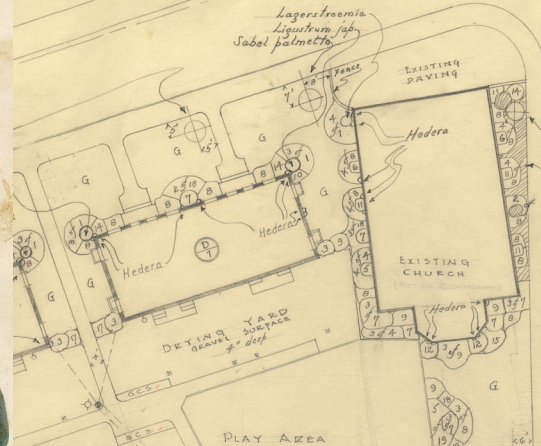




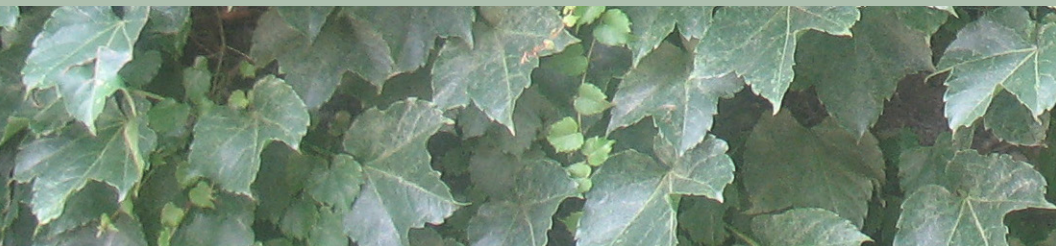
Camellia Fraserii rubra

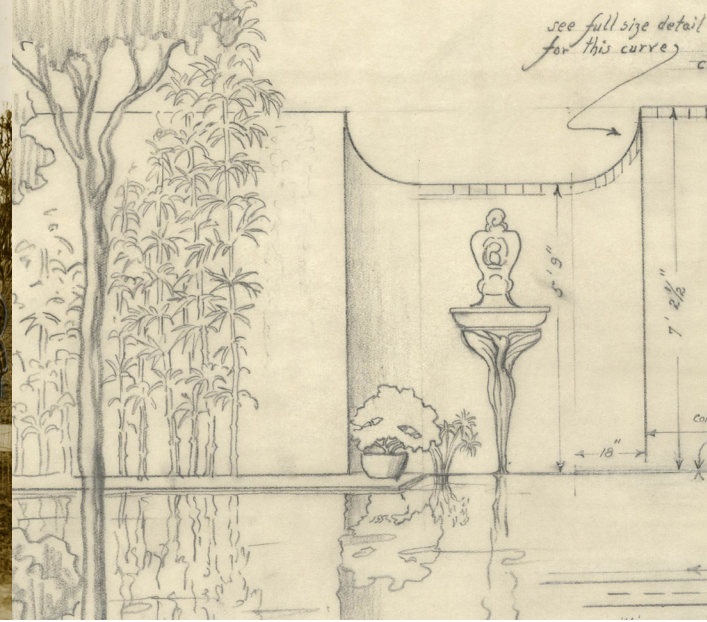


Green-House front, with glass lights and door of glass at the end, to be 7 feet high, 35 in length, by 12 in breadth. Brick foundation two feet high, half a foot of which to be under ground.

“New Gardens Are Ever Appearing”:

Loutrel Briggs and the
Charleston Horticultural Tradition





Charleston is known for its beautiful public and private gardens. Spaces filled with manicured green shrubbery and fragrant blossoms are abundant. Residents of early Charleston such as Martha Logan, André Michaux, Robert Squibb, and John Drayton laid the foundations for planned outdoor spaces. But it was New York-born landscape architect Loutrel Winslow Briggs (1893–1977) who left the most voluminous and influential footprint on the cultivated landscape of Charleston and its environs.

Scholarship and commentary on Briggs's work have traditionally emphasized his contributions to the design of Charleston's small-scale town gardens, most of which were commissioned by private citizens of means. However, the magnificent corpus of Briggs's architectural plans preserved in local archives demonstrates the broad range of his vision that goes well beyond the private gardens enjoyed by Charleston's elite. Over his career that spanned six decades, Briggs was commissioned to beautify and plan grounds for public memorial sites, churches, a labor union headquarters, public housing projects, schools, and even a service station.

Loutrel Briggs believed in the "wealth of pictorial possibility" held by the landscape of Charleston and vicinity. The gardens he designed are trademarked by their attention to and appropriateness for the climate, architecture, and historic fabric of the region. Briggs relied on a re-

stricted palette of less than thirty traditional Charleston plants, including the camellia, azalea, loquat, tea olive, wisteria, yellow jessamine, oleander, and star jasmine. This finite plant palette not only helped to unify the landscape design, but also provided a link with the past.

Archival objects from a variety of Charleston's cultural heritage repositories are included in this exhibit and tell the story of how Briggs's prolific and wide-ranging work unfolded and evolved. Plans, engravings, sketches, and tools represent the foundations upon which Briggs measured his considerable influence. Briggs's own intricate pencil drawings demonstrate the range of projects to which he contributed. Scrapbooks and other ephemera created by the influential garden clubs of Charleston reveal the important role played by members of the gardening community in bolstering Briggs's efforts to maintain the integrity and allure of Charleston's outdoor heritage.

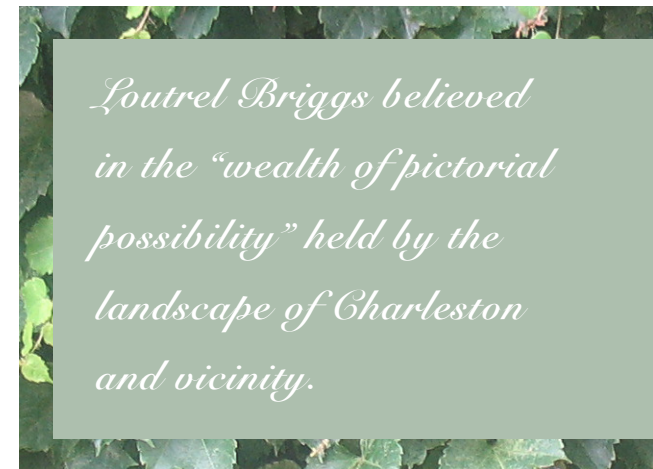
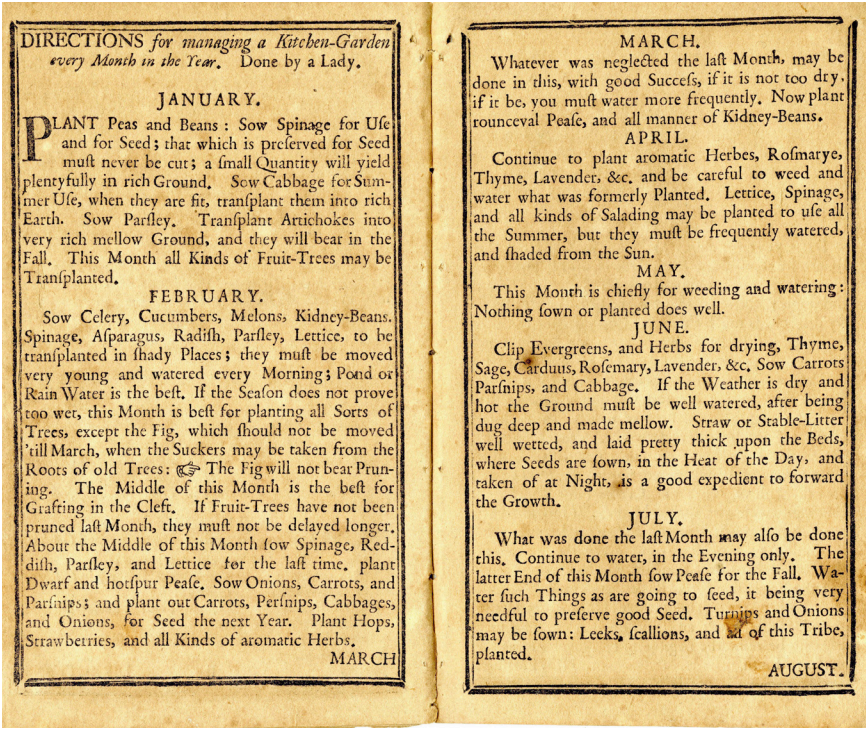


Exhibit Highlights



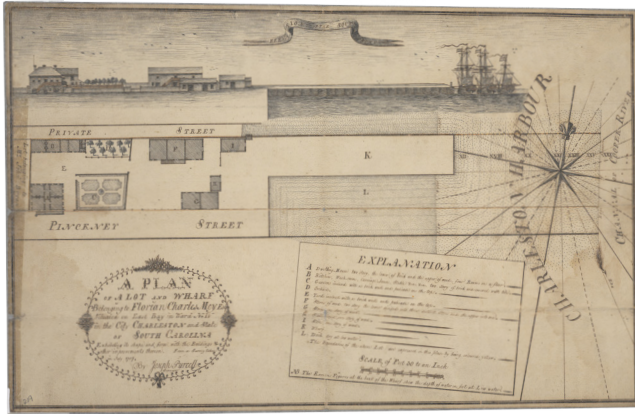
John Henry Dick Collection,
College of Charleston Special Collections.



Gardener's Calendar by Martha Logan

1757
South Carolina Historical Society

Martha Daniell Logan (1702–1779) was the first person to publish a gardening calendar in colonial America. The daughter of Landgrave and Deputy Governor Robert Daniell and his wife, Martha, Martha Daniell Logan maintained a well-known garden on the “Green, near Trott’s Point” in Charles Town. Logan’s *Gardener’s Calendar or Directions for managing a kitchen garden every month of the year done by a lady* was first published in the 1752 *South Carolina Almanac*. Logan’s calendar followed a format commonly found in eighteenth-century British and French gardening texts and was written to be read chronologically by month, serving as a planting guide for southern gardeners. The *Gardener’s Calendar* tells the reader in detail not only what to plant each month of the year, but how to cultivate properly for the best possible results. Gardener’s calendars were very important to the eighteenth-century southern gardener—for the first time, our gardening ancestors had articulated the proper methods for cultivation of vegetables and fruits in the American South.



Garden of Florian Charles Mey

1787
Charleston County Register of Mesne and Conveyence

Florian Charles Mey was a prominent merchant

in the eighteenth century with an elaborate house and garden located between Pinckney Street and a small private street previously known as Hard Alley. This plat, executed by Joseph Purcell in 1787, shows a garden and yard, each "inclosed with a brick wall and palisade on top." An adjacent orchard served both ornamental and practical subsistence needs.



John Izard Middleton Greenhouse

1813
College of Charleston Special Collections

John Izard Middleton (1785–1849) was an American archaeologist and artist.

Born just outside Charleston at Middleton Place, he was the son of Mary Izard and Arthur Middleton (signer of the Declaration of Independence). These measured architectural drawings of Adamesque-style greenhouses are in ink, watercolor, and pencil. The main elevation has four Roman Doric columns in-antis with glass in between, and a Palladian window is installed at one end of the building.



Garden Club of Charleston Scrapbooks

1922–1960
College of Charleston Special Collections

Charleston's gardening rebirth in the early twentieth century was spearheaded by the pioneering efforts of the Garden Club of Charleston. Founded

in 1922 and federated ten years later, the first civic activity initiated by this visionary group was the planting and caring for grounds of the Charleston Library Society in 1923. This was followed by an innovative project called the Gateway Walk. Dedicated in the spring of 1930 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the founding of Charleston, the Gateway Walk was designed to carry pedestrians through four of the city's oldest churchyards, exposing them to a hidden arboreal paradise draped in Spanish moss and bounded by historic wrought iron gates.

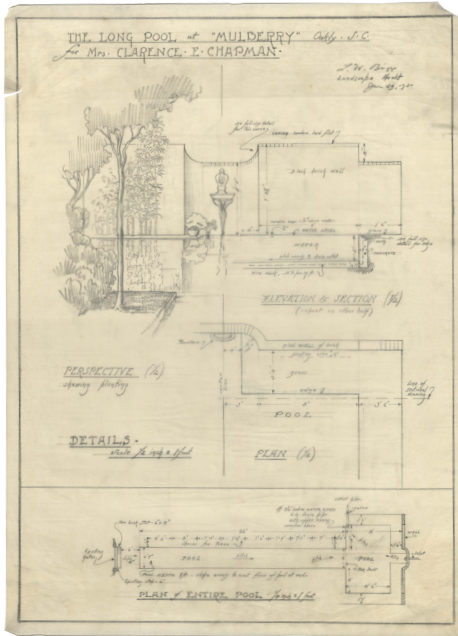


Byrnes Downs Garden Club Scrapbook

1948–1953
College of Charleston Special Collections

On January 15, 1948, fifteen women assembled to form the Byrnes Downs Garden Club. According to the club's constitution, their mission was to "improve and beautify our community, to coordinate and stimulate interest in gardening, and to aid in the protection of our wild flowers and birds."

They started by installing street signs and lights, selling and planting trees, and clearing a vacant lot. This scrapbook documents the history, projects, and activities of the Byrnes Downs Garden Club from 1948 to 1953 and contains photographs, newspaper clippings, typed histories, yearbooks, programs, and awards.

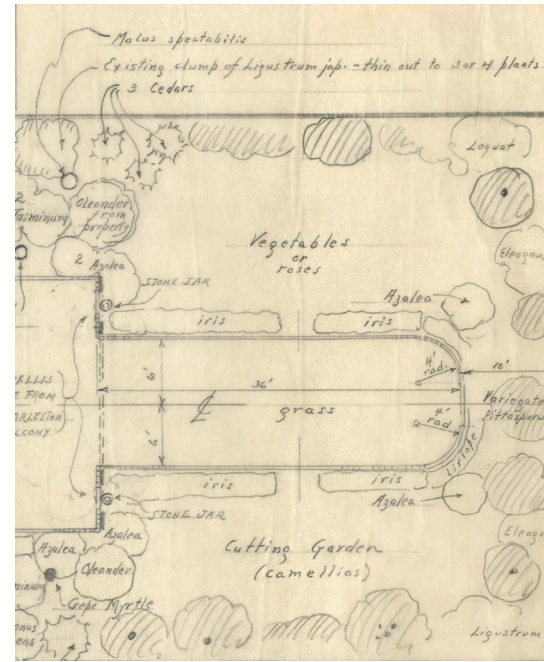


Plans for the Grounds at Mulberry Plantation
1931

Historic Charleston Foundation

Briggs balanced his urban projects with rural residential work and embellished several well-known plantations in the region. Most plantations had grounds that resembled large public parks as well as more intimate private areas adjacent to the main residence. Of these, Mulberry Plantation, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Chapman, is perhaps the most magnificent and well

preserved, with brick walls, pool, fountain, and gate complementing the tailored grounds.



16 Legare Street
1948

South Carolina Historical Society

The garden at 16 Legare Street embodied Briggs's creation of a series of "outdoor rooms" that complemented the interior spaces of the home gardens he designed. The vegetable and cutting gardens were separated by brick hardscape and were analogous to the kitchens and living rooms inside the home.

PLANT LIST

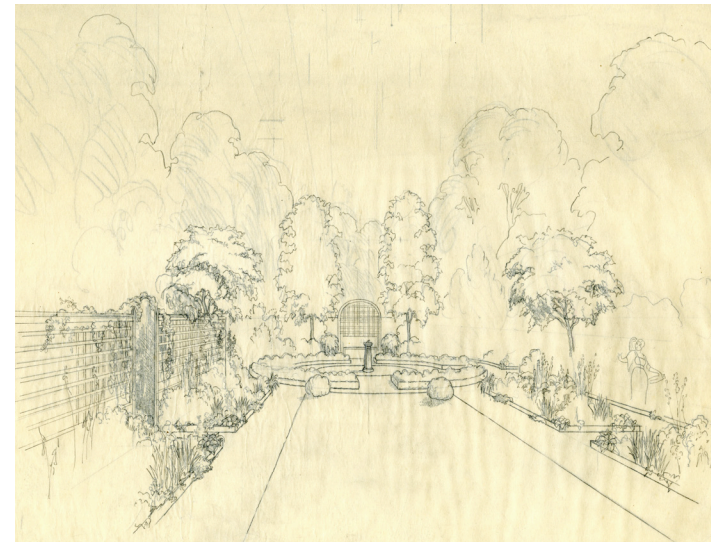
Trees and vines are indicated by name on plan

Key Number	Name of Shrubs
1.	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>
2.	<i>Azalea formosa</i>
3.	<i>Bambusa disticha</i>
4.	<i>Cydonia japonica</i>
5.	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>
6.	<i>Illicium anisatum</i>
7.	<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>
8.	<i>Jasminum primulifolium</i>
9.	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>
10.	<i>Eleagnus pungens simoni</i>
11.	<i>Nandina domestica</i>
12.	<i>Nerium oleander</i>
13.	<i>Philadelphus grandiflora</i>
14.	<i>Pittosporum tobira</i>
15.	<i>Pyracantha formosana</i>
16.	<i>Photinia serrulata</i>
17.	<i>Spiraea prunifolia</i>
18.	<i>Spiraea thumbergia</i>
19.	<i>Spiraea vanhouttei</i>
<i>Ground cover</i>	
20.	<i>Hedera helix</i>

Loutrel Briggs Plant List
1940

South Carolina Historical Society

A ubiquitous feature in Briggs's elaborate landscape plans was the plant list. This enumerated list of shrubs detailed by their scientific names includes azaleas, hibiscus, jasmine, oleander, and bamboo and was commissioned by the City of Charleston Housing Authority for Robert Mills Manor.



Loutrel Briggs Concept Sketch

South Carolina Historical Society

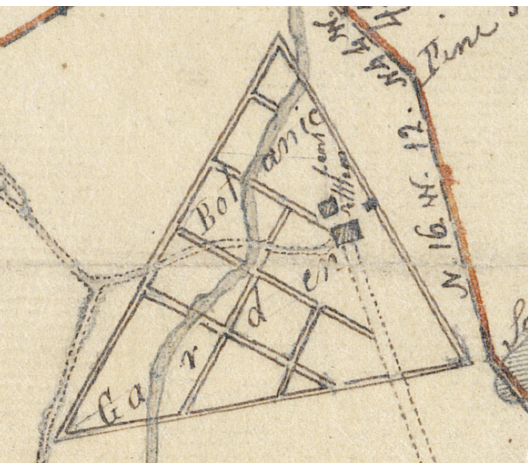
This early concept drawing executed by Briggs illustrates the classical

English influences he drew upon and demonstrates his evolution as one of America's most prolific landscape architects.



Special thanks to Karen Emmons (Historic Charleston Foundation), Grahame Long and Jennifer McCormick (Charleston Museum), Robert McIntyre (Charleston County Register of Mesne and Conveyance), Celeste Wiley and Virginia Ellison (South Carolina Historical Society), and Anna Smith (Charleston Library Society) for graciously loaning objects from their holdings to enhance materials from the College of Charleston's Special Collections.

Curated by Mary Jo Fairchild, College of Charleston Special Collections, with assistance from Sam Sfirri and Anne Bennett.



Iconographie du genre *Camellia* by *Lorenzo Berlese*,
College of Charleston Special Collections.

Opposite, top: Gardening Club of Charleston Scrapbooks,
College of Charleston Special Collections.

J.J. Jung, pinx.



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