Landscape Design Series 10
American Garden Styles

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Historic Garden Styles in America

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Like Those Who Came Here, American Garden Styles Are Melting Pots of Ideas
With Time an American Style Evolved, Pioneered by Those Two Nation-builders - Thomas Jefferson at Monticello, and George Washington at Mount Vernon
Plantation Estates Ranged From Maryland to Georgia
America Joined the Mainstream of Western Garden Design in the Course of the Eighteenth Century and Was Fortunate That the Second President Had Even More Enthusiasm for Gardens Than the First President
Thomas Jefferson Was a Talented Designer. Work on His Estate, at Monticello (Charlottesville, Virginia), Began in 1768
While an Ambassador in Paris (1784-9), Jefferson Toured French and English Gardens. Work at Monticello Continued Until His Death in 1826, by Which Time It Had Become an Example of the Landscape Style
Monticello Was A House, A Farm And A Plantation
The Monticello Plantation Of 5,000 Acres, With Its Four Farms, Was A Center Of Agriculture And Industry, And Was Home Not Only To The Jefferson Family, But To Workers, Black And White, Enslaved And Free
On The Quarter Farms Of Shadwell, Tufton, And Lego -- As Well As The Home Farm On Monticello Mountain -- **130 Enslaved African Americans** Raised Crops, Tended Livestock, Made Nails And Barrels, Cloth And Carriages
They Helped To Build The House, Crafted Many Of Its Furnishings, And Cultivated The Gardens
Thomas Jefferson Wrote "The Greatest Service Which Can Be Rendered Any Country Is To Add A Useful Plant To Its Culture."
The Gardens At Monticello Were A Botanic Garden, An Experimental Laboratory Of Ornamental And Useful Plants From Around The World
At Monticello, Jefferson Cultivated More Than 250 Vegetable Varieties In His 1000-foot-long Garden Terrace And 170 Fruit Varieties In The Eight-acre Fruit Garden
He Designed Romantic Grottoes, Garden Temples, And Ornamental Groves, And Took Visitors On Rambling Surveys Of His Favorite "Pet Trees." Thomas Jefferson Was Crazy About Gardening
Thomas Jefferson Was An Astute Observer Of The Natural World. The Daily Activities Of Sowing Seeds, Manuring Asparagus, And Harvesting “Pease” Between 1809 And 1826 Are Precisely Recorded In His "Garden Kalendar," A Part Of His Famous Garden Book
Jefferson Was Often The Detached Scientist In The Kalendar As He Recorded That His Hotspur Peas Were "Killed By Frost Oct. 23," Or That His Yellow Squash "Came To Nothing" In 1809
He Could Also Record Remarkable Detail As In 1811 When He Noted Of His Asparagus Beans That "2/3 Pint Sow A Large Square, Rows 2 1/2 Feet Apart And 1 F. And 18 I. Apart In The Row, One Half At Each Distance."
For Jefferson, The Vegetable Garden Was A Kind Of Laboratory Where He Could Experiment With Imported Squashes And Broccoli From Italy, Beans And Salsify Collected By The Lewis And Clark Expedition, Figs From France, And Peppers From Mexico
Although He Would Grow As Many As Twenty Varieties Of Beans And Fifteen Types Of English Pea, His Use Of The Scientific Method Selectively Eliminated Inferior Types:
"I Am Curious To Select One Or Two Of The Best Species Or Variety Of Every Garden Vegetable, And To Reject All Others From The Garden To Avoid The Dangers Of Mixing Or Degeneracy."
Although The Garden Was Essentially A Functional Part Of The Plantation, Jefferson Occasionally Considered Other Ornamental Features Aside From The Garden Pavilion
He discussed planting an arbor of different flowering shades of the Scarlet Runner Bean, arranged adjacent rows of purple, white, and green sprouting broccoli, or even white and purple eggplant.
He Bordered His Tomato Square With Sesame Or Okra, A Rather Unusual Juxtaposition Of Plant Textures. Cherry Trees Were Also Planted Along The "Long, Grass Walk" Of The Garden To Provide Shade
"I Have Lived Temperately, Eating Little Animal Food, And That . . . As A Condiment For The Vegetables, Which Constitute My Principal Diet."
Salads Were Important In Jefferson's Diet. He Would Plant Lettuce And Radishes Biweekly Through The Growing Season And Grow Greens Such As Orach, Corn Salad, Endive, And Nasturtiums And Plant Sesame In Order To Make Salad Oil
Although The English Pea Is Considered His Favorite Vegetable, He Also Cherished Figs, Asparagus, French Artichokes, And Such "New" Vegetables As Tomatoes, Eggplant, Broccoli And Cauliflower
Jefferson Cultivated More Common Vegetables Such As Cucumbers, Beans (Both "Snaps" For Fresh Use And "Haricots" That Were Dried) And Cabbages
He Also Prized His Sea Kale (*Crambe Maritima*), A Perennial Cabbage-like Vegetable Whose Spring Sprouts Were Blanched With Clay Pots, Then Cut And Prepared Like Asparagus
Mount Vernon Was The Seat Of General Washington, "First In Peace, First In War, And First In The Hearts Of His Countrymen."
This Noble Residence Is Situated On The Banks Of The Potomac; A Magnificent River, Which At The City Of Washington "Makes A Beautiful Sweep, And Forms A Sort Of Bay, Round Which The City Is Built"
Mount Vernon Was Home To George Washington For More Than 45 Years. Here He Lived With His Wife Martha, Returned From War, Retired From Public Life, Practiced Pioneering Farming Methods, And Left An Indelible Stamp Of His Tastes
The Estate, Then Known As Little Hunting Creek Plantation, Was Originally Granted To Washington's Great Grandfather John Washington In 1674
It Eventually Passed To Washington's Older Half-brother, Lawrence, Who Renamed The Property, Mount Vernon, After His Commanding Officer, Admiral Edward Vernon Of The British Navy
George Washington Inherited The Property Upon The Death Of His Brother Lawrence's Widow In 1761. He Enlarged The Mansion And Built Up The Property From 2,000 To 8,000 Acres On Five Working Farms
He Designed Outbuildings And Created A Landscape That Reflects Creativity, Beauty And Functionality
The Long Process Of Enlarging And Improving The House Began In The Years Before His Marriage, When Washington Raised The Mansion From One And A Half Stories To Two And A Half Stories And Extensively Redecorated The Interior
In 1759, He Married A Young Widow, Martha Dandridge Custis, Who Came To Live At Mount Vernon With Her Two Small Children
Washington Also Rebuilt The Outbuildings, Lanes And Gardens In An Effort To Create The Seat Of A Country Gentleman
The Grounds Around The Mansion Reflect Both His Practical And Aesthetic Sides. From The North To The South Are Situated The Dependencies Where The Work Of The Plantation Took Place
Along The East-west Axis Are The Gardens And Pleasure Grounds Where Washington, His Family, And Guests Enjoyed Leisurely Strolls Along The Serpentine Walkways, Formal Gardens And Hanging Woods
The Work Area, Although Located Almost Adjacent To The Home, Was Designed So As Not To Intrude Upon The Scenic Beauty Of Sweeping Lawns
George Washington Was Also A "First Farmer" Of America. As A Leader In New Agricultural Practices, He Was One Of The First Farmers To: Develop A System Of Selective Breeding To Raise Stronger Livestock
Make Use Of An Extended 7-year Crop Rotation System To Preserve His Fields

Recognize The Need To Replenish Soil Rather Than Move And Clear New Lands

Use Livestock To Manure Fields
Resolve To Make America A "Granary" To The World By Emphasizing The Production Of Wheat And Other Grains Rather Than Tobacco

Stress The Use Of Fencing To Keep Animals Both On And Off Fields
Believe In The Conservation Of Trees For Wood
Build A Dung Repository In America
Design And Build The First 16-sided Treading Barn In America
The Estate Was, As Nearly As Possible, A Self-contained Community; Nothing Was Purchased That Could Be Produced On The Estate
The Vanderbilt’s And Their Homes
The Vanderbilts Were One Of The Oldest And Best-known Families In America. Jan Aertsen Van Der Bilt Emigrated From Holland Around 1650. His Descendants Prospered As Farmers On Staten Island, New York,
Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877), Known As The "Commodore," Made The Family Name Synonymous With Extraordinary Wealth
As Patriarch To A Sizable Family-including Sophia His Wife Of 53 Years, 13 Children, 37 Grandchildren, And 27 Great-grandchildren-Cornelius Established The Vanderbilt Custom Of Luxurious Residences
He Also Began The Tradition Of Philanthropy, Contributing $1 Million In 1873 To Central University, A Methodist School In Nashville; It Was Later Renamed Vanderbilt University
He Left Most Of His $100 Million Estate To His Eldest Son, William Henry (1821-85) Who Took Over The Empire And Doubled Its Assets
He, Too, Was Generous Toward Worthy Causes, Funding The Metropolitan Opera In 1883 And Endowing The College Of Physicians And Surgeons, Now The Medical School Of Columbia University
He Was An Astute Collector, Assembling More Than 200 Paintings. These Were Displayed In The 59-room Mansion He Built In 1881 At 640 Fifth Avenue—the Largest And Most Splendid House In Manhattan
Only One Child Was Still Living At Home When The House Was Completed—the Youngest, George Washington Vanderbilt, Born In 1862
He was a quiet intellectual who was influenced by his mother's cultural interests. He started his own art and books collection at an early age and inherited the house and contents after his mother's death.
Unlike the rest of his family, George was not attracted to commerce and fashionable society. He preferred learning and travel, visiting Europe at age 10 and journeying yearly to Europe, Asia, or Africa throughout his adult life.
While Traveling In The Mountains Of North Carolina He Glimpsed The Site For His Future Country Home Nestled In The Hills Of North Carolina.
Biltmore Estate Dominates The Landscape As The Largest Private Residence In America And The Legacy Of George Vanderbilt, Grandson Of The Railroad Magnate
When George Washington Vanderbilt Opened Biltmore Estate On Christmas Eve 1895, His Holiday Celebration Marked The Formal Opening Of The Most Ambitious Home Ever Conceived In America
For Six Years An Army Of Artisans Labored On A Country Estate That Would Rival The Great Manors Of Europe And Embody The Finest In Architecture, Landscape Planning, And Interior Design
Boasting 4 Acres Of Floor Space, The 250-room Mansion Featured 34 Master Bedrooms, 43 Bathrooms, 65 Fireplaces, 3 Kitchens, And An Indoor Swimming Pool
Priceless Art Works And Furnishings Adorned Its Interiors. The Surrounding Grounds Were Equally Impressive, Encompassing 125,000 Acres Of Forest, Park, And Gardens
Notwithstanding Its Grandeur, Biltmore Estate Was Very Much A Home. It Was Here That George Pursued His Interests In Art, Literature, And Horticulture, And Also Started A Family
He Married American Socialite Edith Stuyvesant Dresser (1873-1958) In June 1898 In Paris And The Couple Came To Live At The Estate That Fall After Honeymooning In Europe.
Their Only Child, Cornelia (1900-1976) Was Born And Grew Up At Biltmore
Vanderbilt's Vision Was To Build A Self-sufficient Estate That Could Support The Immense Costs Of Running Itself, And He Succeeded Until His Death
After His Death And The Introduction Of The Income Tax, Biltmore Fell Into Disrepair And Vanderbilt's Widow Found It Increasingly More Difficult To Maintain The Estate
That Would Change As Vanderbilt's Grandson Reached Manhood And Took Over The Estate
He Opened The Estate To The Public For Tours And It Is Now Self-sufficient
Frederick Law Olmsted, Guided No Doubt By The Architect With Whom He Was Collaborating, Looked To France When Designing An Estate For George W Vanderbilt
Biltmore Has Geometrical Terraces Near The Mansion And A Vast Landscape Park As Its Setting. The French Renaissance Palace At Blois Was The Model For Richard Morris Hunt's Architecture
The Detailed Area Around The House Is Not Convincingly "French" Perhaps Historical Imitation Bothered Olmsted
Vanderbilt Hired Frederick Law Olmsted To Handle The Gardens & Grounds Of The Magnificent Estate. On Olmstead's Recommendation That The Estate Needed A "Forest Manager" , Gifford Pinchot Was Hired To Restore The Forest
In 1895, German Forester Dr. Carl A. Schenck Succeeded Pinchot As Manager Of His Vast Forest And Spent The Next 14 Years Transforming These Woodlands That Today Are Pisgah National Forest
The Breakers Newport RI
Mills Mansion NY
Shelburne Farms
Shelburne Farms
The du Ponts
Located Along The Brandywine River On The Site Of The First Du Pont Powder Works, Hagley Provides A Unique Glimpse Into American Life At Home And At Work In The Nineteenth Century
Set Amid More Than 230 Acres Of Trees And Flowering Shrubs, Hagley Offers A Diversity Of Restorations, Exhibits, And Live Demonstrations For Visitors Of All Ages
It include the first Du Pont Family Home and Garden in America, the Blacksmith Hill Workers' Community, the Powder Yards, and a nineteenth-century Machine Shop.
The First Du Pont Family Home, Eleutherian Mills, Was Built By E. I. Du Pont In 1803. It Affords A Commanding View Of The Brandywine River, With A Dam Which Fed Water To The Original Millrace
Adjoining Eleutherian Mills Is A Restored French-style Garden Created By E. I. Dumont, An Avid Botanist
Nemours, The 300-acre Country Estate Of Industrialist And Philanthropist Alfred I. Dumont, Is Located On The Grounds Of The Renowned Alfred I. Dumont Hospital For Children In Wilmington, Delaware
It is named from the town in France of Mr. DuPont's great-great-grandfather, Pierre Samuel DuPont De Nemours, a member of the French Estates General in 1789.
The Mansion Was Built From 1909 To 1910 And Is A Fine Example Of A French Chateau In The Style Of Louis XVI'\textsuperscript{th}
Containing 102 Rooms, The Estate Looms Over The Surrounding Formal Gardens And Is Furnished With Antiques, Works Of Art, Tapestries, And Other Treasures
The Grounds Surrounding The Mansion Extend For One Third Of A Mile Along The Main Vista From The House, And Are Among The Finest Examples Of French-style Gardens In The United States
Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania
Exquisite Flowers, Majestic Trees, Dazzling Fountains, Opulent Conservatory, Starlit Theatre, Thunderous Organ-all Describe The Magic Of Longwood Gardens, A Horticultural Showstopper
Pierre Du Pont Was The Great-grandson Of Eleuthère Irénée Du Pont (1771-1834), Who Arrived From France In 1800 And Founded The Dumont Chemical Company
In 1946, The Gardens Were Turned Over To A Foundation Set Up By Mr. Du Pont, And After His Death In 1954 Longwood's First Director Was Hired.
He Followed No Grand Plan; Rather, He Built The Gardens Piecemeal As The Mood Touched Him, Beginning With The 600-foot-long Flower Garden Walk In 1907
His Later Gardens Would Draw Heavily On Italian And French Forms, This Early Effort Reflected An "Old-fashioned" Influence, With Nostalgic Cottage-garden Flowers, Exuberant Shrubs, Rose-laden Trellises, And Even A Shiny Gazing Ball
The Scale Was Grand,
The Accessories Quaint
Longwood Was Different From Other Country Places Like Biltmore Or The Newport Mansions Or Neighboring Du Pont Places. Pierre Du Pont Was A Shy, Unassuming Scion Who Did Not Flaunt His Living Quarters
On The Other Hand, In The Public Areas Of The Garden He Went All Out With An Unforgettable Theatricality
Mr. Du Pont Devised A Permanent World's Fair Of Plants Enriched By Engineering And Technology For The Enjoyment Of Family, Friends, And Public
The Fountain Completion In The Mid 1930s Marked An End To Major Construction During Mr. Du Pont's Lifetime Except For A 30 By 36-foot Oval Sundial In What Is Now The Topiary Garden In The Late 1930's
Winterthur
Formerly The Estate Of Henry Francis Du Pont, A Du Pont Family Heir And Outstanding American Collector And Horticulturist
Winterthur Is Home To An Unrivalled Collection Of American Furniture And Decorative Arts From The Period 1640 To 1860
Special Exhibits And Guided Tours Of The Museum's More Than 200 Period Rooms And Exhibit Spaces Enhance The Visitor's Experience
Set Amid 963 Acres Of Rolling Meadows And Woodlands, Winterthur Also Boasts One Of America's Finest Naturalistic Gardens
Its Displays Ranging From Magnificent Specimen Plantings To Massed Displays Of Colorful Azaleas In Season
It is the American social ideal that each family should have an independent home; that this home should consist of:

- A detached house in a plot of ground
- The plot should be planted with trees, shrubs, flowers and grass
This Was the Ideal From the Days of the First Settlements, and It Is Even Now the American Style
American Landscape Gardening Is Primarily Devoted to the Home-grounds and the Design and Planting of Back Yards