

DESIGN PLAN





WILDE!

cultivating wonder in everyday places

The theme of the 2013 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show, which occurred between 1 and 10 May, 2013, was “Brilliant!” What follows is the text that was presented to show visitors via signage within the exhibit, as well as the design intent submitted to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS).

Design Intent

Overall Design Concept

Our exhibit shows how to invigorate classic elements of English gardens with wildness, resourcefulness, and contemporary refinement.

Horticultural Concept

Native or hardy plants that pioneer disturbed areas, look wild, and need little maintenance are included. Cultivars are selected for ornamental, culinary, or ecological uses. →

Awards

Alfred M. Campbell Memorial Trophy

Educational major exhibit that demonstrates the most successful use of a variety of plants in a unique fashion

PHS Gold Medal Award

Awarded for the best use of PHS Gold Medal plants in a major exhibit

Special Achievement Award

Creating a wild, natural landscape



Above. The exhibit logo was inspired by English coats of arms. Each colored symbol relates to an exhibit garden: orange is the rockery; green is the orchard; and blue is the bog.

Expected Impact on Visitors

Visitors should understand that inviting and benefitting from wildness at home can be simple, attractive, and affordable.

Exhibit Description

Pods, silk, and fruit of every ilk fly, fall, and get carried about. Some lie waiting to spring to life. Some sprout from niches and cracks as pioneers in paved wastelands. In a wetland, others emerge from years of suppression, reliving vigorous memories. Draw close: this place is wild but not abandoned. Rust covers steel towers, but so, too, do mirrors that reflect a new view of wildness. In it, cultivars join pioneers in displacing concrete. A downed tree disturbs the order in a restored bog, yet unexpectedly introduces another order. Beyond, vines consume a screen, and an orchard of columnar trees welcomes winged creatures. Wildness—spontaneous, persistent, and marvelous—is everywhere. Nurture it!

Introduction to Show Visitors

Spirits, beasts, and outcasts lurked in old English forests. Unable to understand or control the land, residents thought it wild. Over time, wilderness has become as mythical as the creatures believed to live within it, but “wildness”—that natural stuff we marvel at—is everywhere all the time, even in the most urban of places. Our exhibit presents simple, attractive, and affordable ways to cultivate wildness in some of them.



Medieval English Gardens

From the 5th to 15th centuries, monastic, royal, and noble gardens were each sustainable bastions of civilization in wilderness. As such, residents felt safe and got much of the food, water, and other materials they needed to live from enclosed gardens. A few common elements inspired the three gardens that are included in this exhibit:

- Rockery
- Orchard
- Bog Garden

Wild Gardening

In the 19th century, a chap named William Robinson had had enough of ornamental gardening. Highly manicured, well-maintained beds of annual plants—rubbish! Instead, he gardened with densely-packed, native or hardy perennials that looked natural, needed little looking after, and welcomed wildlife. Our exhibit adopts this approach within the context of contemporary landscapes and materials.

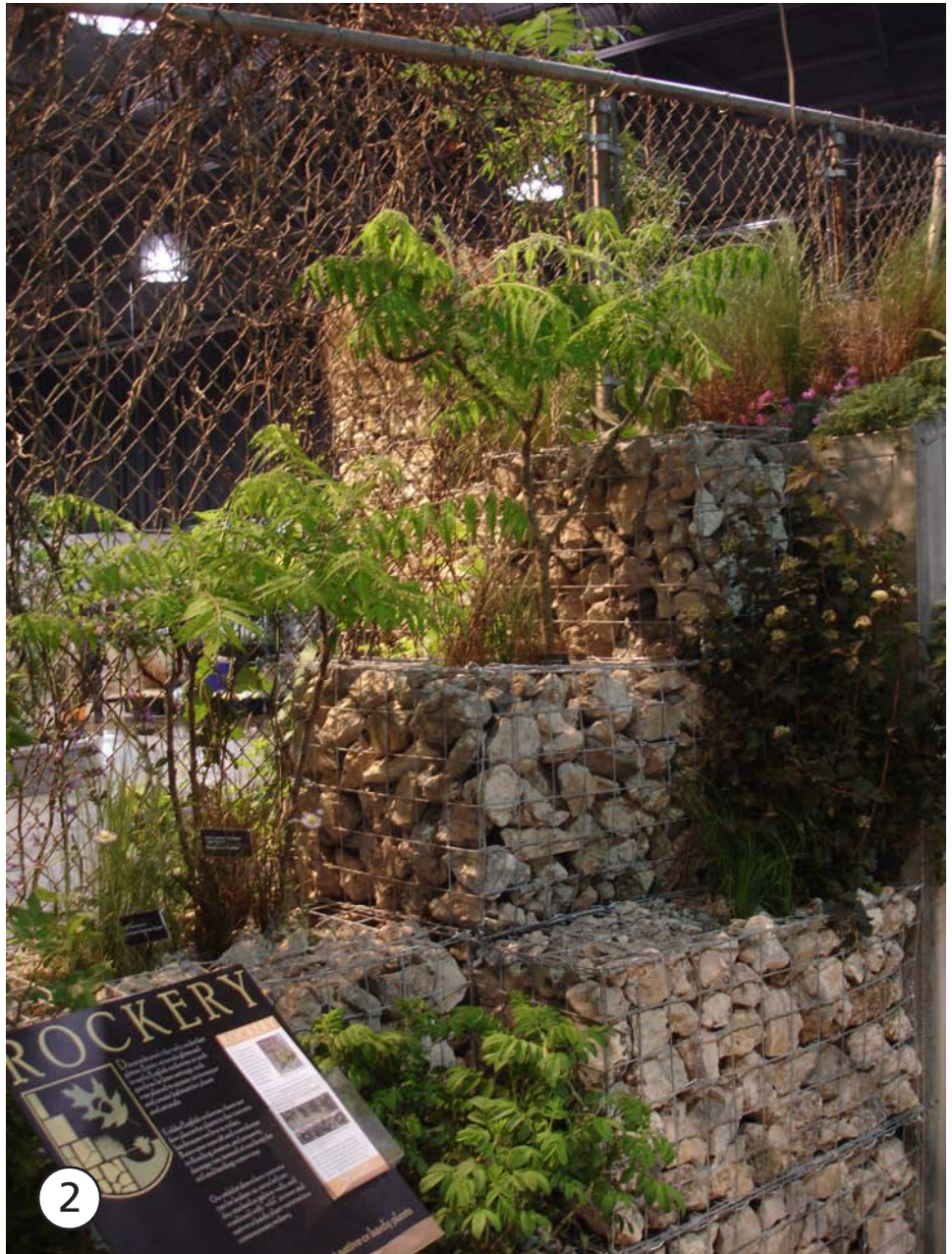
Project Credits

Faculty and Staff: Rob Kuper, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture; Michael LoFurno, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture; Anne Brennan, Horticulture Supervisor; Merrill Miller, Staff Horticulturist; Kathryn Reber, Staff Horticulturist. **Students:** Andrew Butler, Dayna Canning, Eric Gordon, Thu Ngan Han, Allison Hanna, Shannon Kelly, Jacob Kreiger, Molly Scheufler, Delia Smith, Denise Snook, Christopher Sohnly, Sara Street, Eric Wilmot. **Alumni:** Joseph Cianchetta, Class of 2011; Louise Clarke, Class of 2012; Raymond LaSota, Class of 2011; Dennis Murphy, Class of 2012.



View 1. The bog garden entrance wall and arbor.

View 2. Through the orchard and over the exit path and into the bog.



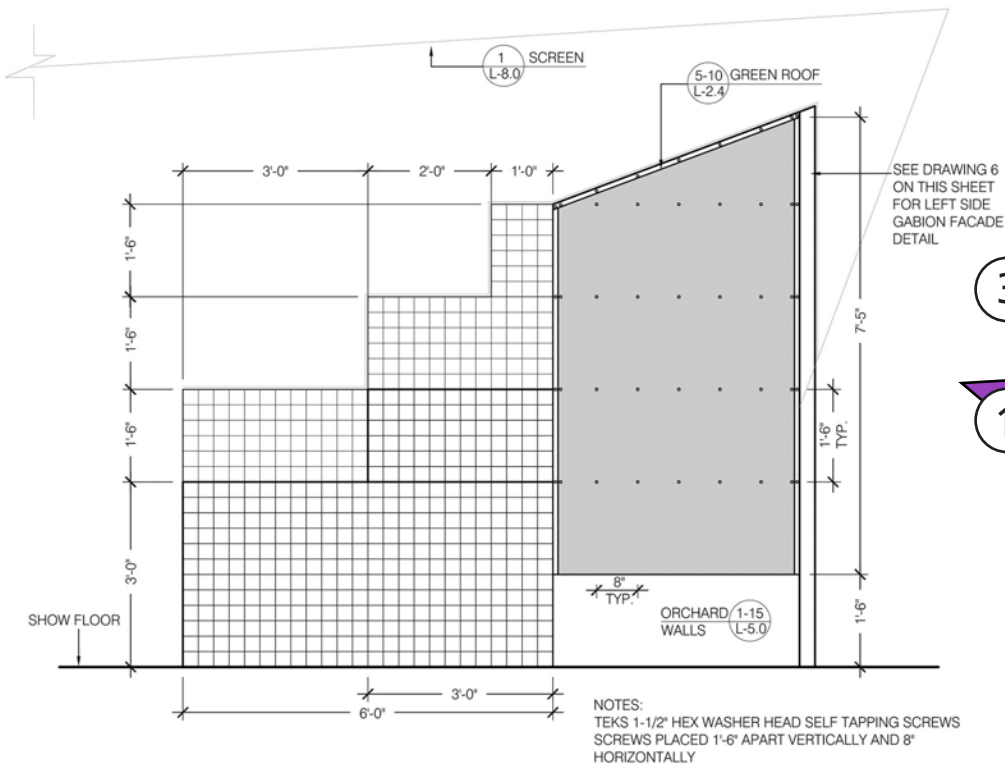
ROCKERY

remove and recycle concrete; insert native or hardy plants

Diamonds aren't the only rocks that glitter. Exotic minerals glistened in early English rockeries, or rock gardens. In later settings, rock was placed to appear picturesque and create habitats for plants and animals.

Unlike English rockeries, there are few places for plants in the concrete landscapes we live in today. Rainwater runs off and contributes to flooding, erosion, and property damage, too, instead of reaching the soil and feeding waterways.

Our exhibit showed how concrete can be broken up, recycled into dry-stacked or gabion walls, and combined with “wild” pioneer and native or hardy plant cultivars in a contemporary rockery.



View 1. The “crack” garden.

View 2. The concrete-filled gabions vegetated with volunteer and native or hardy plants.

View 3. From left, the concrete-filled gabions, dry-laid concrete retaining wall, and “crack” garden.

4 NORTH FREE STANDING GABIONS & CORRUGATED METAL FACADE ELEVATION

SCALE 3/4" = 1'-0"

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Takeaway
card location

remove and recycle concrete; insert native or hardy plants

Temple University ■ Department of Landscape Architecture & Horticulture
WILDE! ■ PHS 2013 Philadelphia Flower Show

Rockery interpretive sign presented to visitors (16"wide x 16" high).

ROCKERY

Get some bang for your buck! A home rockery introduces plants, animals, and insects into paved areas and lets water seep into the ground rather than run off. Rocks work, but concrete is a cheap alternative.



Plant concrete cracks and joints.
[flickr.com/photos/pdc/553335807/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/pdc/553335807/)

To make a rockery, first decide whether to leave most of the shattered concrete in place, or remove and recycle it in walls or mounds. Use a sledge hammer to break the concrete into pieces. Hand chiseling can make cracks large enough for seeds or small plants.



Gabion walls can be filled with many materials, including concrete, and planted upon or within.
[flickr.com/photos/21804434@N02/2797162704/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/21804434@N02/2797162704/)

Keep swinging to make walls. Pry the shattered pieces from the ground with a pick and arrange them in piles or cages (gabions). Keep spots of varying sizes and shapes in mind for plants to grow. Select and insert plants that can thrive in dry, hot conditions and tolerate the high pH of concrete.

plant list

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| <i>Comptonia peregrina</i> | Sweet Fern |
| <i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i> | Rattlesnake Master |
| <i>Euphorbia</i> ‘Nothowlee’ | Spurge |
| <i>Euphorbia characias</i> ‘Tasmanian Tiger’ | Spurge |
| <i>Geum triflorum</i> | Prairie Smoke |
| <i>Helictotrichon sempervirens</i> ‘Saphirsprudel’ | Blue Oat Grass |
| <i>Lavandula x gingsinsii</i> ‘Goodwin Creek’ | Lavender |
| <i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> | Bayberry |
| <i>Physocarpus opulifoliosus</i> | Common Ninebark |
| <i>Rhus typhina</i> ‘Bailtiger’ | Staghorn Sumac |
| <i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> | Rosemary |
| <i>Salvia officinalis</i> ‘Purpurascens’ | Purple Sage |
| <i>Sedum reflexum</i> ‘Blue Spruce’ | Sedum |
| <i>Sedum telephium</i> ‘Purple Emperor’ | Stonecrop |
| <i>Verbascum thapsus</i> | Common Mullein |
| <i>Yucca filamentosa</i> | Adam’s needle |



Bayberry
 Albert F. W. Vick, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Purple Sage
[flickr.com/photos/26689329@N03/3073060600/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/26689329@N03/3073060600/)



‘Tasmanian Tiger’ Spurge
[flickr.com/photos/bobrpics/3067586256/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bobrpics/3067586256/)



Sweet Fern
[flickr.com/photos/nestmaker/4850164175/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nestmaker/4850164175/)

WILDE!
 2013 Philadelphia Flower Show

card front

Temple University
 Department of Landscape Architecture & Horticulture

card back

Rockery “takeaway card” available to show visitors (4” wide x 9” high).



ORCHARD

grow food for people, insects, and animals

Said enough, “wort yard,” an enclosed space where plants were once cultivated for different uses, became “orchard.” Plants of all types were included in medieval orchards, not just fruit and nut trees.

Today, many orchards are remote, include only a few species of trees, and are not welcome places for uninvited plants, insects, and animals.

The orchard in this exhibit foreshadows a future when many creatures contribute to and benefit from cultivation. Columnar tree varieties can offer food, shelter, shade, and enclosure within urban vacant lots or suburban side yards.

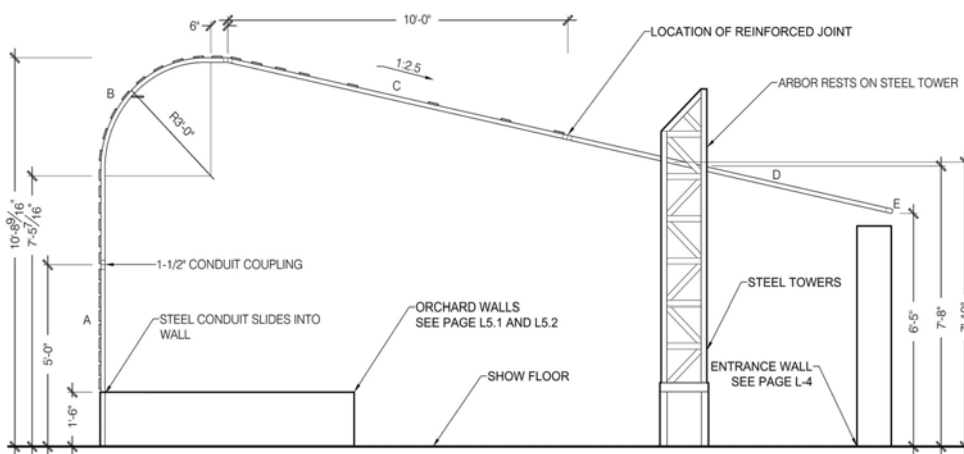




View 1. Over the exit path and toward the recycled glass mulch, which disguised the fountain reservoir.

View 2. The vertical and horizontal planes of the arbor enclosed the exhibit.

View 3. Visitors often stopped to wonder where the water that dripped from the arbor above went.



- NOTE:
 1. PRE-ASSEMBLE INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS OF ARBOR.
 2. SET PIECE 'A' INTO WALL FIRST, THEN ATTACH PIECE 'B'.
 3. CONNECT PIECE 'E', 'D', AND THEN 'C'.
 4. CONNECT PIECES 'C' TO PIECE 'B', AND TIGHTEN SCREWS

4 ARBOR ELEVATION

SCALE: 1/2"=1'-0"

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Orchard interpretive sign presented to visitors (16”wide x 16” high).

ORCHARD

If allowed, there's more to enjoy in a home orchard than fruit and nuts. Birds are after fruit, too, as well as places to hide, rest, and nest. Insects eat more—berries, leaves, and even one another.



A northern mockingbird enjoying Holly berries.
flickr.com/photos/mr_t_in_dc/5350961896



Eastern tent caterpillars dine mostly on *Prunus* trees.
flickr.com/photos/zomgitsbrian/3594051842

But bugs and birds are picky! To welcome wildlife it's best to select native plants. Over millennia, most insects have become adapted to eat and live on or in natives. Birds will gladly eat the fruit of invasive exotic plants, but insects fed on local fare are sought when birds raise young.

Don't forget variety! A diverse selection of native plants will appeal to the greatest number of insects and birds, and the greatest chances of coming across them during a harvest.



A tiger swallowtail butterfly resting in a cherry tree.
flickr.com/photos/ddebold/4505458385/

plant list

- Acer rubrum* 'Red Rocket' Red Maple
- Anemone blanda* 'White Splendor' Winter Windflower
- Chrysogonum virginianum* 'Eco Lacquered Spider' Goldenstar
- Dryopteris labordei* 'Golden Mist' Wood Fern
- Gelsemium sempervirens* 'Margarita' Carolina Jasmine
- Heuchera* 'Blondie' Coral Bells
- Ilex opaca* 'Princeton Gold' American Holly
- Ipheion* Spring Starflower
- Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Slender Silhouette' Sweetgum
- Malus* 'UEB-3812-2' Apple
- Quercus palustris* 'Pringreen' Pin Oak
- Salvia lyrata* 'Purple Knockout' Lyre-Leaf Sage
- Viola sororia* var. *sororia* Confederate Violet



Heuchera 'Blondie'
flickr.com/photos/pikerslanefarm/5526410753/



Sweetgum
flickr.com/photos/kthread/4106748527/



Malus Apple
flickr.com/photos/jackpercival/3971571853/



Carolina Jasmine
flickr.com/photos/mikegras/6948113563/

WILDE!

2013 Philadelphia Flower Show

card front

Temple University

Department of Landscape Architecture & Horticulture

card back

Orchard "takeaway card" available to show visitors (4" wide x 9" high).



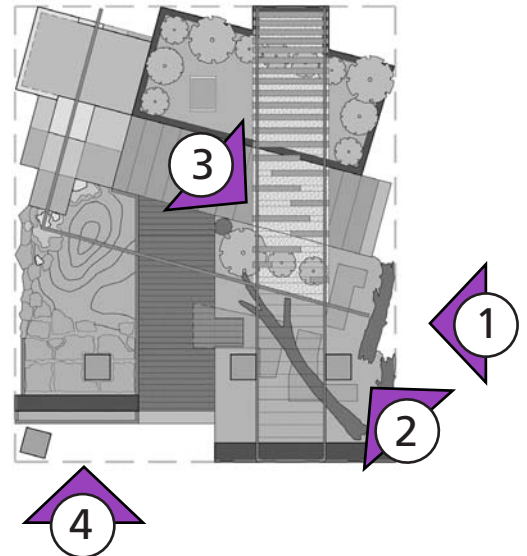
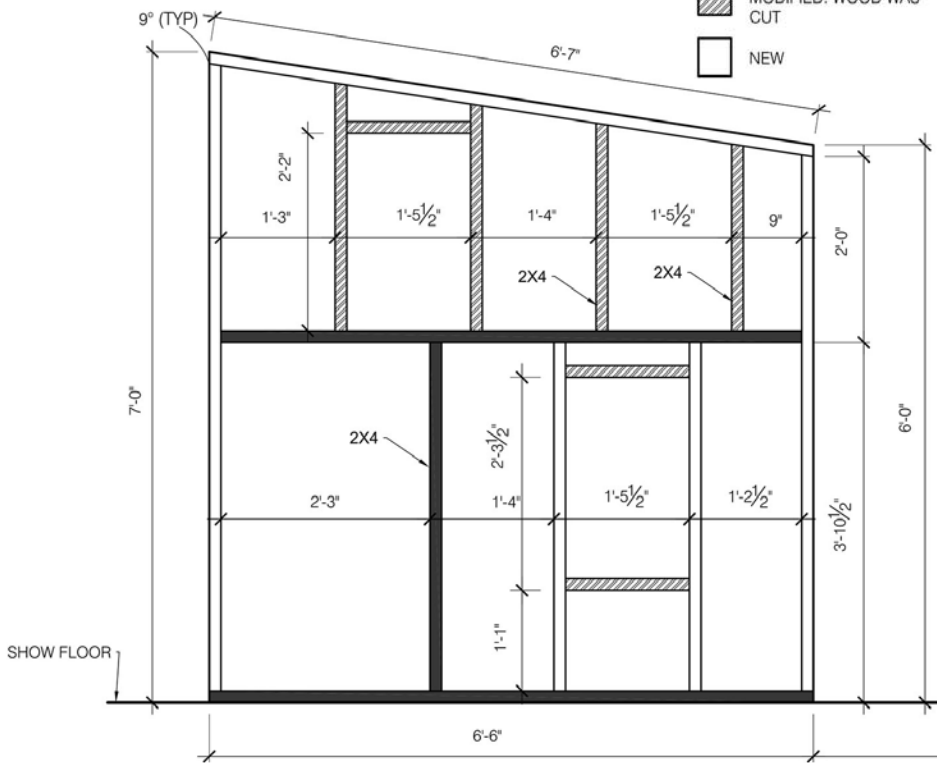
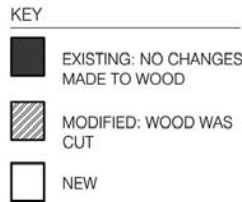
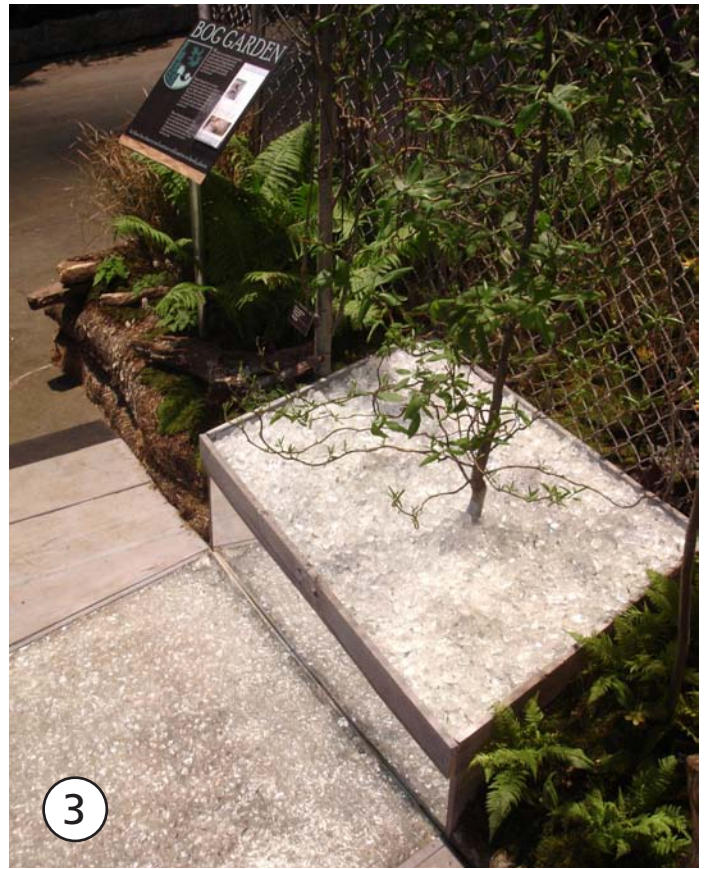
BOG GARDEN

let litter lie; observe and nurture wild native or hardy plants

Whether an ornament or necessity, artificial ponds were often found within medieval English gardens. During the Industrial Revolution, natural water bodies like bogs and other wetlands were filled and developed.

Besides being home to unique insects and animals, carbon dioxide and seeds are banked in the moist, acidic, lightweight soil of bogs. This peat helps seeds and immature plants grow, but centuries must pass before enough plant litter piles up to replace what is mined for garden soil.

Beyond displaying some of the unique plants that thrive in moist areas, the bog here demonstrates that embracing seasonal plant changes and natural accidents, like fallen trees, can be provocative and inspiring.



4 ENTRANCE WALLS FRAMING - FRONT ELEVATION

View 1. Angles of the entrance wall, arbor, steel towers, and screen contrasted the plant forms.

View 2. Mirrors placed within re-purposed steel towers provided varied perspectives of bog plants.

View 3. Mirrors also allowed for the continuation of brilliant surfaces (recycled glass mulch) on vertical planes.

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Bog garden interpretive sign presented to visitors (16" wide x 16" high).

BOG GARDEN

Let the garden go a bit. Rethinking maintenance can save time and money, and bring spontaneity and wildlife to your garden.



Turkey tail fungi gobble up fallen logs.
[flickr.com/photos/grantley/7066266245/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/grantley/7066266245/)

Letting litter lie prevents soil erosion and provides food and shelter for insects, fungi, and other soil life. Wherever possible, designate or create areas where flowers, seed heads, leaves, bark, and branches are free to gather naturally year-round. Doing so returns nutrients to the soil.

Give observation a go. Determine which plants self-sow and where. Learn to identify plants that grow aggressively or produce more seeds than native or hardy plants. Spot spray invasive exotic plants and other weeds with a glyphosate herbicide like Roundup®. Allow a few volunteer plants to call your garden home.



Bugs can always be found on milkweed, a native annual volunteer plant. [flickr.com/photos/suecan/3596935503/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/suecan/3596935503/)

plant list

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| <i>Amelanchier laevis</i> | Allegheny Serviceberry |
| <i>Caltha palustris</i> | Marsh Marigold |
| <i>Carex pensylvanica</i> | Pennsylvania Sedge |
| <i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i> | White Cedar |
| <i>Cornus sericea</i> | Red Osier Dogwood |
| <i>Equisetum hyemale</i> | Winter Scouring Rush |
| <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> | Sweet Gum |
| <i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> | Black Gum |
| <i>Osmunda regalis</i> | Royal Fern |
| <i>Pontedaria cordata</i> | Pickereel Weed |
| <i>Sarracenia flava</i> | Yellow Pitcherplant |
| <i>Sarracenia leucophylla</i>
'Tarnok' | Pitcherplant |
| <i>Sarracenia purpurea</i> | Common Pitcherplant |
| <i>Saururus cernuus</i> | Lizard's Tail |
| <i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i> | Cranberry |



Pennsylvania Sedge
[flickr.com/photos/11525626@N00/3872936844/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/11525626@N00/3872936844/)



Common Pitcherplant
[flickr.com/photos/mmmavocado/3756333629/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/mmmavocado/3756333629/)



Pickereel Weed
[flickr.com/photos/kabaechi/4054384567/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kabaechi/4054384567/)



Cranberry
[flickr.com/photos/60548141@N00/100237080/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/60548141@N00/100237080/)

WILDE!

2013 Philadelphia Flower Show

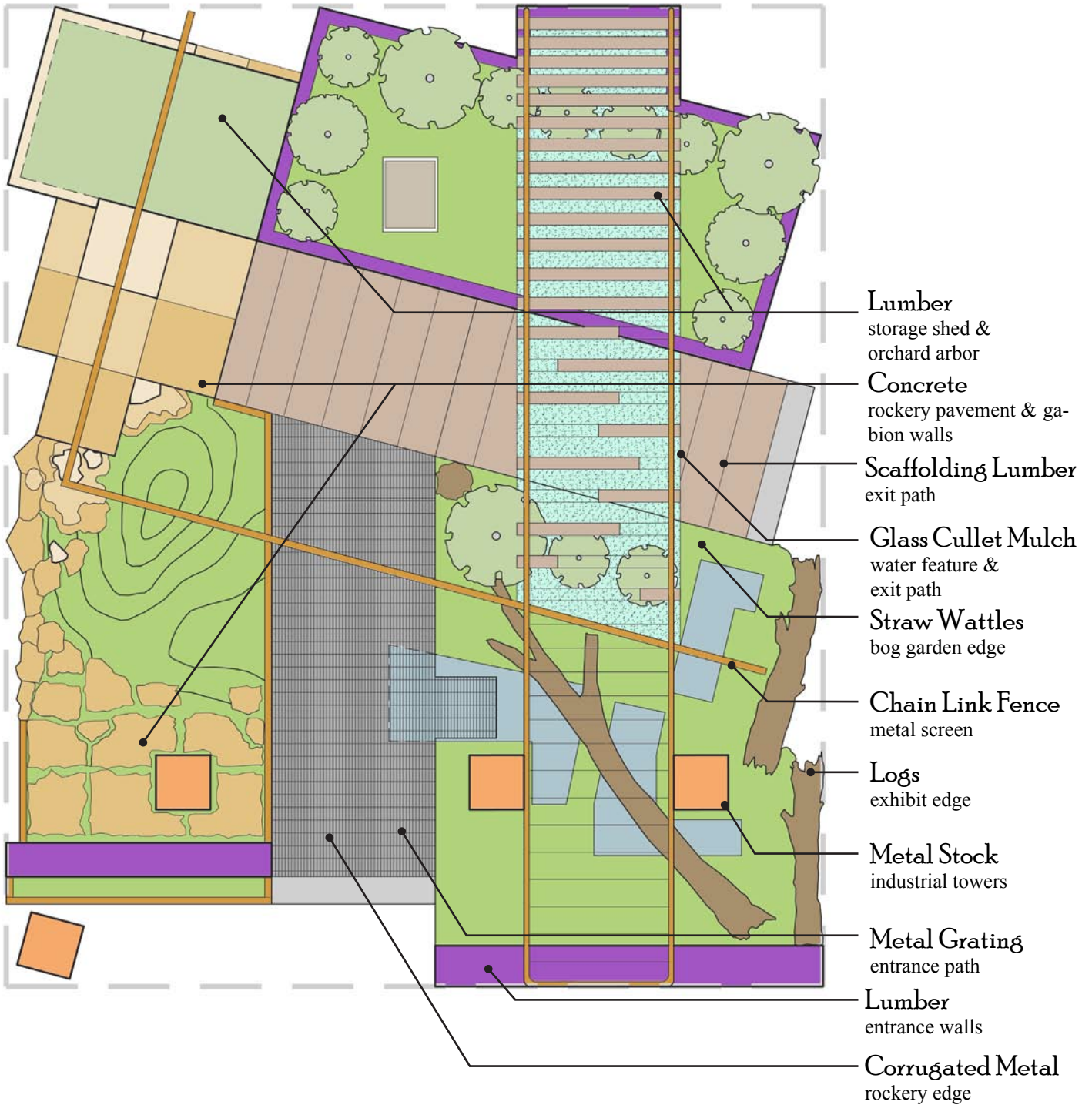
card front

Temple University

Department of Landscape Architecture & Horticulture

card back

Bog "takeaway card" available to show visitors (4" wide x 9" high).



BRILLIANT MATERIALS

Brilliant cuts enhance gems without sacrificing weight. When constructing this exhibit, we sought to recycle and enhance the beauty of everyday materials wherever possible.



View 1. Students identified a source of broken concrete, retrieved, manually reduced the piece size, transported, and installed it. The concrete was later donated to Zimmer Concrete for reuse as roadway base.

View 2. An existing, abandoned tennis court chain link fence was located on campus and served as the source for the exhibit metal screen. After modification and use in the exhibit, it was stored on campus for potential future reuse.