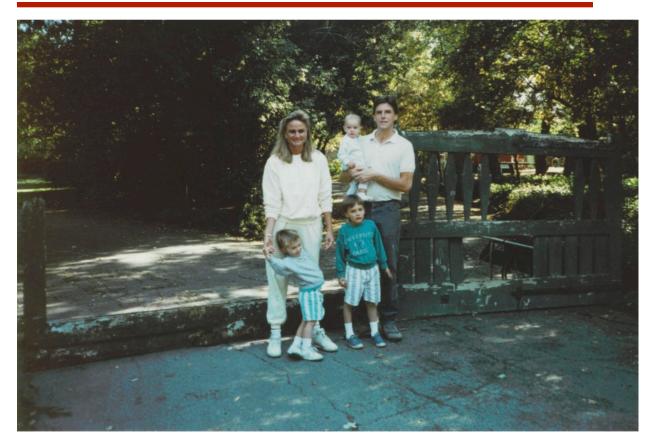
FUERST FAMILY GARDEN DESIGN

Balla Machree Garden Revitalization

Rick Lopez

Senior Project • LDA 193 B • UC Davis • June 11, 2010



Picture taken in 1989

FUERST FAMILY GARDEN DESIGN

Balla Machree Landscape Revitalization

A Senior Project Presented to the faculty of the Landscape Architecture Program at the University of California, Davis to fulfill the degree requirement.

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Committee Member: Rick Lopez Sr.
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By: Rick Lopez June 2010

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Most especially I would like to thank my family and friends for all their love and support.

Abstract

Despite renovations made to a garden in the past and the amount of maintenance and attention given to it, many plants, paths, site amenities and other design aspects and features need replacement or refurbishment as trends, needs, likes and wants evolve.

After twenty-two years since its last renovation, in 1988, Fuerst Family Garden, also known as the Balla Machree Garden (House of My Heart), was ready for a new look and haircut. Plants and trees, even though well maintained, were crowded, dying or in very bad shape. The new design and look for Rory's Balla Machree Garden will consider the wants, needs, uses and likes of the homeowner and his family now and the future.

The process of developing such a design will require the family's input and guidelines, as well as a site analysis and inventory. The site analysis demonstrates site opportunities, constraints, wind direction, sun positioning, shady and sunny areas, and the site inventory depicts existing features, buildings and plant material. Both help in the making of the Master Plan.

After conducting the site analysis and inventory a consultation was done with the home owners to obtain their input and ideas which were factored into the creation of the preliminary design. After presenting the initial design concept and proposal revisions were made with their input and ideas and goals were met.

In creating a master plan and design there exists many factors that make the process difficult. One needs to consider site uses, existing conditions, surroundings, client input and vision, budget and time. In order to complete a project one must step into the clients shoes and step forth when a client is about to make a bad decision. In the end the goals for the project were met and are as follows: to create a master plan for the owners and demonstrate the process of creating a successful design.

Introduction

Twenty-two years have passed since Rory Fuerst and his siblings inherited the house from their mother in 1988. Rory Fuerst bought the house from his siblings and took a year to renovate the house and landscape, in hopes of keeping the house he was raised in since he was of the age of three.

Now after twenty-one years, Rory decided that his landscape needed a well deserved manicure. He contacted the landscape contractor who maintained his garden throughout the years and who happened to be the one who completed the last renovations. This landscape contractor has twenty-five years experience, and is located in Redwood City, CA, his name is Rick Lopez Sr.

Rory knew about my studies as an aspiring landscape architect and asked my Rick Lopez Sr. if I was interested in completing a master plan for his house, the same place my father began his career as a professional landscape contractor. I did not refuse the offer and set up a meeting with Rory and his wife October 2009.

Rory Fuerst Garden Location

The Fuerst Garden is located in the Town of Atherton, CA.

The town begins with flatlands at the edge, closer to the San

Francisco Bay and as a person heads westward towards Interstate

280 the town encroaches into the hills. The town is known for its
elegant gardens, scenic roots, and beautiful large heritage trees that
seem to dominate and shelter the town of Atherton. The overall area
consists of large single family homes and mansions.

The town of Atherton's vision is to preserve the its character as a densely wooded, residential, rural area with roads designed to provide inhabitants and visitors visual pleasure as they stroll through the town.

Figure 1: Aerial view of the site



The Client

Rory Fuerst

Rory is a charismatic, adventurous, very humble family man, entrepreneur and story teller. He is a man of many forms one minute he is your boss, *El Patron* as we call him, and the next he is your teacher. My father always told me stories about Rory and his stories about his life experiences. The only thing Rory does not know how to do, find out or learn how to do is to keep still and do nothing. He finds uses for every thing, if he doesn't he saves it for a later time.

He is a man of enterprise who is all about the people and for the people, a man whose motivation is life itself, a man straight out of college who created an enterprise off of resoling shoes. Now he is owner of KEEN and Rofu Design group based in Menlo Park, CA.

Rory is a determined philanthropist and inventor. He began his shoe career at a fast food restaurant. It is here where he noticed that many of the tennis shoes people wore were worn out as they waited to buy another pair. He ingeniously set forth to create a business off of resoling shoes. He ventured to the nearest tennis court and began offering to resole and refurbish shoes. Soon enough

people were showing up with loads of shoes for him to resole and refurbish. Rory created a business but never flaunted it, his character remained humble and remains the same until this day.

People who are really close to him would say he is a hands on type of person who learns by doing and by talking to people. He is always thinking, tireless and sleeps on the plane as he travels to Japan and China to visit shoe factories.

Lisa Fuerst

An intelligent and humble woman. She is the person we answer to when Rory is not around and Rory is not around most of the time. Fortunately, Rory and Lisa were both available for the design consultations but Lisa was always there when I needed to ask questions about the history of the house and site. All she wanted and asked for is a cleaner, usable garden and not a storage place for Rory's salvaged objects. However, she is not one to argue and always consults Rory about any design decision but Lisa really knew what plants she wanted and what look she wanted for her garden. Any plants I chose she had to approve of first. Lisa handled the softscape, Rory handled the hardscape and I put it on paper.

DesignProcess

Consultation 1

Rory and Lisa notified me that they were conjuring up the idea about redesigning their yard for a while and had been removing plants here and there until finally they decided to go through the process of developing a design that united their garden they wanted their garden to have a backbone . They were tired of having a garden that seemed disconnected and inaccessible.

I first met with Rory and Lisa one afternoon in October of 2009. He quickly demonstrated his gratitude and excitement towards getting started with the design process, he had already been talking with my father about getting started. In noticing his enthusiasm I said jokingly suggested we get started with the demolition. Rory bursted into a sprint and came back with a spray paint bottle and was ready to mark everything that needed to go. Right away I noticed that Rory was a man of action and few words. He likes seeing things get done.

As we went along marking plants that we would remove we discussed how I would have an easier time creating a base plan and

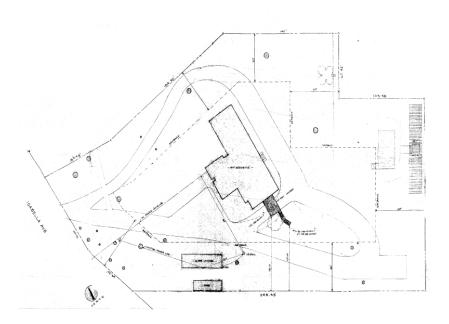
how the clean up would make the design process much easier. I will have a clean canvas to work with and be able to measure to create a base plan much easier. Rory agreed and we flagged everything that needed to remove by spraying a red dot on it. I was surprised how fast we went through and marked every plant we were removing. We really should have marked the ones we were keeping. In the end, we kept 22 roses and 7 Rhododendrons. Lisa asked where I would place the Rhododendrons and I suggested transplanting them in the southwestern planter, in between the Coast Redwoods. Lisa quickly mentioned she wanted a rose garden, where they got enough sun and she liked my suggestion of placing them in the southside of the back yard where Rory had his "stuff." She loved the idea but I believe she loved the idea of cleaning up and throwing out most of his stuff even more.

I assured them that we could draw a diagram but we needed to take care of the preliminary steps first which were the demolition of all marked plants, clean up, the pruning of the oaks and other mature trees to allow more sun permeate and warm the site and finally the development of a base map of their site to bubble in potential places for site amenities and design ideas. Lisa and Rory were happy and anxious to see a base map of their site to draw on.

Base Plan:

After the clean up and demolition I began to take measurements to create a base plan. This part of the process took a while especially when out of practice. I used two 200 foot measuring tapes and began by measuring the fence. I took measurements in every 10-20 feet. From these increments I measured out to locate planters, roads and other existing objects and plants. I illustrated plants and other important objects. I tried to be as accurate as possible because a few inches here and there do add up and later after the design is complete things get complicated for the landscape contractor in the construction phase of this project.

Figure 2: Base created for the site with all existing trees used as a design tool to get clients involved in the design process



Site Analysis

The site analysis took place shortly after the initial meet and greet with the client. They had asked me to begin the process quickly as they hoped to enjoy their refurbished garden in the summer. I walked through the site and began measuring the fence. After remeasuring the fence I measured out from the fence to locate and illustrate the house, sheds, planters and trees that will remain like the coast redwoods and Oaks. The end product I created was a quick base map illustrating existing structures, trees that were to remain. I also determined what locations are shady, in partial shade or in full sun, a key element in developing a plant list viable for the present and future.

At the time the analysis took place the garden seemed gloomy, very cold and draped in shade only a few areas received a couple hours of nice warm sun. The oak trees were the only plant's that extremely made their presence felt on the site, even though many of the oaks needed extreme care. Most of the planting areas were overwhelmed by English ivy and all other plants were hard to identify because they were so woody. Overall the garden lacked character and especially lacked the adventurous character of Rory Fuerst.

The site consists of three large, parallel planting areas averaging about 160'x60' with little connectivity and vast areas of

lawn. They are significant because they are the first planters people see as they come into the property and the last thing they take with them as they leave. Most of the plants there are overgrown ornamental shrubs and the lawn was placed to close to the native oaks the consequences are noticeable in the health of the trees. Lastly, there are many coast redwoods bordering the edge of the planters nearest to the fence that were planted too close to each other.

The site analysis along with the site base map of the whole site shown in figure 2, historical information and pictures of the site, allowed me to begin the preliminary process of the design, but not before developing a list of site opportunities and strengths.

Figure 3: Site Analysis



Site Opportunities/Constraints

Site Constraints

- 1. Existing hardscape is to remain untouched
- 2. Plants should compliment existing hardscape and furnishings
- 3. Asphalt paths for automobile circulation are to remain as they are
- 4. Must consider Oaks and their survivability
- 5. Existing lawn areas are to remain vast and plentiful
- 6. Existing redwoods along fence are to remain despite their condition

Site Opportunities

- 1. Design areas are to be remodeled and replanted
- 2. Path ways connecting site and planting areas
- 3. A fountain in the middle planter
- 4. Planning for a long-lasting, aesthetic garden
- 5. Spacing plants with enough space for them to grow
- 6. Selecting plants that will flourish in the areas they are planted
- 7. Rose garden
- 8. Vegetable garden
- 9. Storage area
- 10. Orchard
- 11. Garden with character

Existing Conditions

Figure 4 : Perspective view from above



Figure 5: Existing Conditions on site after demolition

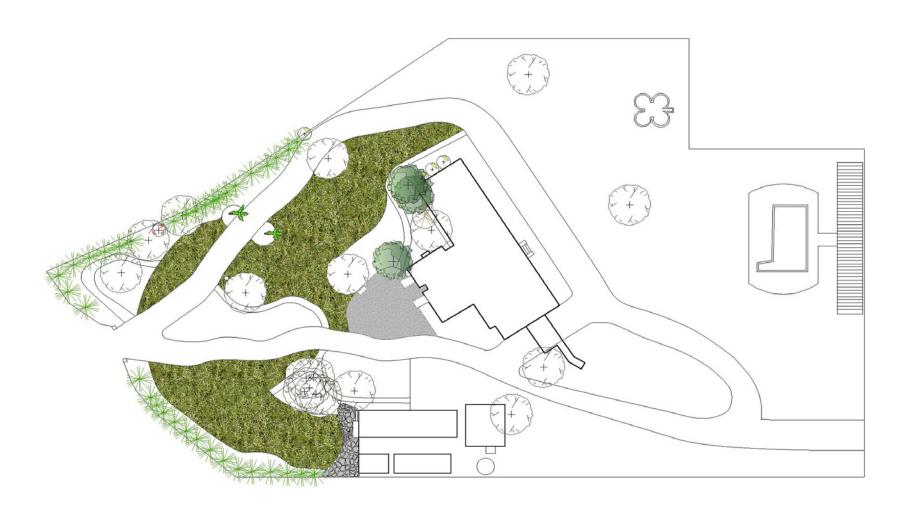
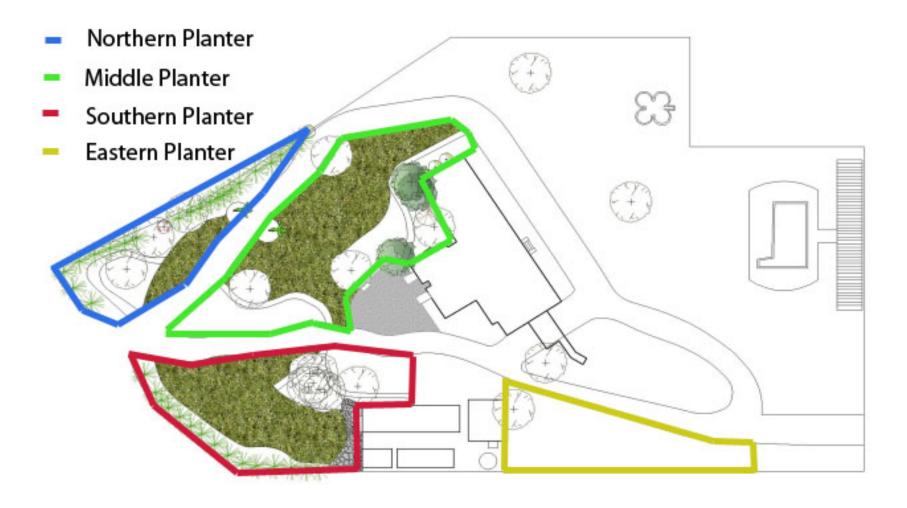


Figure 6: Planters designated names based on orientation



Consultation 2

I presented the base plan I developed and began a friendly conversation. Asking how he and Lisa have been. We slowly eased into discussing their plans and my initial ideas. We discussed the following topics:

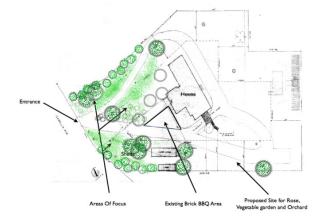
- I. Garden Connectivity: The gardens need for walkways for the two to stroll around their new garden. I suggested keeping the same type of existing curvilinear pathways but adding more with seating areas. They enjoyed the idea and Lisa added that it would be great to finally take walks around her own garden.
- 2. Plants selection (trip to the nursery): I asked both Lisa and Rory what plants they liked and Lisa had her list and Rory said he liked what was already out there but that Lisa would pick the plants. So I suggested a trip to the nursery so they can all pick plants they would like to implement into their garden design.
- 3. Garden with color: I suggested adding color to the garden Lisa agreed but Rory believed he had enough color and stated that plants only have color in the spring but I assured him that I can provide a colorful plant pallet that would enliven the dormant state of his home garden. He seemed reluctant until Lisa reassured him that their garden needed plants that bring the garden a myriad of colors especially in the spring.

- 4. **Fountain & location**: Rory moved on to his pride and glory a fountain he salvaged. This fountain was going to be thrown away by the owner but Rory could not have this happen. He remembers walking as a kid and being fascinated by the fountain. Now he has the opportunity to install this same fountain in his garden.
- 5. Best location for a herb/vegetable garden/orchard: Lisa and Rory had done their homework and decided to have their herb, vegetable garden and orchard in the east planter or south backyard behind the sheds. I agreed since this site was in the backyard and received more sun. I also mentioned that this site was also a good site to place the rose garden.

Towards the end of the meeting Rory took the base plan and quickly scribbled his ideas on it and Lisa provided a plant list of her favorite plants. She had wrote down the name of the plant every time she saw a plant she liked. We chose a theme and decided that a semi-formal colonial garden with a park like feel would suit the garden perfectly. The meeting was short but productive. I felt that bringing a base plan with existing plants and objects allowed the clients to explore design variability and also allowed them to participate in the design process by drawing their design ideas. The clients were able to designate areas for specific site amenities like the fountain and features like pathways and specific gardens.

Their input along with my guidance and orientation produced a conclusive preliminary plan ready to be interpreted and drawn up into a preliminary design. However, in order to complete a design the I needed to inform myself about the site itself and its history.

Figure 7: Photoshop rendering of the Clients initial design ideas and their perspective on where trees and plants are and should be located.



Site Construction History

The Fuerst family bought their home in 1948. Rory inherited the house in 1988 and began renovations. Construction lasted until 1989. Rory completely remodeled the house and landscape. After some exensive research I figured the house looked more like a barn in a ranch like estate before the 1988 renovations. After the trenovations the house took on a more Colonial style look with a park like landscape mixed with a more formal garden surrounding the house.

Figure 8: 1948 Aerial View. The picture illustrates the Balla Machree before and after its 1988 renovation.



Site Before 1988 Renovations

Figure 9: House Before 1988 Renovations



Figure 10: A photo of the middle garden before 1988 house renovations



Figure 11: Looking from the entrance towards the house in 1988



Figure 12: Front entrance in 1988



Figure 13: After Renovations 1989 a look towards the front



Figure 14: After renovations in 1989 looking towards the house and middle planter



Present State of the Site

Figure 15: Looking towards the entrance



Figure 16: Eastern Planter



Figure 17: Look at the middle planter



The Design

Preliminary Design:

At this stage I set out to jot my ideas down on paper I did not necessarily have to get the order of site amenities and plants in the right place just yet. However, I did try to place myself in my client's shoes and begin to make design decisions based on what I knew about them and their house. The house is the center of the property therefore the center of all entertainment and other activities. Because of its awkward configuration the house, the kitchen entrance acts as the main entrance.

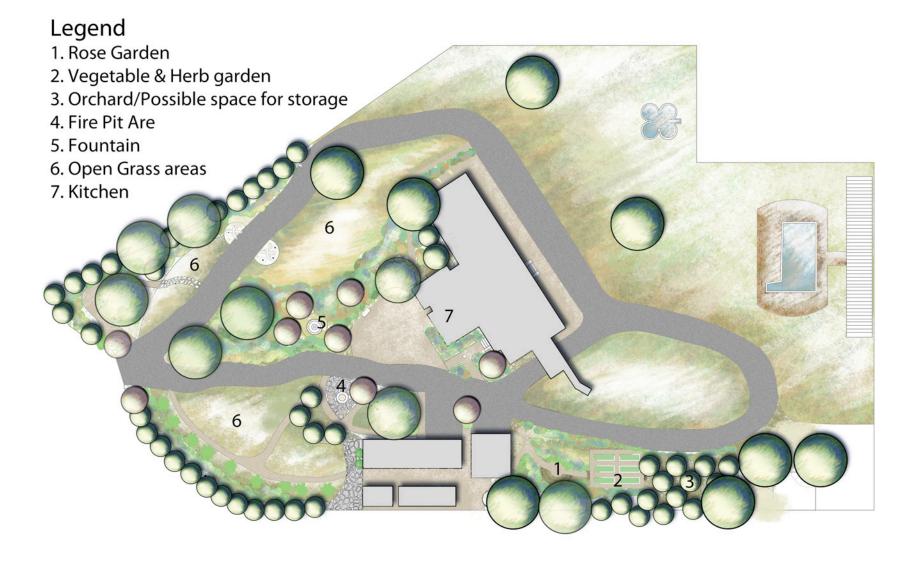
I had to draw a simple design with the Fuerst home acting as the center. A design with gathering places to sit and view the garden and a multi use eastern planter area furthest from the entrance to place the vegetable/herb garden, the orchard and rose garden. My focus for the northern and southern planters was to add plant decor that would add color and please the client as they take walks along the pathways.

The pathways like those of a colonial style garden will lead to and from the myriad of garden rooms. Like a Colonial style garden, the garden rooms are designed and organized to meet the clients specific needs and wants listed above in the consultation section.

The first design idea set forth to accomplish was that of connectivity. I wanted to increase the clients ability to walk through and enjoy their new garden with ease. I analyzed the existing pathways and added new ones where I believed feasible and thought would be useful and practical. I added pathways in the southern planter area and a fire pit to compliment the fountain.

My second design idea was to create an inviting, colorful and warming entrance full of life. An entrance that would mirror my clients personality and character. I created a preliminary plant list based on the list of plants the client provided from their trip to the nursery and plants I know do well in the area and compliment the look I plan for. My goal is to create a design that alludes to a formal and symmetrical garden complimenting the the colonial architecture of the home.

Preliminary Plan:



Design Review:

I met with Rory and Lisa once more before developing the final Master Plan. We met in their house once again. I made a 24"x36" copy of the preliminary plan labeled and ready for refinements. I also took my computer to make changes on the plan and show them the differences of the change they ask for. I explained my design ideas, concept and goals for the site. After I asked them if they had any questions and leaped into a tour of the design.

Rory loved the placement and positioning of the fountain I plan and asked me if we can step outside and mark exactly where it would go. I was a step ahead of him and had already marked it since I arrived earlier than they had. I demonstrated the fountains placement and asked them if they had any criticisms or things they would like me to change. Rory's and Lisa's only response was to remove the pathway in the southern planter that cuts through the grass. The reasoning being that they wanted more lawn in this area than planting area in case they have a party they wanted to leave this place open as a play area. I agreed and made note of this suggestion. Lisa was a bit concerned if the roses would receive sufficient sun but Rory and I assured her they would.

Overall there were not many changes I needed to make. My goals for the meeting were met, I received positive input on my

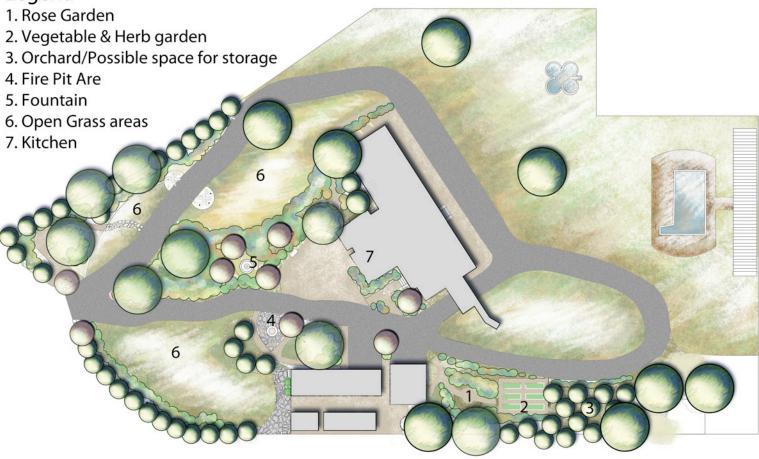
design ideas and the clients enjoyed the plant list I provided them with. They gave me the right away to use the plants on the list for the master plan and entrusted me with plant placement.

Master Plan Design:

The creation of the final master plan was composed of a variety of comments and consultations. The final consultation with Rory and Lisa allowed me to move forward with the design and make the final adjustments before approval and implementation. After this consultation I developed a planting plan with Rick Lopez Sr. His twenty plus years of experience in the area as a landscape contractor made him a perfect guide and resource when placing plants and plant selection.

Master Plan:

Legend



Fuerst Family Garden Perspective:



Northern & Southern Planters:

These two planters that border the the entrance and need to compliment the middle and its elegance. The two planters receive filtered sun and some areas are covered in shade. So the plants need to be shade tolerant and also provide color to liven up the otherwise dark and isolated areas. Plants I chose were loropetalum, a variety camellias, geranium biokovo, oranmental grasses planted under the oaks, and a variety of Hydrangea and Rhododendrons. I decided to add a fire pit and gathering area near the oaks directly across the existing BBQ area to compliment and contrast the proposed fountain and provide another entertainment area for the family near their kitchen.

Figure 18: Illustration of the design of the northern planter



Figure 19: Illustration of the design of the southern planter



Middle Planter:

The focal point of the entrance that acts as a buffer between the roads leading in and out of the house. There is a path leading from the northern planter to to the family's entertainment area and fountain. This area receives plenty of sun to sustain a variety of plants except the space closest to the house which receives little or no sun. This planter is the heart of the design since it hold the Rory's memorable fountain.

Figure 20: Illustration of the design of the middle planter



Figure 21: Illustrated panorama of the design of the middle planter



Figure 22: Illustration of the design of the portion of the middle planter



Eastern Planter:

This site was the site I chose to place the Vegetable, rose garden and orchard. I placed the the rose garden first because it would be located in close proximity to the house. The vegetable garden there after acts as a buffer between the orchard and the rose garden. I designed two entrances to the vegetable garden one leading into and through the rose garden and the other directly connecting to the asphalt road. Directly after the vegetable garden is a pathway leading directly through the orchard leading to the potential storage area behind the orchard.

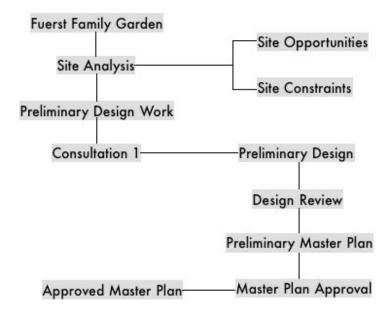
Figure 23: Illustration of the design of the eastern planter



Conclusion:

The design process was made much easier for me because Rory and Lisa were well prepared and informed about the process and knew exactly what they wanted. Rory and Lisa had never had a design drawn up for their home. In 1989 Rory and Lisa did most of the planning themselves and now are thankful to have some help and have their garden design on paper. Even though Rory's and Lisa's enthusiasm and preparedness made the preliminary steps f the design easier to complete the design in a short period of time was a doable yet stringent process.

Figure 24: Design process



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${\sf Appendix}$

Master Plant List:

Botanical Name:	Common Name:	Size (Gallons)	Quantity (#)	Remarks:	Symbol:
Ground Cover/ Borders:					
Geranium biokovo	Geranium	1 gal	36	Great Border Plant	0
Geranium 'Johnson's blue'	Geranium	1 gal	17	Great Border Plant	0
Lamium maculatum 'White Nancy'	White Spotted Nettle	1 gal	31		(A)
Lamium maculatum 'Red Nancy'	Red Spotted Nettle	1 gal	23		(%)
Lantana montevidensis	Lantana	1 gal	40		+
Trachelospermum jasminoides	Star Jasmine	1 gal	14		(0,00)
Thymus serpyllum	Elfin Thyme	Flat		Planted In B/T Flagstone	
Perennials:					
Fern species	Ferns			(E) and Trans.	****
Heuchera 'Amethyst Mist'	Coral Bells	1 gal	7		0
Heuchera 'Martha Roderick'	Coral Bells	1 gal	9		0
Nepeta x frassenii	Catmint	1 gal	33		€\$
Ornamental Grasses:					
Pennisetum orientalis	Dwarf Fountain Grass	1 gal	14		25tr

Pennisetum setaceum 'Rubrum'	Red-Fountain Grass	1 gal	4		
remisetum setaceum Rubrum	Reu-Fountain Grass	I gai	4		(O
Shrubs:					
Aronia arbutifolia	Red Chokeberry	5gal	6		%
Camellia sasanqua 'Apple blossom'	Camellia	5 gal	9		
Camellia hiemalis 'Shishi Gashira'		5 gal	9		
Camellia sasanqua 'Mine-no-Yuki'	Camellia white dove	5 gal	21		25
Camellia variety	Camellia	(E)		Transplanted Camellias (E) on site	0
Cestrum nocturnum	Night Jasmine	5 gal	4		
Hydrangea Macrophylla 'Endless Summer Blue'	Endless Summer Blue	5 gal	13		
Hydrangea Macrophylla 'Endless Summer White'	Endless Summer White	5gal	2		
Hydrangea quercifolia	Oak leaf Hydrangea	5 gal	3		\odot
	Lavender	1 gal	8		5
Loropetalum chinense 'Atropurpurea'	Fringe Flower	5gal	12		

Loropetalum chinense 'Razzleberri'	Fringe flower	5 gal	8		
Osmanthus fragrans	Sweet Olive	5gal	4		(3)
Pittosporum tobira 'Cream de Mint		5 gal	6		**
Rhododendron species	Rhododendron	(E)		Trans.	3
Rosa hybrids	Roses	(E)		Trans. Roses (E) On Site	60
Syringa x persica	Persian Lilac	15 gal	3		**
Viburnum opulus 'Roseum'	Common Snowball	5gal	3		<>
Trees:					
Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'	Japanese Maple	24" Box	2		+
Cornus nuttallii 'Starlight'	Pacific Dogwood	15 gal/24" Box	4	Choice based on availability	
Cornus nuttallii 'goldspot'	Dogwood	15 gal/24" Box		Choice based on availability	
Malus floribunda	Crabapple	24"			
Lagerstroemia indica	Crape Myrtle	24" Box			

Saucer Magnolia	48"	1	ATM.
Kiwi Vine			A ./b.
			+ +
			THE REAL PROPERTY.

Abbreviations Key: TBD: To Be Determined

FLWR: Flower EG: Evergreen D: Deciduous Per: Perennial

Per: Perennial
(E): Existing
HT: Height
Trans.: Transplanted
Sp: Spring
Sum: Summer
Win.: Winter

Master Planting Plan

