Villa Montalvo and Little Brook Farm: Early and Late Italianate Style in the Santa Clara Valley

Phoebe Cutler

(Ed. note: This article is based on the lecture given by Phoebe Cutler at our 2006 annual conference at Saratoga.)

The formal, or architectural, garden in the United States is of Italian origin. Very few are one hundred percent Italian. Usually there is a French or British admixture, but even that eventually traces back to Italy. In this country the Italian garden can be divided into an early style and a late one. The early one draws heavily from first century C.E., or ancient Rome. It begins about 1890 or 1900 in California, and runs to about 1915. The second style draws largely from the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Renaissance and early Baroque villas located in the hills around Rome. We shall use Montalvo and Little Brook Farm, two important early 20th-century gardens located in Saratoga/Los Gatos, to illustrate the two Italianate styles.

James Duvall Phelan (1861–1930), patron of the arts, three-term mayor of San Francisco and California’s first publicly elected senator (1914–1920), began planning for his Italianate summer home in the hills outside San Jose in 1911. A hastily-drawn sketch of the grounds of Montalvo dating from between 1917, when the stable was...
Fig. 2. Sketch of the layout of Montalvo, c. 1917-1930.
(James D. Phelan Papers, 1855-1941, BANC MSS C-B 880, Carton 18. Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley).
Villa Montalvo (continued)

built, and 1930, the year Phelan died, is the most accessible record of the components of the estate (Fig. 2). Sketched on the back of a membership list of the Edwin Markham Society (a chapter of the Poetry Society of London, founded by the English Club at San José Teacher’s College, now San José State University), it would have been drawn up in anticipation of a visit to Montalvo by the group, which held its first and second annual meetings at Montalvo in the 1920s; they were just one of many such organizations to enjoy the hospitality of the estate. The sketch at left shows the centrality of the house and its pool to a spreading landscape of woodland trails and orchards on two sides, a formal lawn leading to a flower garden and temple on another, and a deer paddock with belvedere on the fourth (Fig. 2).

Situated immediately behind the villa, the swimming pool was Montalvo’s most flamboyant feature. The pool itself no longer exists, but its defining enclosure is still there, extending outward from the southwest side of the house (Fig. 3). At the center of the colonnade, in front of the tiled-roof casino which faces the house, stood a mythological figure, a bronze dancing faun. Flanking it were two herms (or termes), ancient boundary markers comprised of abstract heads on tapered bases. Phelan and his architects, William and Alexander Curlett (and later, Charles E. Gottschalk) reached back past the late Renaissance, early Baroque century, for their inspiration. The peripheral colonnade recalls the standard ancient Roman atrium exemplified by the Casa del Centenario, one of the most famous Pompeian houses of the first century, depicted here by a period postcard belonging to a standard travel album of about 1910 (Fig. 4).

Images of the partial reconstruction of the House of the Vetii, an even more celebrated Pompeian ruin, were also ubiquitous during this time. That atrium included the popular hermes-type sculpture that

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**Fig. 3.** Pool at Montalvo, photographed from the back of the house. Later photos show vines growing atop the colonnade. Note also the sparse growth on the hillside behind the pool at this time. The fountain and memorial to Garcia Ordóñez de Montalvo are in the foreground. (Porter Garnett, Stately Homes of California, 1915.)

**Fig. 4.** Pompeii: Casa del Centenario. (Postcard album of Susan Margaret Stackpole, Boston, MA, c. 1910. Author’s collection.)
Villa Montalvo (continued)

inspired Phelan and other U.S. villa builders.

Pompeii had an enormous, and not sufficiently appreciated influence, on architecture and gardens of the turn of the last century. Phelan, with the rest of the literate population, would have been stirred by a turn of the century surge of excavations and an ensuing run of exciting discoveries, such as the 1894 uncovering of the House of the Vestals. We know from his travel diary that, while in Naples right before he built Montalvo, Phelan bought two Pompeian pictures, one of which was a house.

The better educated American at this time was steeped in the classics. Phelan himself gave as the commencement speech for his graduation in 1881 from the University of San Francisco an address entitled "The Utility of Classical Study." Two Berkeley houses support the notion that the educated elite sought to dress itself in togas. Pergolas galore and huge Roman vases adorned the Berkeley estate of the Harts, a rich and cultivated Jewish family. Some garden elements and the chauffeur’s house on the right still survive from their massive residence on Alvarado Road behind the Claremont Hotel (Fig. 5). Nearby the developer and conservationist Duncan McDuffie—along with Hart, a U.C. Berkeley graduate—adopted the Pompeian look for his 1914 pool, which was lined with Roman columns.

This, in fact, was one of Phelan’s grandest philanthropic gestures; in 1904, he headed a committee of civic-minded individuals who contracted with Burnham—who between 1896 and 1904, made plans for the cities of Chicago, Washington D.C., Cleveland and Manila—to do a general scheme for San Francisco. Burnham completed the plan early in 1906, just prior to the San Francisco earthquake, but it was deemed impractical.

In creating Montalvo Phelan was imagining himself as a latter-day Cicero, who, in the manner of that Roman statesman, retreats to his villa to cultivate the arts, pursue leisure activities, and oversee his orchard. The California senator’s ideal of the ancient Roman villa life was a purist’s version of a concurrent and almost universal obsession with antiquity and the Renaissance. Phelan would very likely have had in his library a copy.
of Elizabeth Champney's *Romance of the Roman Villas* (New York and London, 1906), one of a series by the same author of today unreadable but at that time highly popular, tales about assorted villas. Between 1897 and 1930 American authors produced over ten books wholly devoted to the subject of the traditional Italian villa. Even more widely circulated were eleven British publications, three of which were large folio productions. All in all some 50 books internationally documented the all-important Italian garden.

A turn of the century increase in travel augmented this fascination. Phelan documented his frequent forays abroad in diaries and photographs. Three photos dating from 1910 show him and his party in Tivoli, at Hadrian's Villa and at the town’s famous waterfalls. (Fig. C on outside cover.) According to his own self-published *Travel and Comment* (San Francisco, 1923), Rome was Phelan’s favorite city and, within it, the Borghese Gardens one of his preferred venues.

Phelan would have jostled for room on one of the two afternoons a week the Borghese's extensive avenues were open to the public for strolling and carriage-driving. At the end of one of those drives stood the celebrated Temple of Diana, a structure much copied by American garden owners and designers. Phelan used it as a model for the *tempietto* known at Villa Montalvo as the “Belvedere,” which stood on the brow of a hill next to his deer paddock (Figs. 7, 8).

(Continued on page 6.)
Another classical feature of the estate was the “Gazebo” (also called the “Temple” on old plans and the “Love Temple” on newer ones). A rectangular, columned shelter, it terminated one of the two cross-axes of the flower garden at the foot of the sloping lawn on the northeast side of the house. Running through luxuriant beds of pink geraniums, the principal axis recreated on a smaller scale the allées Phelan would have experienced at such Renaissance, or neo-classical, sites as the largely eighteenth-century grounds of the Villa Borghese. The Montalvo Gazebo sheltered the Three Graces, one of the Senator’s numerous antique or antique-reproduction sculptures, and provided one of several alternative spots for entertaining on the estate (Fig. 9, 10).

Along with dining al fresco, outdoor theatricals were a popular form of entertainment in the first few decades of the twentieth century. The small, pie-shaped theatre at Max Cohn’s estate Little Brook Farm, on the Saratoga/Los Gatos border, invokes a Renaissance rather than an ancient Roman archetype (Figs. 11, 12).

Extending out on the southwest from the pool and its colonnade, the outdoor
Villa Montalvo (continued)

Theater at Montalvo is a grassy slope, an informal and uncomfortable arrangement, the precedent for which Phelan would have picked up from his reading and travels (Figs. 13, 14). When he was in Tivoli, visiting Hadrian's Villa, he would have admired the Greek Theater, the ruins of which would have misleadingly conveyed the idea that ancient audiences sat on grass slopes, the seats having long since disappeared.

With the help of landscape architect Emerson Knight, Max Cohn, a San Francisco industrialist, in 1924 created an intimate woodland space that was less a performance site and more a decorative feature. With its (in the photo) still incipient myrtus border and stone-edged stage, it was in the Renaissance garden theater tradition most famously represented by that of the Villa Gori outside Siena. If illustrated by a graph, the line tracking the Italianate garden in the decade that separated Phelan from Cohn would have risen sharply from first-century imperial Rome towards seventeenth-century Toscana and Lazio.

The Italianate features of the Cohn estate (best known for Kotani-en, a later Japanese-style creation situated alongside and within the creek bed that runs through the property) today are located on two of the more than ten sub-divisions formed from the original 20-acre estate. The chief Italian Renaissance feature was the approach stair leading to the original house.

(Continued on page 8.)
Emerson Knight was no stranger to allées. Before beginning his career as a landscape architect, Knight had taken a six-month walking tour of several European countries, including Italy. He had practiced under Mark Daniels and would have seen examples of his work in laying out San Francisco’s Forest Hills subdivision. West of Twin Peaks, Forest Hills is a modest version of the nearby Olmsted-planned St. Francis Wood. From Daniels, Knight would have absorbed the dramatic use of Renaissance perspective, as seen by the monumental stair that, starting from a commanding bowl at one end, marches up Forest Hill to the ascending rows of residences (Fig. 15).

From the approach road the long allée at Little Brook Farm climbs up from a circular stone balcony to a flat, balustraded one in the manner of such seventeenth-century prototypes as the Villa Torlonia in Frascati (Figs. 16, 17). Instead of twin stairs and a roaring chain of water, a single dry stair suffices at Los Gatos. Nor does a lion’s head greet you at the top, but the steep passage from lower terrace to upper one mocks the Baroque drama of entry.

Phelan and his designers used vertical perspective, but in a limited way and principally in the formal flower garden. Montalvo was in the main a meditation on antiquity, embodied by disparate points of interest: pool, theater, belevedere, and not illustrated here, an Egyptian
Villa Montalvo (continued)

obelisk with flanking Roman seats. The long, concentrated stairway at Little Brook Farm signaled a change of taste and emphasis. Between 1915 and 1920 a leap occurs from Early to Late Italianate. Interest switches from imperial sites such as Hadrian's Villa and from antique curios such as the Borghese Temple of Diana to more purely Renaissance and Baroque fabrications such as the Villa Gori and the Villa Torlonia.

![Image](Fig. 15. Forest Hill, San Francisco, 2006. (Author's photograph.)

![Image](Fig. 16. Little Brook Farm stairway. (Architect & Engineer, July 1922.)

![Image](Fig. 17. Villa Torlonia, Frascati. (Charles Latham & Evelyn March Phillips. The Gardens of Italy, rev. ed., 1919.)

Californians, in common with the rest of the nation, began to favor stone water ramps over pseudo-marble colonnades, rustic dolphins over gleaming Minervas, and pebble paths over mosaic ones.

The feel was more relaxed, less monumental; but the legacy of Italy still dominated.
2009 Annual Meeting Minutes

Our 2009 Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, 25 October at the San Francisco offices of Suzman & Cole Design Associates, Landscape Architecture.

President Tom Brown reported on actions taken by the CGLHS Board at their meeting on 23 October.

- Judy Horton discussed methods for increasing our membership, which always has fluctuated between 150-200 members. Marlea Graham reported that copies of Eden were included in 120 conference packets and may bring in some new members.

- The Communications Committee is now headed by Kelly Comras, Ann Scheid having resigned from that position. Since Susan Chamberlin and Tom Buhl have indicated they also wish to resign their respective positions as website chair and web master once some new additions to the site are completed, committee members discussed finding replacements for those jobs. One of the proposed additions will be a page for current events, which will no longer be posted in Eden. Still under consideration is a move to put back numbers of Eden on the website and make this section accessible to members only, as is converting Eden to electronic (.pdf) format to reduce expenses (and save trees).

- The Conference Committee, chaired by Judy Horton, came up with several new ideas for future conference themes and locations. For 2010, they chose the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum to honor our founder, Bill Grant and draw attention to the Arboretum's funding problems. Marlea Graham agreed to convene the conference. Tom reported that he has sent an official letter of support from CGLHS regarding the Arboretum.

- A report was given on the status of current Historic American Landscape Survey projects in NorCal. Read more about one of these on page 13 in this issue.

- As was reported in our last issue, after twelve years as editor, Marlea Graham submitted her resignation in January 2009, effective 31 December 2009 to give the board time to find a replacement. None could be found who would do the job on a volunteer basis; therefore the Board voted that the new editor would receive some compensation. Because our bylaws bar board members from receiving compensation, a proposal was made and passed to amend the bylaws and remove the editor as a board member.

- The Board voted to adopt some slight changes in the wording of our mission and purpose statement as presented in our bylaws and on the inside back page of Eden, which see. They also resolved, in the wake of the Jesuita fire that came so close to destroying the Blaksley Library at Santa Barbara last spring, to find a second repository in Northern California, to hold duplicates of the CGLHS archival records.

- Tom Brown presented Marlea Graham with the gift of a framed flower print and announced the Board's decision to make her an honorary life member of CGLHS.

He also introduced Carrie McDade as her replacement, but after beginning her new job with the UC Berkeley Environmental Design Archives, Carrie tendered her resignation as editor, realizing that she would not have the time to handle both jobs after all. Barbara Marinacci of Pacific Palisades has now agreed to take the position provisionally, in 2010. Barbara is a highly qualified editor with professional experience, also an author and co-author of several books. Now retired, she is currently editor for a local garden club publication.

- CGLHS member Sandra Price received an interim appointment to the Board as a Member at Large, through 2010. Sandra was the convenor for our 2005 conference in St. Helena where she resides. She has a BA in Art and is currently working on her MA in Landscape History at Sonoma State through their Interdisciplinary Studies program. Her thesis is on the loss of agricultural diversity in the Napa Valley. Sandra has designed and consulted on historic gardens in the Napa Valley and in Italy. She has also led historic garden tours in France and Italy.

The next Board meeting will be held on 26 February at the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Any member wishing to attend should contact the convenor, Judy Horton.

Tel: 323.462.1413. Email: jhorton@jmhedesign.com. There will be a tour of the more historic portions of the property following the meeting.
Members in the News

Waverly Lowell and Carrie McDade are helping to set up a new exhibition at the CED Library, Wurster Hall, UCB, titled “Stock Options: Houses for Everyone,” featuring historic house pattern books and stock plan catalogues. It covers their precedents, origins, and influence beyond California. The exhibition will run from 20 January - 20 April, 2010. Details are available on the website, www.ced.berkeley.edu/archives/.

In January 2010, Bill Grant was named a ‘Friend of the Rose’ in recognition of his dedication to the Great Rosarians of the World program at the Huntington. Thea Gurns accepted the plaque on his behalf. Bill has written a very interesting book review of The Brother Gardeners: Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession (2009) for the most recent edition of Pacific Horticulture. The book deals with Philadelphia botanist John Bartram and his connections to four influential botanical contemporaries in Europe: British botanists Joseph Banks, Peter Collinson and Philip Miller; and Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus.

You should also see Phoebe Gilpin’s article on “Driving Miss Worn, and More” in the fall issue. If you’re not a subscriber, you may order back issues by calling their Berkeley office at 510.849.1627 or office@pacifichorticulture.org.

Katherine Greenberg, past president of the Pacific Hort Foundation, will be leading tours to see gardens in Cuba (18 February - 2 March, 2010) and Portugal (6 - 17 June, 2010). For contact information, see the advertisements in Pacific Horticulture or visit their website, www.pacifichorticulture.org.

You may wish to join CGLHS President and garden historian Tom Brown and artist Lisa Guthrie exploring and sketching in the greatest gardens of Umbria and Lazio on June 9-23, 2010. From a base at La Romita School of Art, housed in a 16th century monastery overlooking Terni in Umbria, they plan to visit Orvieto, Spoleto, Assisi, Frascati, Tivoli and some of the smaller hill towns. “Sketching forces one to slow down and really look at the subject. It is a way of focusing the attention and training ourselves to look at essentials of mass and form at one extreme, and the fantastic wealth of inventive detail at the other... we will visit only two or three sites per day, taking the time to absorb their ambience.” For details about the school, visit www.laromita.org. For more information about the trip write to lisaguth1@comcast.net or 40 Barbaree Way, Tiburon, CA 94920. Space is limited.

CGLHS member and Pacific Horticulture editor Dick Turner is leading a tour of the gardens of Victoria, BC for three days in July 2010. For details, see the contact information in the column at left.

In Memorium:

Lawrence Halprin (1916 - 2009). As we sat in the theater at Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley on Saturday for the lecture portion of our October conference, we learned that Lawrence Halprin was dying. The dynamic landscape architect who designed such California landmarks as San Francisco’s Ghirardelli Square and Sonoma County’s Sea Ranch, passed away on Sunday, October 25th at the age of 93. “He was the single most influential landscape architect of the postwar years,” said Charles Birnbaum, president of The Cultural Landscape Foundation. “He redefined the profession’s role in cities.”

Ann Scheid is to be honored by the Blinn House Foundation at their annual fund-raiser party on May 1st. Ann will be the seventh to receive the Dr. Robert Winter Award for her preservation work in Pasadena. She began her preservation career as a volunteer for the City’s survey of historic neighborhoods, and later staffed the Cultural Heritage and Design Commissions. Ann has written several books on Pasadena history and numerous articles on architecture, gardens and city planning in southern California. She is presently the Greene & Greene archivist for Gamble House, USC. Tickets to the party are $125; $75 is tax deductible and will go to restoration and maintenance. Contact Blinn House, 160 North Oakland Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101. Tel: 626.796.0560.
Preservation Issues

Santa Cruz

The recent issue of Pacific Horticulture makes the point that the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum is "still open, still vital." At the same time they noted that "Budget cuts and financial shortfalls have, indeed, affected the garden and resulted in the layoffs of the executive director, development director, assistant nursery manager, and plant recorder, in addition to two part-time staff. The curator of South African plants retired in July and there are no plans to refill that position. Staff numbers have dropped from sixteen to nine—back to a staffing situation similar to eleven years ago."

A letter dated 29 September 2009 and addressed to the UCSC community by Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs Allison Galloway stated that the Arboretum has been operating at a deficit for the last ten years and now owes a cumulative debt of $1.8 million. "In closing, while I can say with confidence that the campus is absolutely committed to keeping the Arboretum open, I believe it will remain open only if we can put in place an operation at the facility that is truly sustainable."

In the meantime, CGLHS member Helena Babb wrote to advise us that five Bay Area Garden Club of America member clubs (including the Carmel branch) are working to raise money to keep the Arboretum going. "I am on the 'civic interest' committee of the Woodland-Atherton Garden Club and mentioned what you had written me at our meeting last October. All five clubs are now more than willing to try to raise funds."

The CGLHS board has determined to hold our 2010 Annual Conference at the Arboretum as a means of drawing attention to its plight and the importance of its collections. See "Save the Date" in this issue, page 17, for details.

Santa Barbara

Historic landscapes have been taking a beating in Santa Barbara recently. The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was chosen by The Cultural Landscape Foundation for inclusion on their 2009 Landslide List. The (albeit temporary) presence of the wholly inappropriate artist's rustic wooden structure and a swath of green lawn intruding upon what was historically designed to be an open, native wildflower meadow is the reason. Meanwhile, the Garden's Vital Mission Plan, as approved by the County Planning Commission, has been appealed to the Board of Supervisors by three separate groups, the Friends of Mission Canyon, the Mission Canyon Association, and the Chumash. Kellam de Forest advises that "Preservation of the landmarked portion of the Garden is not the principal concern of any of these appellants." The appeal to the County Planning Commission's decision will come before the Board of Supervisors no earlier than March, 2010. Letters (pro and con) continue to appear in the local News-Press. Three former garden volunteers provided some alarming facts. The Garden's cash and investment assets declined between 2004-09 from $21 million to $8 million, yet the CEO's salary and benefits increased near 40 percent, to $214,724 in 2007. Bylaws that previously called for a total of fifteen trustees have been changed to ten. Five trustees is the new quorum limit, whereby only three now constitute a majority on any garden matter requiring a vote. A new provision has been added to allow removal of any dissident trustee without or with cause. The CEO's performance evaluation and compensation are now determined by only two trustees. The writers expressed their concern about the diminution of accountability.

The Santa Barbara City Council is once again considering a redesign of historic De la Guerra Plaza. As has been mentioned in previous issues, some citizens are against this plan because it would eliminate the parking spaces that exist around the current plaza. Others see it as a good way to enhance an event space.

The historic Val Verde estate has now been sold. Sergey Grishin, a Russian American businessman, is the new owner of this 1915 estate designed by Bertram Goodhue, with 1920s and '30s landscape development by Lockwood de Forest Jr. In December 2009, Kellam de Forest, preservation columnist for The Capital, wrote that Robin Karson, author of the essay on Val Verde in A Genius for Place, landscape historian and director of the Library of American Landscape History visited Val Verde on 31 October 2009. She reported disturbing news. "Sergey Grishin's proposed 'restoration' of Val Verde, which was the reason for my visit, was a grave disappointment. It includes destruction of several features of the historic landscape and construction of a three-car garage on the site of the rose garden and a new barbeque area replacing the north reflecting pool. The Jon Sorrell plan also includes connecting the square piers with wrought-iron arches garlanded with flowers. Grishin rejected my suggestions to alter the Sorrell plan to preserve these (and other) essential features. I fear that I had very little impact."

Regarding the Franceschi House project, the Pearl Chase Society has stabilized the house and restored the historic wall medallions on the exterior of the building, but can go no further until the City fulfills its obligation to repair the retaining wall above the house.
Revisiting Cultural Landscapes of Childhood: A HALS Challenge

Janet Gracyk

The Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) was initiated in 2000 to document our country’s dynamic cultural landscapes. In early 2001, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the National Park Service, and the Library of Congress entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that established HALS to document landscapes that serve as tangible evidence of our nation’s heritage and development. HALS liaisons are ASLA volunteers appointed by their chapter presidents who provide technical and other types of assistance to carry out the mission of the HALS program. Typically, each ASLA chapter has at least one HALS liaison.

Much progress has been made in the last ten years, and HALS documentation is alive and well across the nation. But we’ve not yet even begun to push the HALS envelope! For example, subjects for HALS documentation are often thought of in terms of gardens and parks; however, cultural landscapes include planned communities, golf courses, cemeteries, college campuses, vernacular, agricultural and industrial landscapes, to name a few. HALS project selections need to expand to reflect this larger understanding of “historic landscape” types.

In an attempt to push the limits of the definition of cultural landscape (and to give us all a way to have some seriously nostalgic fun), the ASLA/HALS National “Revisiting Cultural Landscapes of Childhood” Challenge is a call to document American landscapes of childhood. The Northern California HALS group, and David Driapsa, ASLA, HALS Liaison Coordinator for ASLA, have issued the challenge to landscape architects and historians nationwide to complete one or more HALS inventory forms for a theme park in your state. The challenge will engage participants in learning to do HALS documentation, increase public awareness and appreciation of these treasured sites, and assist in the development of a nationwide context statement about these unique resources.

Storylands, fairytale parks, “game farms,” miniature golf parks, kiddie parks, and related theme park landscapes represent an important twentieth-century cultural landscape type that every American can relate to with a nostalgic view. However, they also are a significant part of America’s national landscape heritage, and some are becoming increasingly relevant as historic cultural properties, especially as they reach or surpass the National Register’s 50-year benchmark. Of course, Anaheim’s Disneyland, opened in 1955, is the premier example known to all. But on a smaller scale, there are: Oakland, California’s Children’s Fairyland (1950); America’s Original Kiddie Park in San Antonio, Texas (1925); Hoffman’s Playland in Latham, New York (1952); Dutch Wonderland in Lancaster, Pennsylvania (1963); Kiddieland in Melrose Park, Illinois (1929); Santa’s Workshop in North Pole, New York (1949); and Fairyland Caverns in Lookout Mountain, Georgia (1947), all designed and constructed in the early to mid-twentieth century.

Today, because of their age, some of these sites are threatened. Therefore it is crucial that we document these landscapes before they are altered or lost. The national HALS initiative is a great way to celebrate and record these places that have meant so much to us, our communities, or friends, and families.

While HALS is primarily a documentation program, it also is possible that—as these children’s “themed” parks and playgrounds become better recognized and understood—opportunities may arise to preserve these places for future generations. And, if these landscapes are lost, this HALS challenge will provide a permanent record of this much-loved aspect of twentieth-century American culture.

The National Trust is sponsoring the challenge by providing prize money for the top three submittals—$500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $200 for third place. HALS inventory forms are available online for downloading at the California chapter’s website, www.HALSca.org. They must be submitted no later than 31 July 2010. Sites must be at least 30 years old. Other known California sites include Fairytale Town in Sacramento, Rotary Storyland in Fresno, Micke Grove Funtown in Fresno. There may be others that should be included on the list.

Fairyland, Oakland (Chris Pattilo, PGadvisors, Inc). To learn more about Oakland’s Fairyland, visit http://HALSca.blogspot.com.

Dan Kiley (1912-2004) of Charlotte, Vermont was the foremost landscape designer of his generation. The subtitle of this volume, The Poetry of Space, is an understatement of his achievements across the United States and abroad.

Dan Kiley Landscapes reprints the earlier University of Virginia publication, The Work of Dan Kiley: A Dialogue on Design Theory, the proceedings of the First Annual Symposium on Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia in 1982. The new book has been updated with an introduction by Reuben M. Rainey and Marc Treib, a chronology of the major work discussed in the essays with additional projects completed since 1982, and many new photographs.

Kiley attended the 1982 symposium, and his modest lecture (pages 21-30) is the most interesting and telling portion of the text. His work defies stylistic categories. He is not strictly speaking a modernist, a classicist, a neoclassist, a postmodernist, or any other "ist." It would be fair to say that his work is more structured and more spatial than his contemporaries. It is also significant that most of his work was done in collaboration with architects and that it always complemented its architectural setting. Simplicity and clarity were also fundamental to his work. Beyond such observations, there is little to say about Kiley. He was not an academic theorist. He was a designer.

Kiley's work needs to be seen and experienced. The numerous plans and photographs in this new printing help visualize his spaces but are not a substitute for the real thing. Like all great designers, Kiley's work always appears effortless and as if it was the only possible way to organize and plant the site.

Little of Kiley's work reached California. He collaborated with the Connecticut architect Kevin Roche on the Oakland Museum of California and its roof gardens in the late 1960s. This is now undergoing major changes which will sadly undermine some aspects of his vision. One of Kiley's last commissions was the landscape of the Smith Ranch retirement community in Marin County with the office of the New York architect, I.M. Pei. Discussion of the Oakland Museum is included here, but Smith Ranch is not mentioned.

Dan Kiley Landscapes is an excellent introduction to the work of a great designer. The personal photographs capture his engaging personality, and the drawings and photographs should inspire travel to see more of his remarkable body of work.

—Margaretta J. Darnall, Book Reviews Editor

Correction: The review of Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes by Judith B. Tankard appearing in our Fall 2009 issue attributed a comment that Farrand was a snob to the author, when in fact, the author was quoting Farrand's associate, Robert Patterson. Apologies to the author and our readers for this error.
NEW BOOKS:

Where on Earth: A Guide to Specialty Nurseries and Other Resources for California Gardeners, by Barbara Stevens and Nancy Conner. This invaluable reference was most recently published in 1999, and sadly, while some of the nurseries listed in the book have moved to new locations, many of them are no longer in business. CGLHS member and co-author Nancy Conner has advised us that she, Stevens and Demi Bowles Lathrop have now begun the work of updating for a new edition and are requesting the assistance of CGLHS members. If you know of a new specialty nursery, mail order source for bulbs or seeds, new general resources such as websites, newsletters, garden societies, plant groups, new schools or community colleges offering horticulture or landscape related courses, or a new horticultural attraction (e.g., the Los Angeles County Arboretum) that was not listed in 1999, please contact Nancy. Tel: 415.346.5702. Email: conner5@earthlink.net.


The San Diego Floral Association touts its publication, California Garden, as the longest continuously published horticultural magazine in the country. They did ask around first, and nobody leaped forward to deny the truth of it. “Continuously” is the critical word, because other such publications that had an earlier start suffered a hiatus during the first and/or second World War, where California Garden did not.

As the title tells us, this volume marks the 100th anniversary of the publication, and the association has chosen to commemorate the occasion by reprinting a cross-section of nearly 200 articles for our delectation. These are arranged under general topic headings rather than by chronological order. Thus you may find articles by the organization’s founder and first editor, Alfred D. Robinson, or by nurserywoman Kate O. Sessions, scattered throughout the book under headings such as “Birth of the Floral Association,” “Floral Goes to War,” “Making a Better San Diego,” or “Rosecroft: A.D. Robinson Creates a Garden.” This, unfortunately, can be a source of disgruntlement for the reader. There is no easy way to track articles by a favorite author as writers’ names do not appear in the Table of Contents, nor is there an index.

At the back of the book, one may find a list of editors and their periods of office. Robinson started off the first ten years, then came back to fill in for shorter periods on three more occasions. CGLHS member Lucy Warren served in 1991, 1992-93 and again in 2008-09. Also at the back are brief biographical sketches of the contributors, provided by CGLHS member Nancy Carol Carter. Readers are most likely to recognize Alfred Carl Hottes (1891-1955) and Roland K. Hoyt (1890-1968) who are more widely known for their garden books and articles in other publications.

Vintage advertisements and magazine covers are scattered throughout the book and enhance the ambience that documents how the San Diego gardening scene grew and matured over the last century. In her acknowledgements, the editor notes that “We, the compilers of this volume, are grateful to have worked so closely with 100 years’ worth of California Garden magazine. The experience has been enriching on its own merits, and has enhanced our appreciation of the virtues of the magazine contributors then and now and for our region then and now.” This reviewer can only agree wholeheartedly.

—Marleca Graham

Casa del Herrero: The Romance of Spanish Colonial, by Robert Sweeney, with an introduction by Marc Appleton and photographs by Matt Walla (New York: Rizzoli, in association with The Casa del Herrero Foundation, 2009), hardcover, 168 pages, $50.00. The author’s emphasis is on architecture but the landscape sections and beautiful photographs make this book worthy of inclusion in the garden historian’s library.

Power of Gardens, by Nancy Goslee Power (New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2009), hardcover, 240 pages, $60. Foreword by Bunny Williams. The book features 18 selections of work done by Santa Monica-based landscape architect Powers, ranging from private residences to public spaces such as the Norton Simon Sculpture Garden and the Art Center Rooftop Garden.

Under the Oaks: Two Hundred Years in Atherton, by Pamela Gallard and Nancy Lund (Atherton: Historical Association, 2009), hardcover, 281 pages, historical b&w and color photographs, $75.00. Atherton was created to be a fog-free summer enclave for some of San Francisco’s wealthiest families. The authors have also written histories of Palo Alto and Portola Valley.

The San Francisco Cliff House, by Mary Germain Hountalas with Sharon Silva (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 2009), softcover, 223 pages, $24.95. The author’s collection of vintage photographs, postcards, menus, and other memorabilia from every era are displayed in this book, and include many images of adjacent Sutro Heights and the Sutro Baths as well as the Cliff House. Those who enjoyed Phoebe Cutler’s article on “Sutro Baths: Caracalla at Lands End” in the Spring 2009 Eden will find much of interest in this new volume.
NEW BOOKS (continued)

The Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden at UCLA, editor Karen Jacobson (Berkeley: Hammer Museum, UC Press, 2007), hardcover, 192 pages, $40.00. This book has only recently come to our attention. It includes essays by Victoria Steele (“An Education in Beauty: Franklin D. Murphy and the UCLA Sculpture Garden”), Cynthia Burlingham (“Creating the Murphy Sculpture Garden Collection”), and CGLHS member Marc Treib (“A Community of Sculpture”). “A History in Pictures” includes the designer’s (Cornell, Bridges and Troller) renderings and site plans of the garden. “Catalogue of the Collection” includes biographical sketches of the artists whose works are featured. This is augmented in a Selected Bibliography which includes other biographical works on the artists. There is an index.

Down the Garden Path: A Guide for Researching the History of a Garden or Landscape by Edwina von Baeyer (Ottawa: EVB, 2007). Recently found online, this book is the perfect primer for those who would like to become garden historians but don’t quite know how to begin. Though Von Baeyer is a Canadian historian, she takes some pains to make this book equally useful to researchers in the United States. Chapters cover source materials, web research, taking oral histories, doing site inventories, and more. Appendices include a case history and sample forms that will aid in keeping records straight. Available in softcover or electronic format (CD-ROM, .pdf). US$43.06 postpaid. To order, visit the author's website, www.magma.ca/~evb/guideinfo.htm.


PERIODICALS

Site Lines, a publication of the Foundation for Landscape Studies (Fall 2009) features essays and reviews focusing on “America the Beautiful: The National Parks.” Writers featured include: Ethan Carr, Charles E. Beveridge, Lee H. H. Whittlesey, Anne Mitchell Whimijnt, Rolf Diamant and Paula Dietz, who spoke at our conference at Lone Pine. FLS, 7 West 81st Street, New York, NY 10024.

Pacific Horticulture continues to offer interesting articles relating to garden history: In the Oct/Nov/Dec issue: Marie Barnidge-McIntyre continued her series on “Orchard Trees of Rancho Los Cerritos: Macadamias”; CGLHS member Phoebe Gilpin wrote a biographical sketch about Isabella Worn, florist and landscape gardener, “Driving Miss Worn, and More”; and Laurel Wooden told the story of the “South Coast Botanic Garden: from Landfill to Jewel of the Peninsula.” In the Jan/Feb/Mar issue, Barnidge-McIntyre has a segment on citrus trees.

2010 CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED READING LIST

The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk: A Century by the Sea, by the Santa Cruz Seaside Company (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 2007), softcover, 164 pages, $18.95. Written to mark the centennial birthday of the Boardwalk, this book is filled with historical photographs and covers the history from 1866, when the first public bathhouse was built on the beach at Santa Cruz, to the present day. The Santa Cruz Seaside Company has owned the Boardwalk since 1915. For more about the Boardwalk, you can also visit their website at www.beachboardwalk.com.


Pathways to the Past: Adventures in Santa Cruz County History Journal The current issue is 279 pages, $24.95. These last three publications and others of possible interest are available from the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, 705 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Tel: 831.429.1964. Website: www.santacrzmah.org. “Contents” pages are viewable online.

The History Dude, retired Cabrillo College history professor Sandy Lydon. www.sandylydon.com.
Websites to Visit

Pacific Rim Digital Library
Alliance
http://prl.lib.hku.hk/collection/

What's Out There?
http://tclf.org

The Pacific Rim Library consists of 25 academic libraries surrounding the Pacific that are “cooperating with each other to leverage the use of their digital resources.” The collection of greatest interest to us may be that of the California Historical Society, 1860-1960, housed at the University of Southern California, but searching all collections with broad terms such as “California gardens” we found three c. 1888 photos of the Hotel del Monte gardens housed at the University of Washington. The same photos show up more quickly searching on the narrower field of “Hotel del Monte.” Some of the other searchable collections that may prove useful include those of the California Historical Society, the Greene & Greene Digital Archives, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the National Park Service, and the University of California system.

Be aware that the primary problem with this site is that the notes accompanying each photo are sometimes unreliable. For example, an image of San Francisco's Sutro Heights is identified as being the Cliff House; an image of the “roof garden” at the Potter Hotel in Santa Barbara, which burned down in 1921, is dated c. 1930.

Possibly the archivists would welcome corrections.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation’s What's Out There database was launched in October 2009. This project is “meant to serve as a reference for students and teachers of design and history, enthusiasts, and professionals, provoking interest, informing stewardship decisions...The database currently contains over 380 designer profiles. Some of these are further illustrated with 200-word essays which are linked to...1400-word biographical profiles. A complement to these biographies is the collection of 300 profiles in the Cultural Landscape Foundation's publications Pioneers of the American Landscape (2000) and Shaping of the American Landscape (2009) and oral history modules which place a spotlight on a select group of influential postwar practitioners. The database also contains hundreds of site entries, many of these illustrated with up to five images, inventorizing some of our country's most important designed landscapes through 1976 and in some instances, post-Bicentennial landscapes designed by a master whose career has been realized. Currently, more than 150 entries are complete with a concise site description, relevant links, and images. It is anticipated that this number will grow weekly. What's Out There incorporates historic designed landscapes from all 50 states. [There are currently three pages of listed sites for California, ranging from the Adamson House in Malibu to Yosemite National Park.] It contains National Historic Landmark properties which are designated with significance in landscape. In addition it culls from the approximately 1,900 National Register of Historic Places sites listed with landscape significance to include those which relate to the designed landscape. It will not include vernacular landscapes (e.g. Storyland in Jackson, NH). The What's Out There database will grow richer through an ongoing conversation with our audience and a series of carefully constructed partnerships with professional colleagues, like-minded institutions, and landscape architecture programs within university communities. Submissions will be crafted in accordance with concise guidelines and will be vetted by staff. Images included in the database are the property of TCLF and should be attributed as such; please also credit the photographer when noted. In the coming weeks images will be made available in a high-resolution, downloadable format and a form for obtaining images, free of charge, will be posted.”

Follow the links from TCLF's home page to search the database, to register as a contributor and/or to post a query about practitioners or landscapes.
**Coming Events**

**25 February** is the deadline for submitting applications for the position of garden manager at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, CA. For details, write to RBG, Attn: Human Resources, 1552 Bancroft Road, WIC, CA 94598. Or email: hr@ruthbancroftgarden.org.

**13 March:** "Fam Faithfully, Garden Gratefully, Progressive Women and Their Influence on the Landscape." Temple University, Ambler Campus, Ambler, PA. CGLHS member Judith Tankard will be one of the speakers. For details contact Carol Dutill. Email: cdutill@pennhort.org. Tel: 215.988.8869.

**20 March:** "American Garden Design from Dumbarton Oaks to Living Roofs" is this year’s Northwest Horticultural Society Spring Symposium, in Kenmore, WA. For details, www.northwesthort.org. To register: Tel: 206.780.8172. Email: nwhort@outlook.com


**14-18 April:** The Association of American Geographers’ Annual Meeting at Washington, D.C. will include a session on “North American Landscapes Past and Present.” Papers with a historical component are especially encouraged. If you are interested in participating, please submit your abstract and registration PIN by 21 October 2009 to James Hanlon, jhanlon@siue.edu. For conference and registration details visit the website: www.aag.org.

**21 April:** The Society of Architectural Historians is holding a pre-conference symposium for their landscape chapter: "SB470 and Beyond: Methods and Content in Landscape Histories." The conference will be in Chicago on 22-25 April. Visit their website for details. www.sah.org.

**21-24 April:** The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation’s 2010 annual meeting will be at Albuquerque, New Mexico. Visit their website regarding their call for papers and other conference details. www.aihp.org.

**25 April:** The Garden Conservancy’s 2010 Open Days Program begins at Pasadena on this date. To obtain a copy of the Open Days Directory and/or become a member, write to the Garden Conservancy, PO Box 219, Cold Spring, New York 10516. Website: www.gardenconservancy.org.

**May:** "Foreign Trends on American Soil" is the theme of the 2010 History of Landscape Architecture Symposium at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Contact Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. of Landscape Architecture, Dept. of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, UMD, 2140 Plant Sciences Building, College Park, MD 20742. Email: rfg@umd.edu. Tel: 301.405.4341.

**12-15 May:** The 35th Annual California Preservation Foundation Conference, “The Sierra Nevada: Preserving a Sense of Place,” will be held in Grass Valley/Nevada City. Details on their website: www.californiapreservation.org.

**14-15 May:** “Designing for Biodiversity: Wildlife Habitat,” is the theme of the spring symposium for the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks. Tel: 202.339.6460.

**22-27 August:** “Portugal & Spain’s Influence on Garden Culture and Open Space Development,” a part of the 28th International Horticultural Congress at Lisbon, Portugal. For details, visit the website: www.ithc2010.org/seminars.asp?page=sm03_gardens_open_space.

**23-26 September:** The Garden Conservancy’s second Preservation Weekend will be held at Mt. Cuba Center in Hockessin, DE. "This professional development opportunity for Preservation Projects staff and board members is co-sponsored by Mt. Cuba Center, with additional support from Chanticleer, a pleasure garden in Wayne, PA. www.gardenconservancy.org.
SAVE THE DATE:
October 15-17, 2010 in Santa Cruz.
CGLHS Annual Conference

This year represents the 15th anniversary of the California Garden & Landscape History Society. The first meeting was announced in *Pacific Horticulture*: “History Buffs Alert. With Britain publishing two journals of garden history, and the New England Garden History Society having launched its *Journal* in 1991, could a California Garden History Society be far behind? Judging by the interest in history shown by contributors to these pages, the establishment of an organization to coordinate events and facilitate further studies is overdue. Bill Grant has therefore reserved a room at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Arboretum for Saturday, 23 September, 9 am to 4 pm. He invites all those with an interest in launching the CGHIS to contact him and attend.”

In the first issue of our newsletter, *Eden*, Bill reported on the founding of the organization. “The first job was to see if there were others who shared this idea. Indeed there were. The botanical librarians throughout the state were the first to give their support. Then the landscape architects and designers, garden writers, nursery owners, directors of botanical gardens, and, most of all, gardeners themselves, amateurs and professionals.” That first meeting was hosted by Bill Grant and UCSC Arboretum librarian Don Gholston. “Twenty-seven California residents and one person from Washington state attended. The day was spent getting acquainted with one another, discussing goals, preliminary ideas for raising funds, membership, and, to use the words of Barbara Barton [author of *Gardening by Mail*], “to have fun.” Subsequent meetings produced a mission statement, plans for a newsletter and twice-yearly statewide conferences. The latter plans were soon cut back to yearly fall meetings, spring being too busy for landscape professionals to attend. “In the long-range goals of the Society, different types of research can be sponsored, oral histories can be recorded, book collections can be purchased. Regional groups of the Society will be able to organize their own meetings and visits. A home page on the Internet may be achieved sooner than we had planned....Help us make our Society an effective and permanent part of our history.” — Bill Grant.

We are holding our 2010 conference at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, both to honor Bill Grant’s efforts as our founder, and to draw additional attention to the present precarious situation at the Arboretum. Marlea Graham is the convener. On Friday afternoon we will tour some historic sites before attending a reception at Cabrillo College’s Sesnon House, completed in 1911 and landscaped by Donald McLaren, son of Golden Gate Park superintendent John McLaren. On Saturday, we’ll meet at the Arboretum where Director Brett Hall will discuss its history and provide a guided tour of the grounds. Judith Taylor, MD (author of *The Olive in California, Tangible Memories, Californians and Their Gardens, 1800-1950*, and *The Global Migrations of Ornamental Plants*) will provide us with some of the horticultural history of Santa Cruz County. Pam-Anela Messenger, who spoke on San Francisco landscape architect Thomas Church at our Napa conference in 2005, will expand on Church’s early Santa Cruz work at Pasatiempo Country Club and his later design for the UC Santa Cruz campus. We will have more garden tours on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. This trip will also provide an opportunity for optional visits to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk, which celebrated its 100th anniversary as a cultural landscape in 2007. We hope you will come join us, “to have fun.”
Eden: Call for Content

Eden solicits your submissions of scholarly papers, short articles, book reviews, information about coming events, news about members’ activities and honors, interesting archives or websites you have discovered. In short, send us anything pertaining to California’s landscape history that may be of interest to members.

For book reviews, notices of interesting magazine articles, museum exhibits and the like, write to Assistant Editor Margaretta J. Darnall, 1154 Sunnyhills Road, Oakland, CA 94610.

All other submissions should be sent to Editor Marlea Graham, 100 Bear Oaks Drive, Briones, CA 94553. Tel: 925.335.9182. Email: maggie94553@earthlink.net.

Deadlines for all submissions are the first days of March, June, September and December.

Back Issues of Eden

All issues of Eden, beginning with Volume 1, No. 1 (May 1996) onward, are available for purchase. Prices range from $2.50 for single issues (under 20 pages) to $5.00 for double issues (up to 36 pages). To order, write or email Editor Marlea Graham (contact information above). You may also obtain access to back issues at the following libraries which have full sets of Eden: Environmental Design Library, U.C. Berkeley; Helen Crocker-Russell Library, S.F. Botanical Garden; Science Library, U.C. Riverside; Blaksley Library, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; L.A. City & County Arboretum; Copley Library, University of San Diego; Homestead Museum, San Diego; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York.
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CGLHS Aims and Purposes

• To celebrate the beauty, wealth, and diversity of California gardens and landscapes.
• To aid and promote interest in, study of, and education about California garden and landscape history, preservation and restoration.
• To collect and/or coordinate and share resources and expertise about the history of California’s gardens and landscapes.
• To create opportunities to visit and learn about gardens and landscapes, as well as archives and libraries.
• To enjoy one another’s company at meetings, garden visits, and other events.

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Send address and other changes or questions to treasurer@cglhs.org.
Fig. C. Phelan and friends visiting Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli, 1910. (James D. Phelan Photograph Albums, 1902-1929, Vol. 86/6. Courtesy of The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley. http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13630/tf0m3nb2vm?brand=oac4.)

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