

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
Department of Landscape Architecture & Horticulture
Junior Design Studio - Fall 2008 and Spring 2009
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Project: 2009 Philadelphia Flower Show

PHS Show Theme: To Celebrate “Bella Italia” (Beautiful Italy). Taking inspiration from the Italian garden traditions, our exhibit will be geared towards educating the public on a variety of sustainable themes.

The main purpose of our exhibit is to promote public understanding of sustainable practices in the forms and expressions of our design. Sustainable themes can include water conservation; designing for local conditions; use of native plant communities; sustainable horticultural practices; organic food production, etc.

Introduction:

This project embodies two unique aspects of our department –our long tradition of hands-on education and sustainable design. This is an opportunity to show- case our sustainable vision and values that will reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to a healthier, and more responsible, living environment that reflects our mission as stated below.

We will seek inspiration by immersing ourselves in the underlying ideas and qualities of the Italian Renaissance gardens. Along with the historical references and influences, we will explore modern interpretations and abstractions of Italian gardens and ways to transforming them into artistic expressions of sustainable designs. Our designs must be informed by ecological, sustainable and green sensibilities and serve as the educational component of our exhibit.

The art and architecture of Italian gardens have been a source of inspiration for centuries and have profoundly influenced the American landscape. The “Italian garden-magic” (Edith Wharton) casts a potent, enduring and intoxicating spell on our senses that underlies many attempts to design our own dwellings. It is tempting to incorporate icons and fragments of ideas in an attempt to evoke the charm and character of the Italian garden, but the real challenge is to acknowledge the spirit of these gardens; we must interpret and adapt the ideas and concepts that evoke the true spirit of the original work.

Exhibit Theme: Green Renaissance

Grounded in the ideas of renaissance Italian gardens, our exhibit will show indigenous adaptations with practical applications for small gardens. Exhibit will include ideas of creating edible, sustainable and social gardens based of water collection, conservation and distribution. Our goal is combine the ecological and functional elements to create a visually compelling garden setting.