. Geothermal wells were installed on site to provide heating and cooling for the structures and offset the energy demands of a traditional pool heater. Native paving and crushed stones were used on paved surfaces, both responding to the traditional materials associated with this property and providing local sources for hardscape materials.

Images (top to bottom)**:**

A. Apple trees provide fruit in early fall and were produced with no insecticides or other non-organic chemicals. Fescue turf below requires minimal irrigation and no pesticides.
B. The pool area is separated from the house by a natural swale along the north edge of the property. Geothermal wells are used to heat the pool and a salt chlorinator system is used to treat the pool, eliminating the harsh chemicals needed to maintain proper pH balance. The pool, a simple 20'x50' rectangle surrounded by an 18" wide bluestone coping is captured by a "terrace" of turf, allowing for chaise lounges while reducing the overall paved surface.
C. The service court entry is virtually diminished through the introduction of a gravel, grass strip drive. Dense border plantings of evergreen trees and flowering shrubs provide interest while still screening views of the parked cars from the house.

17.
Carnegie Hill House **New York, NY**
Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects

Carnegie Hill House is a contemporary Manhattan townhouse re-imagined as a nest: a respite for the owners raising young children and a habitat for migratory songbirds—the house wren, the black-capped chickadee, the prothonotary warbler—seeking sustenance and refuge in the urban environment. The resulting project is a slice of woodland within a dense urban grid, achieved through a series of intimate outdoor terraced living spaces unified by material, planting, scale and detail. The design builds on the assets of the existing confined terraces by defining occupiable spaces that expand the domestic realm through interior-exterior material and spatial reciprocity. The identities of the outdoor spaces are informed by their sectional relationship to the townhouse and to the urban environment. The planting plan reflects a range of microclimates, from a shaded ground floor terrace, a sheltered children's 'teaching' terrace on the middle floor, and two adjoining terraces on the top floors that are exposed to harsh sunlight and wind. The annual life cycles of the plants create a dynamic environment year-round, and introduce seasonally conditioned places of play and repose for both child and adult. Located two blocks from Central Park, the terraced gardens at Carnegie Hill House echo the ecological territory of the park and become a node within the urban ecological network of New York City.

Images (top to bottom)**:**

A. Native grasses planted at the street edge of the 7th floor terrace provide a translucent screen between the private terrace space and the urban environment beyond.
B. The first floor garden is experienced as a diptych composition framed by ginkgos. To the left, locust slabs lead to a nest-like reading nook. The stone pavers carry the interior flooring into the garden and lead to a re-circulating fountain.
C. The greenwall on the 6th floor was conceived as artwork. Bounded by a teak frame, lush plants thrive above the children's sandbox. Herbs and other edibles, such as strawberries, are planted just within the children's reach.
D. Native grasses, fragrant perennials, and a row of river birch trees provide a sense of enclosure at the uppermost terrace on the 7th floor. The paving pattern reflects the pattern of the roof tile on the adjacent church.

Project Gallery

18.
High Performance Landscape Guidelines: 21st Century Parks for NYC
Design Trust for Public Space and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

A project of the Design Trust for Public Space and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, *High Performance Landscape Guidelines: 21st Century Parks for NYC* is the first manual of its kind in the nation. Created in collaboration with the landscape architects and specialists of the Parks' Department and the experienced professionals of Parks' operations division, the manual is a comprehensive resource for the design and construction of sustainable parks and open space. The best practices outlined within will become the 21st century parks' standards—to be employed in every project—and will revolutionize how New York City's green spaces are designed, constructed, and maintained.

Because 14% of the land in New York City is city parkland, the environmental impact of even incremental changes in park construction materials and techniques will be enormous. Our 21st century parks must improve the ecological viability of our city while providing a better quality of urban life, to attract people to cities. In addition, they will ensure that NYC's parks clean our air, absorb storm water, reduce the urban heat island effect, provide habitat, and address the challenges of climate change. New York City's determination to make and carry out long-term plans like the ones outlined in the manual are the source of its vitality and because New York City's Parks system is so prominent nationally, these guidelines will become an inspiration for other cities around the country.

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