

Allee: 75-Year-Old Gillette Design Goes 'Green'

DESIGN: Virginia R. Rockwell, VSLD, VCH, LEED GREEN ASSOC.

Project Management: Scotty Guinn Dilworth

The Allee is:

A Charles Gillette-designed garden, serene yet playful, with a bit of mystery, and a **surprise**: You may just *learn something new*...just as the children of The Secret Garden (1911) did!

The Allee showcases sustainability with aesthetics in keeping with the character of the home.

As specialists in sustainable landscapes, container gardens, and event/floral design, we showcase the best of 'green' methods in one outdoor 'room'. We discovered this 'Secret Garden' under layers of deciduous leaves and vines covering Gillette's 1930's design for herringbone brick walk, steps and walls, the leaves slowly composting beneath the boxwoods and thus feeding them.

Your journey ends with a private view of the James framed by *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Kay Parris' and a wrought iron Arch featuring living wall panel(s) and one of Rothesay's own bench fragments 'reupholstered' with living roof panels of drought-tolerant and heat-reducing plants. The existing *buxus sempervirens* (American Boxwood) in the Allee we believe were used as 'nursery' stock to keep the boxwood plantings around the grounds at Rothesay supplied sustainably. The existing *lagerstroemia indica* (crape myrtles) lift and direct the eye to the views.

Q: What Makes this garden 'green'?

A: Existing, Native, Repurposed, Local, Reusable, organic, drought-tolerant, heat-reducing

- Locally made wrought iron arch by blacksmith Paul McGill, McGill Metalsmithing, Keswick, VA
- Re-purposed fisheye mirror suspended in peak of Arch
- Living wall panels and LiveRoof 'upholstery' on bench fragments by SGDesigns, Richmond, VA
- Pairs of brick red pots atop the wall plinths demonstrate 'sustainable container gardens' : how to use native and drought-tolerant shrubs, perennials, grasses in containers for a period, then transplant out into the garden, accented by only small numbers of drought-tolerant annuals.
- Existing charming Rothesay tennis footwear signs as garden ornament (found under a bench).
- Existing Rothesay benches and wrought iron chairs, sycamore limbs as pedestals
- Only ONE brick had to be replaced at the top step after 75 years!
- Existing crape myrtles were fed and watered and pruned of dead wood and vines, NOT TOPPED
- Existing American boxwood were cared for organically this year: fed with slow release organics and calcitic lime per soil test, watered, and sprayed with horticultural oil spray and insecticidal soap. Dead, diseased and stems with leafminer were removed. Spring pruning took no more than 1/3 of the foliage, opening up light and air circulation.
- NO IRRIGATION was installed.

For More Information, Contact:

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blog

PLANT PALETTE ROTHESAY 9.10
 Gentle Gardener Green Design
 www.gentlegardener.com
 ALL MATERIALS
 THROUGH THE BOUTIQUE AT ROTHESAY
 A PORTION BENEFITS SYMPHONY

ALLEE (K) - PLANT PALETTE

Magnolia grandiflora 'Kay Parris' Native hybrid of m.g. 'Little Gem' x 'Bracken's Brown Beauty'
Sustainable Container Gardens featuring Native Shrubs, Perennials, Grasses,

Drought Tolerant Annuals

<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> sp.	Native
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i> 'Sikes' Dwarf'	Nativar**=Armitage's name for plants bred from U.S. natives
<i>Heucherella</i> 'Alabama Sunrise'	Native Hybrid
<i>Tradescantia</i> 'Sweet Kate'	Nativar
<i>Carex</i> 'Oehme'	Nativar
<i>Sedum</i> 'Angelina'	Perennial, drought tolerant
<i>Begonia</i> 'Dragonwing'	Annual, drought tolerant

OTHER CONTAINER GARDENS BY GENTLE GARDENER GREEN DESIGN INCLUDE:

<i>Lauris nobilis</i>	herb bay laurel	woody herb (tender), edible
<i>Rosemarinus</i> 'Arp'	herb hardy rosemary	woody herb, edible
<i>Thymus</i> 'Archer's Gold'	thyme	perennial herb, edible
<i>Ocimum</i>	variegated basil	annual herb, edible
<i>Carex flaccasperma</i>	sedge	Native
<i>Cordyline</i> Red	spike	drought tolerant, tender perennial
<i>Panicum</i> 'Shenandoah'	switchgrass	Nativar
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>		Native
<i>Coreopsis</i> 'Route 66'	tickseed	Nativar
<i>Heuchera</i> 'Citronelle'	coral bells	Nativar
<i>Heuchera x villosa</i> 'Caramel'		Nativar
<i>Heucherella</i> 'Golden Zebra'		Native Hybrid
<i>Salvia farinacea</i>	mealycup sage	Native annual/tender perennial
<i>Sedum</i> 'Blue Spruce'		Perennial, drought tolerant
<i>Sedum</i> 'Golden Teardrop'		
<i>Sedum</i> 'Red Carpet'		
<i>Sedum</i> 'Rosy Glow'		
<i>Sedum</i> 'Watch Chain'		
<i>Verbena</i> 'Homestead Purple'		Native

We would like to thank these fine growers and plantsmen for their donations of time, talent & materials:

Instant Shade, Keswick, VA 434 981-TREE
SGDesigns, Richmond, VA www.scottydesignsgreen.com
Capital Greenroofs, Arlington, VA
North Creek Nursery, Landenberg, PA
RiverBend Nursery, Riner, VA
Wayne's Wholesale, Fairfax, VA

Other materials available through Gentle Gardener Green Design purchased locally from:
Colesville, Lancaster Farms, Sandy's Plants, Strawberry Acres, Black Gold Organics, Organic Mechanics, Espoma, Panorama.

About Virginia R. Rockwell

Virginia R. Rockwell, VSLD, VCH, LEED Green Associate, is Principal Designer & Owner of Gentle Gardener Green Design. She is certified as a Landscape Designer by the Virginia Society of Landscape Designers, as a Horticulturalist by the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association, and is an Associate member of APLD (Association of Professional Landscape Designers). Virginia holds a Garden Design Certificate from the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, London, a Permaculture Design Certificate in ecological and ethical design, and spent a hands-in-dirt apprenticeship at The Findhorn Foundation, Scotland. Virginia is also a member of Green Plants for Green Buildings (GPGB), the James River Green Building Council (JRGBC), and is US Green Building Council LEED Green Associate. Gentle Gardener Green Design is a licensed nursery stock dealer, providing custom plant sourcing for design clients only.

Virginia has been privileged to work in other Charles Gillette gardens, including designing a Memorial Garden within Gillette's walled garden at Christ Church (Episcopal), Gordonsville; native plant consulting at Little Yatton, Orange, and container gardens at Lochiel, Gordonsville.

In a prior incarnation, Virginia worked in advertising and marketing strategy for major brands including Coca-Cola after receiving her MBA from Columbia in New York. Virginia's commitment to sustainable, green education and enterprise extends to teaching at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden and Virginia Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners; appearing on WCVE PBS television's *Virginia Home Grown*; volunteering for the Orange Downtown Alliance and Rappahannock River Basin Commission; and to helping husband Robert and daughter Stella on the family cattle and timber farm in Orange County, Virginia.

About SGDesigns: Scotty G. Dilworth, PROJECT MANAGER

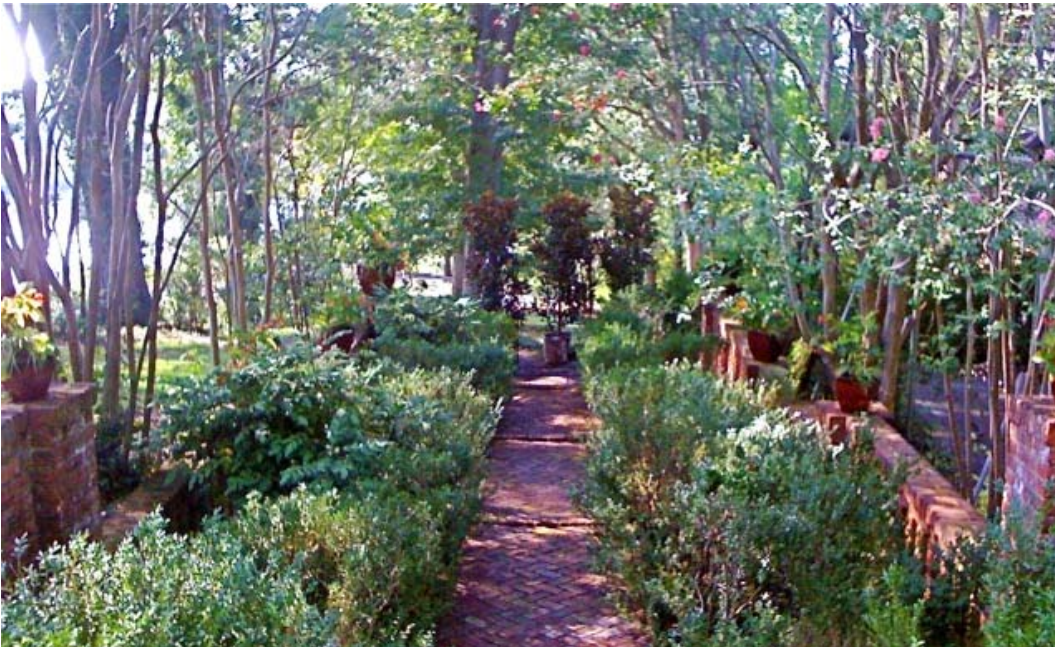
Scotty G. Dilworth, a native Richmonder, recently moved back to her hometown after 18 years on the West Coast. In Los Angeles, she practiced sustainable techniques of landscape design with other LA designers and brings that inspiration to her work here in Virginia. Scotty and Virginia co-produced the 2008 Virginia Society of Landscape Design's 'Green' Tour, showcasing sustainable projects in and around Charlottesville. Scotty is a Member of the James River Green Building Council and the Virginia Nursery and Landscape Association. She completed the Mid-Atlantic Horticulture Short Course in 2009, and is currently a candidate for US Green Building Council's LEED Green Associate. She collaborates with other designers, architects and installers to educate, market and implement a 'green' approach to landscape design.

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Allee Before : Shot taken July 2009



Allee After: Shot taken September 2010