

The  
**Huntington**  
Library · Art Collections · Botanical Gardens



# Master Plan

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# Executive Summary

## Goals and Intent

Since Henry Huntington established the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens in 1919, the size of the site has remained nearly constant, but its programs and physical layout have changed dramatically. By the end of 2005, about 15 acres of new gardens and nearly 200,000 square feet of additional building space will have been developed on the site. These new developments have demonstrated the need for a Master Plan which would assess how current facilities support the Huntington's mission and the Strategic Plan completed in 2004, and then create an integrated vision and practical strategies for implementation that will guide the maintenance and growth of the site for the next ten years and beyond. During the course of the study, the Munger Research Center and the Children's Garden were both opened to the public, which allowed the team to witness the impact of these new developments on visitor perceptions and the use of the site.

The goal of the Master Plan has been to create a balance between resources, revenues, endowment, and capital allocations, which will enable The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens to endure and prosper. Among the objectives of the study were:

- Greater visibility and a more accessible arrival and orientation program to welcome new and diverse audiences;
- A deeper, more coherent visitor experience, offering more logical way-finding among the rich resources that the site offers;
- Growth in revenues and other support through balanced use of site and facilities use and the cultivation of diverse audiences;
- Establishment and implementation of a preservation strategy for historic resources as a way to enrich the visitor experience as well as managing resources;
- A well-targeted plan for addressing deferred maintenance,

building renovations and improvements, with clear projections for cost and priorities, acknowledging that the Huntington has completed its major construction initiatives for the immediate future;

- Improved site development to address the above needs, particularly in regards to parking, vehicular service, water and other utilities.
- The role of sustainability and conservation, as a guiding philosophy for design and operations.

## Process

The Master Plan was developed by a multidisciplinary team led by Ann Beha Architects, Boston and including Gensler, Santa Monica; Sasaki Associates, landscape architects, San Francisco and Boston; and Davis Langdon Partners, cost estimators. The Huntington provided the services of Kaku Associates, traffic engineers, and Wilbur Faulk, Executive VP for the Cultural Properties Division of Contemporary Services Corporation, security consultant. Work began at the end of March 2004 and culminated in a presentation to the Board of Overseers at a retreat attended by more than 100 members of the Huntington community on November 13, 2004. The team started with a series of individual meetings with department heads and senior staff to review key issues, and held additional meetings with Botanical, and Food, Events, Bookstore and Film staff in May. Findings and recommendations were presented at six workshop sessions with the Buildings & Grounds Committee between March and October. Other sessions included: one meeting with Trustees in May; a presentation to the Trustee Advisory Group in September; and informational sessions for Overseers and for Docents and staff in June and September.

While listening to the concerns and visions expressed by staff and trustees, the team also spent time understanding the

history and evolution of the site and making observations about current conditions. These were compared with experiences at peer research and cultural institutions, to see whether there were new developments—in terms of how they communicate an image and identity to the visitor and/or the academic world, how visitors and scholars are welcomed and oriented, what revenue-generating activities have been successful—that might be considered for the Huntington.

The Master Plan was viewed as an opportunity to reclaim the values that created the Huntington, and to articulate principles that would help it grow and change while remaining true to them. Having studied the Strategic Plan, the team recognized the need to be practical, yet were also urged by the Trustees and Overseers to use this opportunity to help them look beyond the immediate needs and anticipate “what might be.” The end result has been a series of initiatives that may be undertaken over the next five to fifteen years, which attempt to provide a balance of improvements to the many facets of the site, as well as design guidelines which suggest how to implement the initiatives.

### **Analysis Of Existing Conditions**

#### *Traffic, Site Arrival & Parking*

Traffic flow and parking were studied by Kaku Associates. They concluded that the lot is sufficient in size to accommodate the approved number of daily visitors. However, the curving lots and limited sight-lines make way-finding difficult. With the opening of the Children’s Garden and Botanical Education Center, visitor and delivery traffic have been further complicated, and concerns have been raised about the length of the route from parking through the visitors center to these peripheral areas of the site.

#### *Guest/Visitor Experience*

There was no desire to greatly increase number of visitors. However, improving the visitor experience, enabling them to

take greater advantage of the site and encouraging visits during off-peak periods were all identified as goals. Since the site has become larger, visiting it has become more challenging. The main visitor loop, from the Library to the Botanical Center, past the Japanese Gardens, through the Australian and Desert Gardens, takes more than 30 minutes to walk, and steep slopes south of the Huntington Gallery are greater than allowed by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### *Education & Research*

No major changes are anticipated in research facilities, since the new Munger Center program accommodates 40 years of anticipated growth. Despite the construction of the Botanical Education Center, however, there is a need for classrooms and lecture space for scholarly symposia, school groups, family programs, adult programs and docents.

#### *Food Service and Special Events*

Food service is an important amenity for not only visitors but also staff and scholars at the Huntington, who welcome the opportunity to meet informally in the beautiful surroundings. The cafeteria has limited indoor seating for poor weather, and the serving area is frequently overwhelmed at lunchtime. Its location in the center of the site creates conflicts between pedestrians and delivery and trash removal trucks. The Huntington hosts over 700 events per year, ranging from committee meetings to exhibit openings attended by hundreds of people, but there are relatively few places on the grounds to hold them and consequently existing facilities and staff are overburdened.

#### *Building Conditions*

As the physical plant has grown, so have needs for maintenance. The Operations Director and Facilities Manager have developed a database of ongoing maintenance needs for the property, the result of the past ten years of experience. Typically, only a portion of what is proposed each year can be implemented

within current budgets, and thus other work is deferred from year-to-year. A major investment in deferred maintenance funding was recommended for all facilities to make future maintenance budgets more predictable.

#### *Landscape Conditions*

A significant portion of the grounds has historically been developed as formal gardens, agricultural groves or other landscaped zones featuring regular irrigation and maintenance. Topographically, it has not been modified significantly. These characteristics of land development have contributed to a stable, low erosion rate across the site. Pedestrian walkways throughout the site vary in condition and ADA compatibility.

#### *Infrastructure*

As various parts of the site have been developed, infrastructure has been added to meet immediate needs. Concurrent with the Master Plan, the existing utilities on the site were documented comprehensively for the first time in the history of the site.

- *Drainage.* The site has a deep, permeable substrate and variably sloping terrain. Over the last century, however, as buildings, roads and walks have been added to the Estate and to the surrounding area outside of the property, the site's impermeable surfaces have been increased, without any growth in site drainage infrastructure. Thus, storm levels regularly exceed the capacity of the storm drain system. Current plans call for creation of earthen structures to detain water, to control flow rates and allow percolation into the substrate. These would be distributed across entire site within planting areas, and blend with the character of the locations.
- *Water.* There are two types of water service on site: well water and potable water. Currently, irrigation and fire suppression service run in the same piping, so that, when the irrigation is shut off for repairs, sprinklers are disabled. The

aged components of the system cannot withstand the pressure levels required to accommodate the needs of the buildings and the grounds. Thus, pipe and joint failure is common yet unpredictable throughout the system. The potential for multiple fires is of concern, particularly given the large areas of vegetation.

As The Huntington looks toward development of new gardens and buildings, the use and availability of water must be considered. The site's development threshold may be limited to its current state, given the intermittent supply shortages it now experiences. A water management plan that addresses water consumption and sustainability practices in the context of projected development should be assigned a high priority.

#### **Site Character**

The distinctive character of the Huntington, with its landscaped grounds and handsome buildings, is as appealing as the individual literary treasures, artistic masterpieces or botanical specimens within it. A key goal of the Master Plan has been to preserve that character, to reinstate it in more recently-developed areas and to provide guidelines for future development which would be consistent with it.

#### *South Zone*

During the creation of the Huntington Estate and the early days of the institution, the principal focus of public activity was the area around the Huntington Gallery and the Library. Visitors entered at the east end of the site, with clear views of both buildings, and the strong facades of both buildings drew visitors through the site to the North Vista. Beyond the zone, there are views to gardens which remain the most popular, from the Rose Garden to the Japanese Garden and from the east edge to the Cactus Garden. Termed the "South Zone," this area remains the historic core of the site. It should be given priority for preservation, and the clarity and power of the space should be restored.

### *North Zone*

A service yard was originally located to the north of the house, including the garage which is now the Boone Gallery. With the construction of the Scott Gallery, and its portico on axis with the Mausoleum, public access was introduced into this area. The renovation of the Boone Gallery and construction of the Botanical Education Center and Erburu Gallery have made this a significant new center of public activity, which has been identified as the North Zone. The goal would be to create relationships between the buildings and the landscape that are as powerful as those in the historic zone.

### *East Zone*

With the construction of the Munger Center north of the existing Visitor Center, a third major public area has been created. The drop-off and approach to the visitor center have been moved further into the parking lot as a result, and the strong portico on the front of the Munger Center creates confusion as to which is the visitor entrance. At the same time, the area offers potential locations for future educational or visitor service buildings. The placement of these buildings, and the landscape around them, are discussed under “Initiatives.”

### *Gardens*

In addition to the zones defined by public buildings, there are a number of well-defined landscape “spaces.” These tend to share common characteristics: distinctive and visible topography, such as the valley of the Japanese Garden or the slope of the Cactus Garden; edges clearly defined through vertical plantings, such as the North Vista and Palm Drive; and unusual and/or uniform texture and plantings, such as the Cactus Garden or the Orange Grove.

### *Undeveloped Areas and Recommendations for Use*

Approximately 60 of the 200 acres of the Huntington property have not been developed as gardens or buildings. This includes the perimeter of the site on all sides, as well as most of the

northwestern part of the site. These areas were analyzed in terms of current characteristics and potential for future use.

- *Perimeter/Buffer Zones*

The Conditional Use Permit for the parking lot mandates an 85 foot unbuilt buffer zone between the parking lot and the property line on the north and east sides. It is recommended that the western perimeter of the site be studied to assure the establishment of an adequate buffer between the estate and its neighbors.

- *Preservation Zones*

The existing orange groves and the native oak area west of the mausoleum were identified as appropriate for preservation.

- *Future garden zones*

Several areas were identified which, by virtue of their proximity to the existing gardens and roadways, could be developed as gardens. These occupy a sloping hillside north and west of the proposed Chinese Garden.

- *Future Maintenance or other Building Zone*

A limited number of sites were identified as logical and appropriate areas for any future back-of-house functions.

- *Satellite Parking Areas*

Appropriate locations for approximately 50 cars to serve special events were studied, but none was recommended, though some areas may be suitable for staff parking.

## **Design Guidelines**

The past and future identity of the Huntington—and its pursuit of excellence in all aspects—is embodied in the power of its estate environment. Key characteristics are the unity of its experience, and the imbedded creativity, unerring eye and commitment to quality that characterizes each of the institution’s endeavors.

By studying the evolution of the Huntington estate and

documenting current conditions and concerns, a framework has emerged for future growth and renewal of its buildings and grounds. This framework begins by stating broad principles related to the Huntington's mission, its values and its physical character—a case for why design guidelines should be implemented. It then suggests how the principles would be implemented, outlining who should be involved in planning and decision-making to ensure consistency with both the master plan and overall institutional objectives. Finally, it proposes specific recommendations for key elements, addressing what actions are consistent with the guidelines.

The Guiding Principles focus on celebrating, renewing, and promoting the heritage and unique character of the Huntington. They recommend preserving the history and intentions of the site and using them as a framework for future decision-making and design. They suggest ways of enhancing the ability of visitors to experience and understand the unique character of the Huntington, reinforcing the Huntington's mission as a collections-based research and education organization, and its relevance for contemporary audiences. They focus on the physical character of the site as foundation for sustainable development, which minimizes impact on natural and financial resources.

### **Recommended Initiatives**

Express the message and character of the Huntington from the moment of arrival on the site

- Route visitors from the Allen Gate to parking via Palm Drive and past the Orange Grove.
- Provide safe, clear pedestrian paths from parking areas to the visitor entrance.
- Reorganize parking to maintain current number of spaces and improve aesthetics—connecting the parking with the mission

of the Huntington.

- Provide convenient and adequate staff and research fellow parking.
- Extend lighting in the parking area.

Enhance the visitor's understanding of the Huntington's offerings

- Provide a single entrance for visitors and researchers.
- Provide a direct visual connection between parking, the arrival point and the gardens.
- Locate ticketing and information stations closer to parking and drop-off.
- Provide an easy and secure path from ticketing area to the new Botanical Center, the Boone Gallery and future Chinese Garden.
- Share the Huntington's history, programs and mission through dedicated space for a general introduction to the Huntington. Clearly display changing information to build awareness of the dynamic programming and the seasonality.
- Redesign the plazas west of the entrance to complement the existing character of the historic core. Relocate Desert Greenhouse to west end of Desert Garden.

Improve visitor circulation to enhance enjoyment of the entire site and improve safety

- Provide a comprehensive program of site signage & wayfinding that is consistent with the Huntington's mission and heritage.
- Provide a new ADA-accessible path through the Sub-Tropical, Jungle and Palm Gardens.
- Establish a main visitor loop that connects core buildings and gardens and is keyed to information points, educational facilities, drinking fountains and rest rooms.
- Provide a transportation system to allow disabled and infirm visitors to experience the site—either group systems like trams or individual systems like scooters.
- Provide site lighting in along pathways used for evening

events.

- Locate service activities such as kitchens and maintenance facilities outside the visitor core.

Redesign food services to express the mission and character of the Huntington and to serve scholars and the public. Provide first class space for special events to support scholarly symposia and fund-raising activities and preserve the perception of the Huntington as a unique venue.

- Relocate the Café closer to entrance.
- Increase the size of the Tea Room after relocating the café, redesign terraces adjacent to Herb Garden and Rose Garden and improve rest rooms.
- Construct a main kitchen, trash and delivery outside the visitor areas and adjacent to vehicle access points.
- Provide space which could function as a signature restaurant and for special events.
- Provide key tent and/or satellite food service locations which protect plantings and incorporate hook-ups for power, night-lighting, etc.

Two options were studied for the location of visitor services and educational facilities, and illustrated through models and renderings. Budgets for all of the initiatives anticipated to be undertaken within ten years were developed to assist the Huntington in developing prioritized plans.

## History and Evolution of Site





## History & Evolution Of The Site

During Henry Huntington's first visit to "San Marino," the Shorb Ranch, he recognized its unique character. With the mountains to the east and views down to the Pacific on the west, the 200 acres that now comprise the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens occupy a dramatic location within the Los Angeles area. The consultants used historic maps, photographs and other documentation to identify underlying themes in the development of the site to inform the master plan and design guidelines. The following were noted:

- The Huntington mansion was located very close to the original site of the Shorb house, roughly in the center of the site and taking advantage of the outstanding views at the edge of the plateau.
- The North Vista and Rose Garden were laid out before the construction of the house. The house was originally intended to be located at the intersection of the main axis for each garden, but the footprint was shifted slightly during construction to miss an oak tree that Huntington wished to save. Thus, large-scale formal devices were sacrificed to meet more small-scale objectives, and Myron Hunt's classically-inspired terraces were abandoned in favor of William Hertrich's grassy lawns and plantings.
- The simple, classical detailing of the house was noted as its most distinctive feature. Porter Garnett remarked in *Stately Homes of California* that "Standing white and long and low against its background of soaring mountains, it attracts the eye by reason of its classic reserve, stateliness and dignity. These qualities, rather than any showy splendor, make it the most 'palatial' residence in California."<sup>1</sup>

- Following the loss of Collis P. Huntington's home and extensive collections to the San Francisco earthquake, Huntington made the decision to construct his new home in reinforced concrete. In doing so, Huntington established the foremost function of the estate's buildings: to house, protect, and exhibit his extensive collections.
- The original approach to the House was from the south along a palm-lined drive that provided a series of focused views to the front of the house from below, magnifying its impact. Similar devices were employed in English estates from the 18th century. A palm-lined drive from the north, added in 1914, by contrast offered a clear view of the porte-cochere only as the drive passed the North Vista.
- With the construction of the Library in 1919, a more public precinct was created between the north side of the house and the south side of the Library building. When the site was opened to the public in 1927, parking and the initial gatehouse was provided from Oxford Road, between the two buildings. The present visitor center, constructed in the 1980's, occupies a position near the original visitor entrance.
- The area to the north of the Rose Garden and west of the North Vista was principally a service yard, with garages and a lath house. With the construction of the Scott Gallery in 1984, renovation of the Garage for the Boone Gallery in 1999 and creation of the Botanical Center in 1004, this space has become a second major precinct.

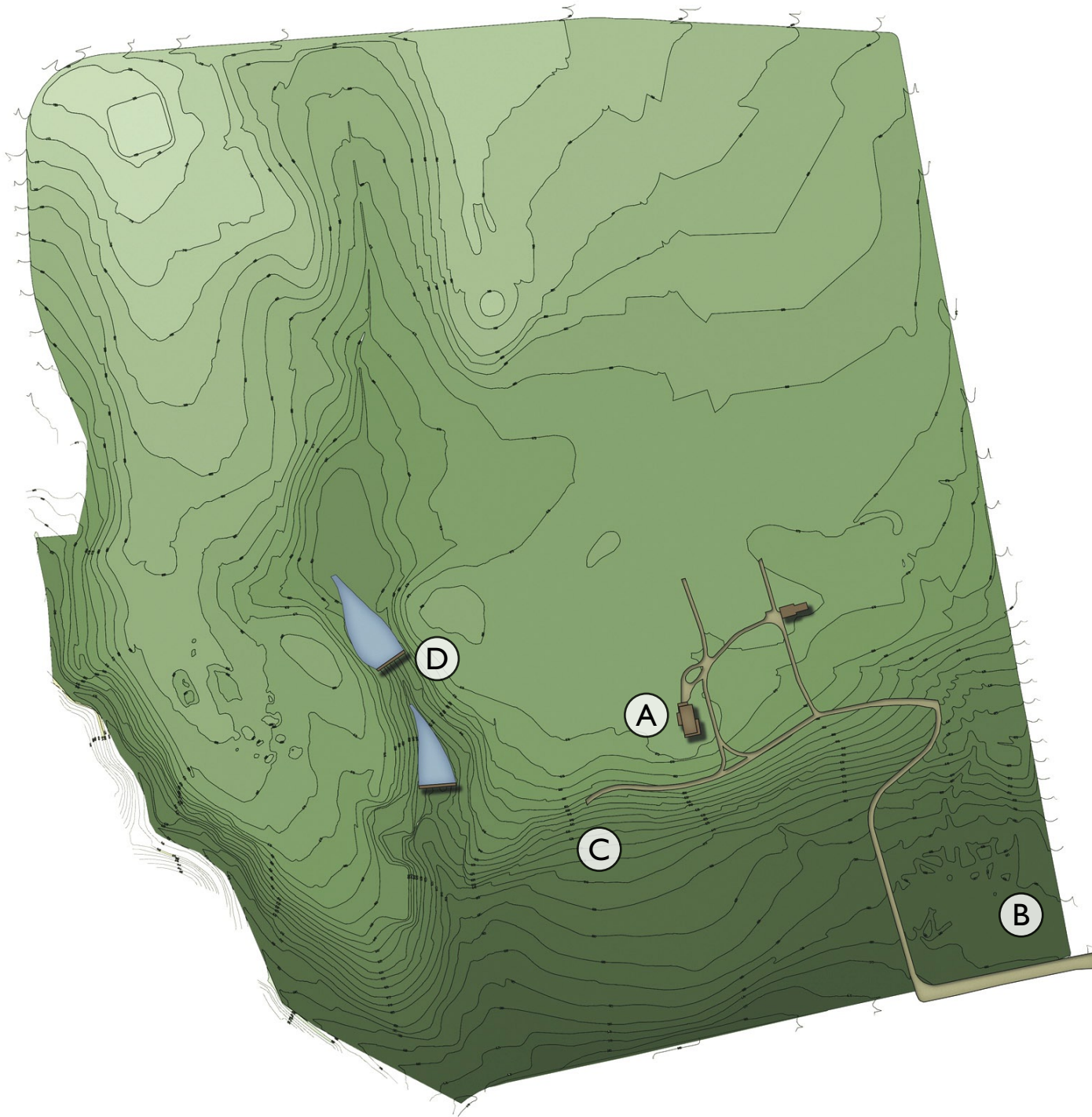
The historic core of the site remains a key to understanding the history and evolution of the site, and to guiding its future. As the site has developed beyond the core, it is in danger of being overshadowed. The character of the core versus more recently-developed areas is discussed in Chapter III, and recommendations for preservation of the core, both landscape and structures, are provided in Chapter IV.

<sup>1</sup> Porter Garnett, *Stately Homes of California* (Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1915), p. 37.



1900  
Shorb Ranch

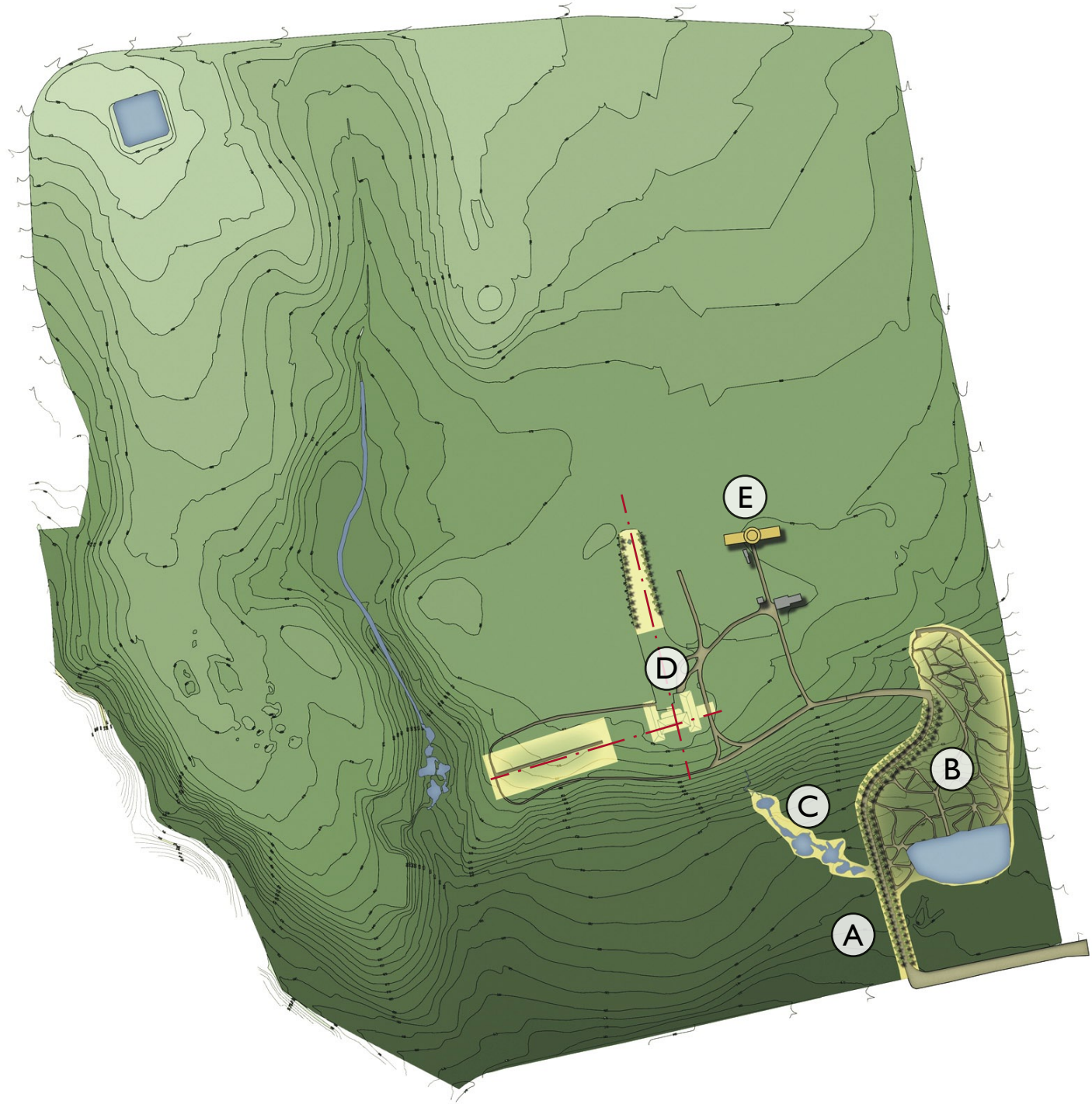
- A Original house
- B Original entry
- C Tectonic ridge
- D Canyon and original reservoirs



1908

*Construction Begins*

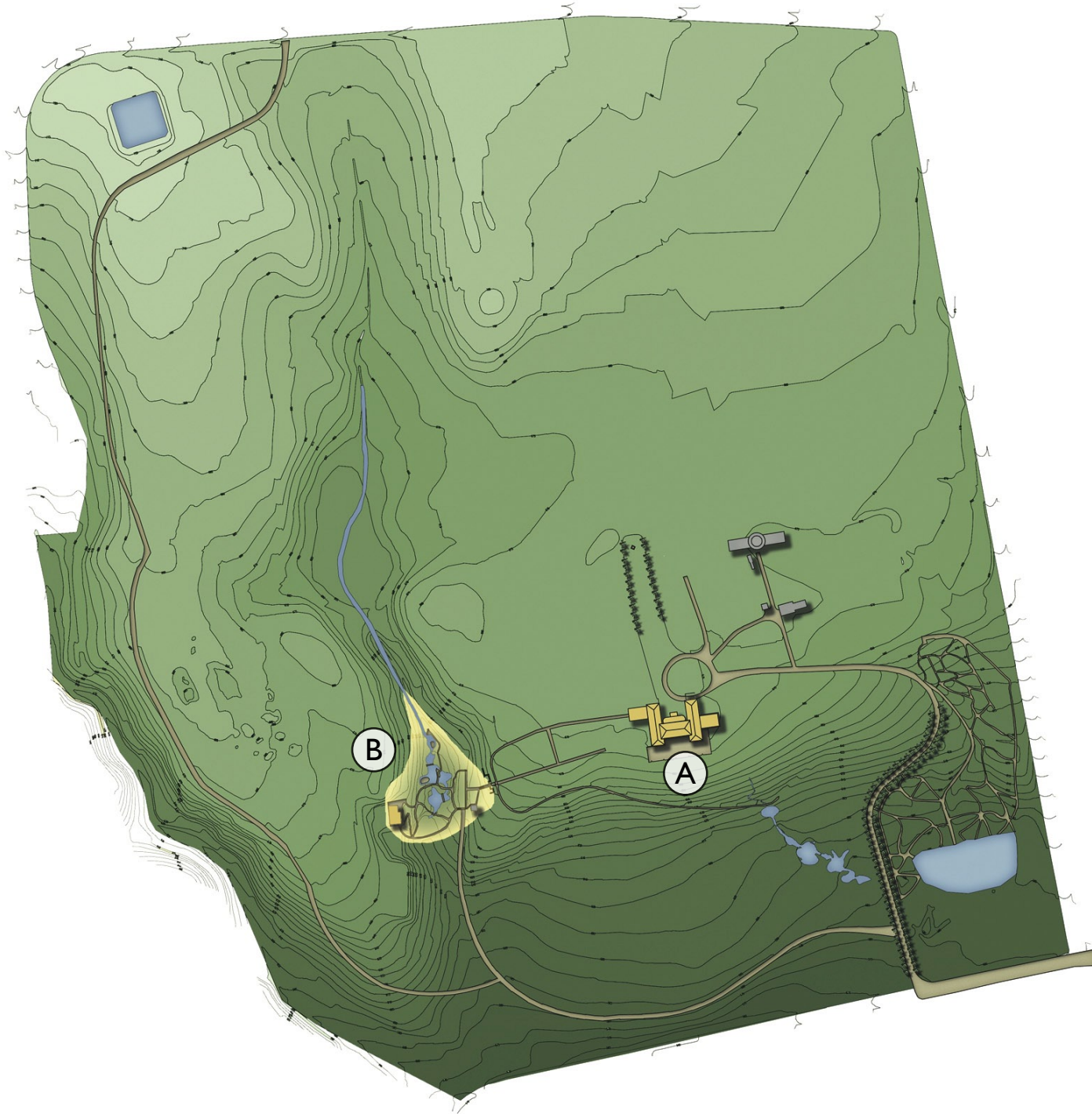
- A South Palm Drive
- B Desert Garden
- C Lily Pond
- D House layout aligned to North Vista and Rose Garden
- E Lath House





1914

- A House completed
- B Japanese House completed
- C North Palm Drive



1919

*Deed of Trust*

■ Current boundary established

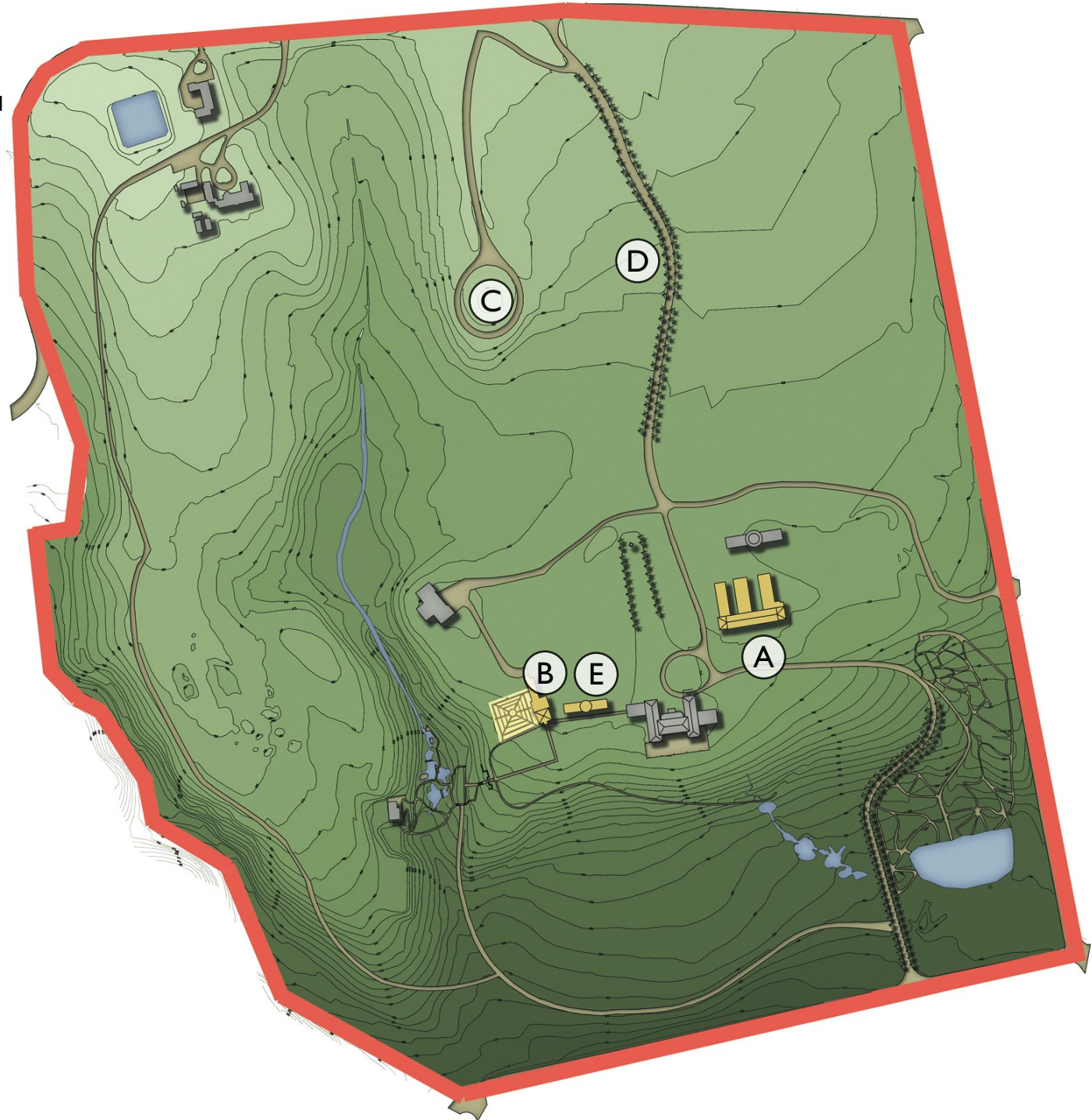
A Library

B Teahouse

C Mausoleum location

D North Palm Drive

E Aviary





1934

Visitor Amenities

- A Visitor Entry and parking
- B Visitor Reception and restrooms
- C Gallery wing
- D Shortcut to Mausoleum
- E Rose Garden reconfigured





1966

*Gardens expand*

- A Shakespeare Garden
- B Camelias
- C Zen Garden
- D Australian Garden





1981

- A New Parking Lot
- B Visitor Center
- C Public Cafeteria





1985-2000

- A Scott Gallery
- B Boone Gallery
- C Brown Garden





2005

- A Munger Center
- B Erburu Gallery
- C Conservatory + Botanical Center
- D Chinese Garden
- E Children's Garden
- F Facilities Building





## Historic Buildings

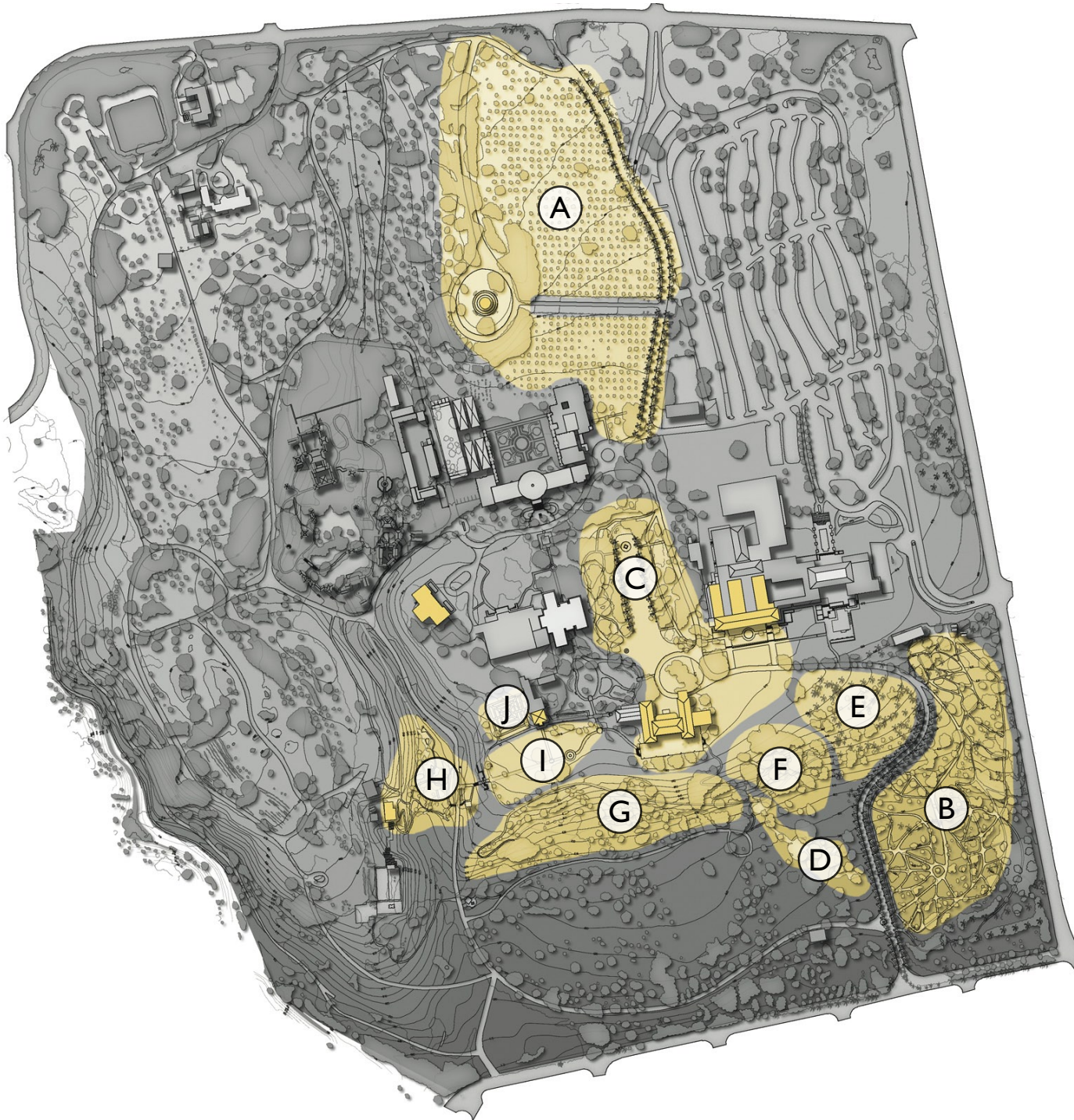
- A Huntington Gallery 1908
- B Library 1919
- C Teahouse 1919
- D Boone 1919
- E Mausoleum 1927
- F Japanese House 1908





## Historic Gardens

- A Orange Grove
- B Desert Garden
- C North Vista
- D Lily Pond
- E Palm Garden
- F Jungle Garden
- G Sub-Tropical Garden
- H Japanese Garden
- I Rose Garden
- J Herb Garden



## Analysis of Existing Conditions



## Analysis of Existing Conditions

*“Wayfinding is not intuitive now.”*

*“Without any doubt in my mind, the greatest long-range need for the Huntington is an educational building with ample conference facilities and an auditorium or two.”*

*“What about a Getty-style entry with admissions and parking moved much closer to the entrance?”*

*—comments from staff and Trustees*

### Traffic, Site Arrival & Parking

Traffic flow and parking were studied by Kaku Associates, and the complete report is included as Appendix A. The parking lot holds 1153 visitor spaces, 5 bus spaces and 73 employee spaces; a total of 1200 spaces are allowed by the conditional use permit with the City of San Marino issued when the lot was originally constructed. The spaces have been reduced as a result of the construction of the Munger Center.

Observations were made on the first Thursday in June (a free admission day) and a Saturday in July. With a total of 4,920 and 3,179 visitors, respectively, only about three-quarters of the parking spaces were used, and circulation appeared to be adequate. Attendance on July 1, 2004 was over 8,200 visitors, and the lot was full for several hours. Typically, there are about — days in the year when the site approaches this capacity. However, Kaku concluded that the lot is sufficient in size to accommodate the approved number of daily visitors.

Designated as an arboretum, the parking lot was originally designed around specimen trees and Huntington’s original orchards. While pleasant to look at, but the curving aisles and limited sight-lines make way-finding difficult. With the use of the Boone Gallery for special events, and the opening of the Children’s Garden and Botanical Education Center, concerns

have been raised about the length and confusing nature of the route from parking through the visitors center to these peripheral areas of the site. Goals identified included:

- Reconsider the path from Allen Gate to parking to visitor entrance to make the experience more welcoming to pedestrians and make visitors aware of the special character of the site from the first point of arrival.
- Provide clear and safe access for pedestrians from parking areas to the visitor entrance.
- Maintain the current number of visitor parking spots. Study the potential to increase parking, in current or “satellite” locations, as well as operational methods for increasing visitation without increasing parking requirements (extending opening hours, etc.).
- Provide a means of accommodating overflow during “free days” and other special attendance days.
- Provide convenient and adequate staff and research fellow parking, preferably shaded. Consider landscape alternatives to the current roofing system.
- Provide adequate space for bus drop-off and parking that is visually secluded from the visitor entrance during regular hours.
- Extend lighting in the parking area for evening events.

### Guest/Visitor Experience

There was no desire expressed by the Huntington to greatly increase number of visitors. However, improving the visitor experience, enabling them to take greater advantage of the site and encouraging visits during off-peak periods were all identified as goals. Objectives related to ticketing, orientation and initial visitor impressions included:

- Provide appropriate space and location for the ticketing function and traffic flow. Locate ticketing and information



stations so visitors don't queue in sun, members entry is not impeded by general visitor queues, and groups can be accommodated more quickly.

- Provide dedicated space for a general introduction to the site, its history and key features, as part of the visitor entrance, preferably before visitors pass the admissions point.
- Provide space within the site for a more comprehensive history of the institution, such as the 2004 Centennial exhibit.
- Create visible space in the visitor entry to accommodate brochures, and link to information systems on the site. Provide opportunities to display changing information—current exhibits, plants in bloom, the day's programs.
- Provide adequate bathrooms at the Entrance Pavilion, particularly for bus tours.

As the estate's facilities and gardens have increased, visitation has become more challenging. A review of walking distances (Pg. 44) from the main entrance revealed that the main visitor loop would take about 30 minutes to walk. The steep slopes south of the Huntington Gallery are greater than allowed by the Americans with Disabilities Act, and make travel difficult for all. The following needs were identified within the site:

- Consider a transportation system to allow disabled and infirm visitors to experience the reaches of the site, one which is consistent with the "estate" experience. Identify potential storage and servicing locations for vehicles, "stops" along a path of travel and waiting facilities, etc.
- Reconsider orientation, landmarks and landscape within

the Historic Core to provide better understanding of historic evolution of the area, and the importance of the Huntington Galleries and Library buildings. Consider means to guide visitors beyond core to other program areas, including the historic Mausoleum.

- Within new areas such as the Boone Gallery, Botanical Education Center and Erburu Gallery, study orientation, landmarks and landscape to connect this zone to the historic core.
- Study orientation, signage and landscape to provide clear directions for visitors and guests to research facilities without encouraging the general public to come into Munger Center, despite its prominent location at the entrance.

### **Education & Research**

No major changes are anticipated in research facilities. The new Munger Center program accommodates 40 years of anticipated growth in programs, staff and collections and is designed to be flexible as needs change in the future. Despite the construction of the Botanical Education Center, there is still a need for classrooms and lecture space for scholarly symposia, school groups, family programs, adult programs and docents. A program was developed in 2000 which was used as a guide in considering alternate locations for the facilities (see Appendix D). New facilities should be located to facilitate evening access and food service for receptions and other hospitality.

### **Food Service and Special Events**

Food service is an important amenity for not only visitors but also staff and scholars at the Huntington, who welcome the opportunity to meet informally in the beautiful surroundings.

- The Rose Garden Tea Room seats 90 people at a time, seating every 1 hour and 15 minutes. It is frequently fully booked, and would be more profitable if it were larger.
- The cafeteria has limited indoor seating for poor weather, and the serving area is frequently overwhelmed at lunchtime. A location closer to the entrance would permit better servicing and use by non-visitors and for after-hours events.
- There is no space for families and school groups to have picnics within the parking area and/or adjacent to botanical education building.

The Huntington hosts approximately 770 events per year, ranging from committee meetings to exhibit openings attended by hundreds of people. Activities include:

- Five conferences annually, related to themes of Library collections/fellowship. Typically, these are two-day sessions which meet in Friends Hall and are attended by 50-250 people, largely academics. Meals are served on the terrace adjacent to the Hall.
- Public conferences tied to special exhibits, which attract 150-300 people for single-day events.
- Twenty evening lectures sponsored by the Huntington, as well as those scheduled by other groups.
- A seminar program which includes weekly meetings, coordinated with local colleges. These will take place in three classrooms in the new Munger Center.
- Four Southwest Chamber Music concerts in the summer, held on the terrace of the Huntington Gallery.

There has been interest in sponsoring other events, but there are relatively few places on the grounds to hold them and consequently existing facilities and staff are overburdened:

- Friends Hall seats 200-250 people, and the adjacent terrace seats 200. The Hall is subdivided for classrooms three days a week, and chairs must be removed and reconfigured for other events. Two custodians are used for set-up and clean-up, which is a great burden on staff. Finishes and ambiance are very poor, and will become worse when paintings are removed.
- The Tea Room seats 90 people and the Herb Room will seat 30 people.
- The large lecture room at the new Botanical Center features raked seating. Most spaces in the Center are too noisy for large gatherings such as cocktail parties.
- The first phase of the Chinese Garden will have a tea shop and teahouse able to accommodate parties for 100-200 and dinners for 60-80. Later phases will include performance space.
- Ideally, key tent locations should be identified on the grounds which protect plantings and incorporate hook-ups for utilities; sites adjacent to the Boone Gallery and Lily Ponds/Desert Garden were identified.

Lighting on the grounds for evening events is limited. Approximately one third of the parking lot closest to the visitor pavilion is lit, and otherwise only security lighting is permanent. Temporary lights are brought in to light walkways for events, and work lights on rooflines are plugged in by hand.

## **Building Conditions**

As the physical plant has grown, so have needs for maintenance. The Operations Director and Facilities Manager have developed a database of ongoing maintenance needs for the property, the result of the past ten years of experience. Typically, only a portion of what is proposed each year can be implemented within current budgets, and thus other work is deferred from year-to-year. A major investment in deferred maintenance funding was recommended for all facilities to make future maintenance budgets more predictable. Several major projects had already been studied and budgeted at the time of the Master Plan:

- Restoration of the Huntington Gallery
- Electrical upgrades and interior renovations to the Library
- Conservation of the Mausoleum.

## **Landscape Conditions**

The Huntington's site topography may be characterized as a moderately sloping, south-facing plane influenced by two significant geological features. One results from an earthquake fault line that splits the site in an east-west direction at its midpoint. This scarp abruptly drops the southern half of the property away from the north by up to 50 feet. The other is a ravine that runs north-south through the site's entire western third, deepening as it descends.

A significant portion of the grounds has historically been developed as formal gardens, agricultural groves, or have otherwise been landscaped zones featuring regular irrigation and maintenance. Topographically, it has not been modified significantly. These characteristics of land development have contributed to a stable, low erosion rate across the site. New and on-going construction, in the form of both buildings and gardens, are planned to integrate into their specific site

conditions, but must meet the challenge to balance surface drainage and runoff within the context of increased impermeable surface area and limitations of existing infrastructure.

Pedestrian walkways throughout the site vary in condition and ADA compatibility. While more recent work has been implemented within accessibility guidelines, numerous areas of paving and access structures (stairs, ramps) are incompatible with ADA. Paving textures, joints and cross-slopes combined with age or disrepair result in widespread, non-compliant conditions in walkway surfaces and many ramps and sloped conditions lack proper rails and curbing. Some open pathways with portions in excess of a 1:20 slope—such as the major north-south walk/road along side the Desert Garden—lack proper landings. While the present condition may interpret the historical character of the Estate's garden paths, it is important that the issue of code compliance be addressed, and that the ultimate plans consider the timeframe of the scope of work that would be triggered by this initiative.

## **Infrastructure**

As various parts of the site have developed, infrastructure has been added to meet immediate needs. Concurrent with the Master Plan, the existing utilities on the site were documented comprehensively for the first time in the history of the site. The following issues were noted by staff and the consultants:

### *Site Drainage and Hydrology*

Certain hydrologic characteristics of the site are of critical concern to The Huntington. The inherent drainage features of the site are its deep, permeable substrate and its variably sloping terrain. Over the last century, however, as buildings, roads and walks have been added to the Estate and to the surrounding area outside of the property, the site's drainage characteristics have changed significantly. The increase of impermeable

surfaces has not been matched with concomitant site drainage infrastructure, such that storm levels regularly exceed the capacity of the storm drain system. Compounding this issue is the unfavorable link of the Estate's storm water handling to that of the surrounding neighborhoods. Approximately 20 acres of residential watershed to the north is diverted to the Estate via a storm drain on Orlando Road, after which it is "day-lighted" into the ravine north of the new Chinese Garden site. Water does not stop on site. Instead, a large volume of surface run off makes its way from the north, travels over the site's major road surfaces and down slope off property onto Euston Road at the extreme south, where it crosses the street to overwhelm local storm drains.

Among the primary challenges to be met by The Huntington is the outcome of normalizing the excess surface runoff in the context of not improving the site drainage infrastructure. For example, the 24" storm drain line beneath the Japanese Garden Road has been determined to be of insufficient size to handle runoff resulting from development of the Chinese Garden. In avoiding replacement of that line, the Estate plans to discharge overflow amounts across and down the surface of that road, where it will continue off site. An alternative view has materialized in the form of a developmentally sustainable concept: that of creating earthen structures to detain water so that it can percolate into the substrate. These detention basins, referred to as "quiet berming", would be distributed across entire site within planting areas, and would be treated in a manner that would blend with the specific open space character of their individual locations.

#### *Water*

There are two types of water service on site: well water and potable water. Potable water is acquired from the City of Pasadena. Three wells recover non-potable water from local aquifers. The water is then stored within two above ground

reservoirs. One reservoir is located at the northwest corner of the property, while the other is a few hundred yards to the northwest on land that was once contiguous with the Estate.

The well water is utilized solely for irrigation and fire suppression. Water pressure is generated by pumps located adjacent to the on-site reservoir. Currently, irrigation and fire suppression service run in the same piping, so that, when the irrigation is shut off for repairs, fire suppression are disabled. Exacerbating this is the physical deterioration of the system: although the pumps are capable of generating sufficient operating pressure to accommodate the needs of the buildings and the grounds, the aged components of the system cannot withstand those pressure levels. Thus, pipe and joint failure is common yet unpredictable throughout the system. Together, these existing conditions expose the Estate to significant liabilities.

The range and capacity for the fire suppression water pumps in a scenario of multiple fires is not completely known. The western and northern reaches of the site are largely undeveloped, with large swaths of land area covered in naturally occurring grasses. These grasses form a fire fuel mass that requires annual maintenance. A grass fire in these areas, especially if undetected in this infrequently accessed zone, has great potential to do harm to the Estate and the neighboring areas. The potential for multiple fires, therefore, carries increased concern.

The extent of the irrigation system is not known. Operational portions are intermixed with those abandoned over time. With some parts of the system dating back to the earliest days of William Hertrich's tenure, and no reliable documentation, a comprehensive understanding of its layout is usually limited to the memory of long-serving staff.

As The Huntington looks toward development of new

gardens and buildings, the use and availability of water must be considered. Recent history suggests that the site's development threshold may be limited to its current state, given the intermittent supply shortages it now experiences. A water management plan that addresses water consumption and sustainability practices in the context of projected development should be assigned a high priority.

### **Security**

The overall security needs of the site were studied by Wilbur Faulk, Executive VP for the Cultural Properties Division of Contemporary Services Corporation and Ricardo Gomez, Security Manager for The Huntington. Key findings include:

- The parking lot is confusing to visitors; they do not understand where to park and cannot find the entrance to The Huntington from the lot. They do not remember where they parked.
- There are no pedestrian walkways north and southbound through the lot. Pedestrians more frequently walk on the east/west road through the lot, rather than on the parallel crosswalks. Since there is only one crosswalk across the east/west road; visitors frequently cross at other locations.
- There is significant pedestrian traffic walking through the staff parking lot towards the botanical center. This includes staff, children for educational programs, and visitors who have avoided paying admission.
- The southernmost east/west road in the parking lot is currently one-way eastbound. Visitors often drive the wrong way. Huntington in-house service vehicles also drive the wrong way, in an effort to avoid circulating around the entire parking lot.
- Visitor and service traffic share the southbound drive. Large trucks and cars are forced to merge together. Service vehicles turn right at the crossroads, towards botanical circle and the Munger loading dock road. They conflict with pedestrian traffic in that area.
- There is too much vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the crossroads for the Security Officer to effectively manage. The security kiosk is not positioned in a way that allows control.
- There is a significant conflict between pedestrian and vehicular traffic around Botanical Circle.

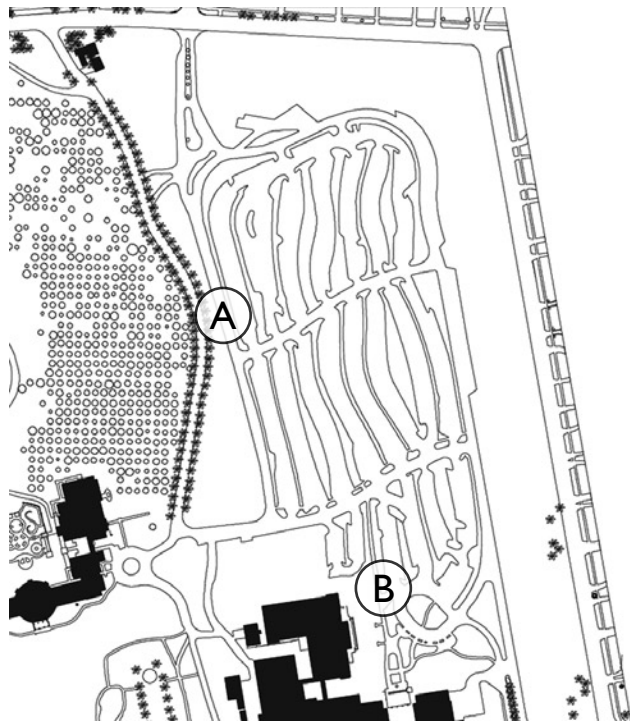
### **Precedents**

While studying a wide range of issues at the Huntington, the consultants also considered peer cultural and research institutions, to see whether there were precedents that might be considered for the Huntington. These included: Winterthur, the Arnold Arboretum; Longwood Gardens; Dumbarton Oaks; Biltmore; and Blenheim Palace in England. The review sought to determine:

- How do the sites communicate the institution's unique image and identity to the visitor and/or the academic world, starting with the web site? Within the actual site itself?
- How is does the visitor/scholar arrival and orientation sequence unfold?
- How are visitor services—food and beverage service, rest rooms, gift shop, etc.—distributed throughout the site?
- How are special events and program activities accommodated on the site? What different kinds of revenue-generating activities are present?

- What research activities take place, and how are they accommodated?
- What special benefits are offered to members?
- How many volunteers assist with activities, and how are they supported?

Site Arrival



Existing Parking Layout



A View of current arrival circulation



B View of Visitor Center and Munger Research Center



## Visitor Services





## Visitor Orientation



Existing Visitor Center

## Visitor Services



Teahouse entrance



Huntington exhibit case in Visitor Center



Inside Visitor Cafeteria



## Education and Special Events



Typical seating arrangement in Friends Hall



Classrooms in Munger Research Center



Typical Banquet seating in Friends Hall Terrace



Lecture Hall in Botanical Center

Site Character



# Site Character

## Public Areas

### *Introduction*

The distinctive character of the Huntington, landscaped grounds and handsome buildings, is as appealing as its individual literary treasures, artistic masterpieces or botanical specimens. A key goal of the Master Plan has been to preserve that character, to reinstate it in more recently-developed areas and to provide guidelines for future development. Thus, the physical evolution of the site was studied (see Section I), and existing areas were analyzed to understand their defining features, as well as strengths and weaknesses.

### *South Zone*

During the creation of the Huntington Estate and the early days of the institution, the principal focus of public activity was the area around the Huntington Gallery and the Library. Visitors entered at the east end of the site, with clear views of both buildings. The strong facades of both buildings drew visitors through the site to the North Vista. From the area, distant views were also featured, to the mountains along the North Vista and to the ocean from the terraces of the house. Beyond the zone, there are views to gardens which remain the most popular, from the Rose Garden to the Japanese Garden and from the east edge to the Cactus Garden.

The construction of the existing visitor pavilion in the 1980's reinforced the importance of this south zone. It remains the historic core of the site, and should be given priority for preservation. With the growth of plantings and the development of other parts of the estate, some of the clarity and power of the space has been diminished:

- The landscape between the library and the house is overgrown, obscuring vistas of the house.
- The closing of the windows along the south side of the Library in the 1930's has made the façade much less inviting and

public in character.

- There is a small colonnaded façade on the west side of the Library that marks the original location of the gallery housing the Arabella Huntington Collection. Though currently overgrown, this handsome façade could provide access to an exhibit on the history of the site or other distinctive program element.
- The Tea Room in the former Bowling Alley could form a terminus to the vista between the House and the Library. At present, the grading of the Shakespeare Garden obscures views of the building, and its façade is oriented away from the axis. Re-grading, combined with a sensitive expansion of the building, are suggested. Alternatively, rather than open up a clear view to the tea house, a "garden element" could be constructed to announce the portal into the garden and to the tea house.

### *North Zone*

When the site was first built, a service yard was located to the north of the house, including the garage which is now the Boone Gallery. With the construction of the Scott Gallery, and its portico on axis with the Mausoleum, public access was introduced into this area. The renovation of the Boone Gallery and construction of the Botanical Education Center and Erburu Gallery makes this a significant new center of public activity, identified as the North Zone. The goal for this zone is to create relationships between the buildings and the landscape which are as powerful as those in the historic South Zone.

The following issues were noted:

- Connections between the north and south zones create logical paths of pedestrian travel. Landscape and pathways should draw visitors to this area from the south zone.
- It is difficult to see many of the buildings from key perspectives, particularly with the tall hedges of the Brown

Garden north of the Scott Gallery. There is no current visual connection to the planned Phase One entry to the Chinese Garden. There is no pathway from the Boone Gallery to the Herb Garden.

- The Rose Garden Tea Room and Café provide the only public food service on the site. Their location in the center of the site requires delivery and trash removal trucks to traverse the public areas around the Botanical Center, the Boone Gallery and the Erburu Gallery. Although attempts are made to schedule service outside of public hours, such scheduling tends to be unreliable. Relocation of the principal food service to the periphery of public areas would alleviate this problem.
- The location of grounds maintenance facilities immediately adjacent to the Botanical Center and in the center of the site provides convenient access for grounds crews to the gardens. However, inclusion of these non-public areas between the Botanical Center and the future site of the Chinese Garden leads to conflicts with truck traffic in public areas, as well as views into maintenance and staff parking that disturb the overall estate experience.
- The Mausoleum—one of the most significant architectural treasures at the Huntington—is virtually unseen by visitors. A path from the north zone through the historic orange groves to the mausoleum is needed to introduce visitors to the agricultural history of the property via the orange groves.
- Potential links to the parking area, and the possibility of a direct public access into this part of the site were seen as desirable, given their distance from the visitor center.

#### *East Zone*

The construction of the Munger Center, north of the existing Visitor Center, created a new zone for the estate. At present,

landscape is temporary. The drop-off and approach to the visitor center have been moved further into the parking lot. The strong portico on the front of the Munger Center creates confusion as to which is the visitor entrance. At the same time, the area also offers potential locations for future educational or visitor service buildings. The placement of these buildings, and the landscape around them, are studied in Chapter V with a view toward resolving some of these issues.

#### *Gardens*

In addition to the zones defined by public buildings, there are a number of well-defined landscape “spaces,” which are identified on page 41. These tend to share common characteristics:

- Distinctive and visible topography, such as the valley of the Japanese Garden or the slope of the Cactus Garden.
- Edges clearly defined through vertical plantings, such as the North Vista and Palm Drive.
- Unusual and/or uniform texture and plantings, such as the Cactus Garden or the Orange Grove.

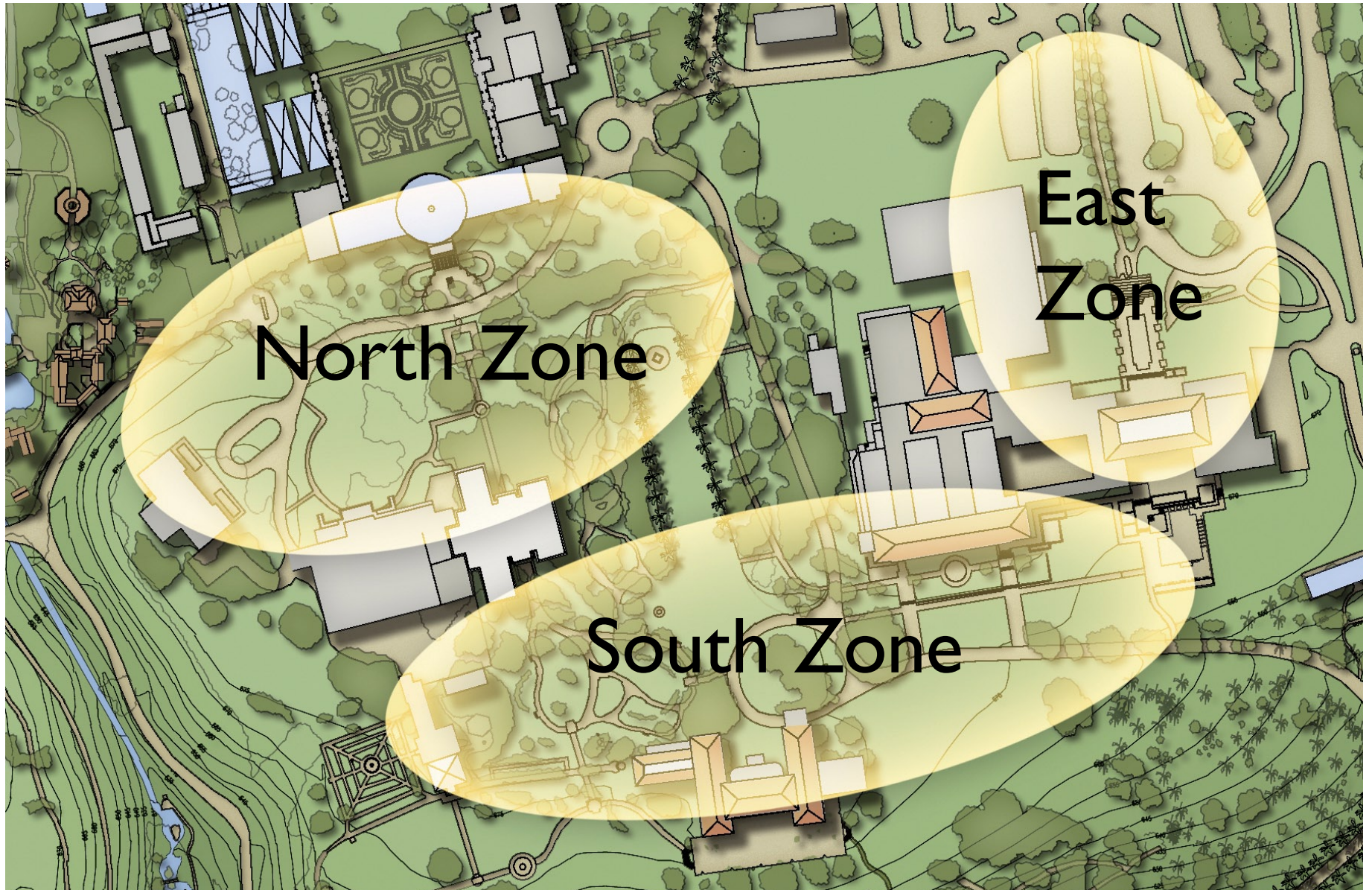
Landscapes which date to the period of Huntington’s lifetime are considered historic. Their original design intent, evolution and character should be carefully documented, and their significance and integrity defined. Later landscapes may also become significant in light of the overall evolution of the site.

#### **Undeveloped Areas and Recommendations for Use**

Approximately 60 of the 200 acres of the Huntington property have not been developed as gardens or buildings. This includes the perimeter of the site on all sides, as well as most of the northwestern part of the site, termed the “Western Reserve.” These areas were analyzed in terms of current characteristics and potential for future use, considering:

- History and significance





- Current vegetation
- Site grading
- Access to roadways and site utilities
- Vistas from public areas.

#### *Perimeter/Buffer Zones*

The Conditional Use Permit for the parking lot mandates an 85-foot unbuilt buffer zone between the parking lot and the property line on the north and east sides. Along the south and east sides, the site has been developed to within feet of the property line in some areas, allowing views of surrounding homes which distract the visitor. It is recommended that a similar depth of site be preserved unbuilt along the western perimeter of the site, to screen views. This area also slopes steeply away from the center of the site, so would be difficult to build on.

#### *Preservation Zones*

The existing orange groves and the native oak area west of the mausoleum were identified as appropriate for preservation. Both represent increasingly rare examples of the southern California landscape as it appeared immediately before and after agricultural development at the turn of the 20th century. They provide important frames for views of the Mausoleum, and development of either area would have a negative impact on the Mausoleum's sense of tranquility and reflection. The oak grove is also located at the head of the main canyon running through the site, and development would adversely affect drainage.

#### *Future garden zones*

Several areas were identified which, by virtue of their proximity to the existing gardens and roadways, could be developed as gardens. These occupy a sloping hillside north and west of the proposed Chinese Garden. They could be accessed by a new loop road at the perimeter of the Chinese Garden, and would not compromise views from the Chinese or Japanese Gardens.

#### *Future Maintenance or other Building Zone*

A limited number of sites were identified as logical and appropriate areas for any future back-of-house functions. These were reasonably level, minimizing the impact of foundations, and were located far enough from public areas to avoid conflicts from views or noise. They were also adjacent to existing service roads. Relocation of the existing garden maintenance facilities would free the area between the Botanical Education Center and the Chinese Garden for other, more public activities.

#### *Internal Buffer Zones*

If a maintenance area is located on the knoll behind the Japanese Garden, plantings should be extended to provide a visual buffer from those areas.

#### *Satellite Parking Areas*

Appropriate locations for approximately 50 cars to serve special events were studied. It proved difficult to identify large enough sites which were not too steeply sloped or visible from public areas. Most of the potential areas were also nearly as far from the Boone Gallery or the Chinese Garden—the two most likely destinations for special event patrons—as is the existing parking lot, if a gate is provided adjacent to the Botanical Education Center. Thus, development of satellite public parking was not recommended, though it may be suitable for staff.







Site Uses

- Collections and Exhibitions
- Education
- Visitor Services
- Major Gardens





## Travel Distance (from entry)

A	835'	3 min.
B	1200'	4.5 min.
C	1575'	6 min.
D	1300'	5 min.
E	1680'	6.5 min.
F	2195'	8.5 min.
G	2145'	8 min.
H	2325'	9-11 min.
I	2250'	8.5-10 min.








Extent of  
Developed Area

Total acres 200+  
Dev acres 150+



## Site Edge Conditions



-  CUP Mandated Buffer
-  Natural Foliage Buffer
-  Visually Permeable
-  Special Landscape Character/Watershed
-  Highly Visible Areas



Western Reserve  
Area



## Western Reserve Topography



## Design Guidelines





# Design Guidelines

## Introduction

The past and future identity of the Huntington—and its pursuit of excellence in all aspects—is embodied in the power of its estate environment. Key characteristics are the unity of its experience, and the imbedded creativity, unerring eye and commitment to quality that characterizes each of the institution's endeavors.

By studying the evolution of the Huntington estate and documenting current conditions and concerns, a framework has emerged for future growth and renewal of its buildings and grounds. This framework begins by stating broad principles related to the Huntington's mission, its values and its physical character—a case for why design guidelines should be implemented. It then suggests how the principles would be implemented, outlining who should be involved in planning and decision-making to ensure consistency with both the master plan and overall institutional objectives. Finally, it proposes specific recommendations for key elements, addressing what actions are consistent with the guidelines.

## Guiding Principles

Celebrate, renew and promote the heritage and unique character of the Huntington.

- Preserve the history and intentions of the site and use them as a framework for future decision-making and design.
- Reinforce the Huntington's mission as a collections-based research and education organization, and its relevance for contemporary audiences, by improving access to collections and facilities for education and research.

- Enhance the ability of visitors to experience and understand the unique character of the Huntington, while acknowledging that public needs and expectations have changed since the site was established, and make appropriate accommodations for those needs.
- Acknowledge the physical character of the site as foundation for sustainable development, which minimizes impact on natural and financial resources.

## Design and Implementation Process

Whether permanent or interim, any change at the Huntington has impact beyond its actual scope, and thus should be undertaken within a process of institution-wide scrutiny and dialogue. Successful realization of the Guiding Principles and implementation of the Planning Framework depends on a consistent review process that appropriately represents the many facets of the Huntington, and balances the best creative thinking with standards within the academic, museum, botanical and design fields.

A design and implementation process should assure that each new initiative related to buildings and grounds provides the maximum benefit to the Huntington, by relating to the overall strategic vision of the institution and the goals of the Master Plan. This process should include consultation with the Building and Grounds Committee, as stewards of the institution, a committee comprised of staff who use and be responsible for each new initiative, as well as experts and professionals bringing outstanding skills and resources to design and implementation. Landscape settings should be designed simultaneously with any new building initiatives, whether new construction or alterations.

## Future Planning Framework

*Preserve and restore the historic core—its buildings and landscape features.*

- Develop a preservation philosophy that is consistent with national and international standards, but adapted to the Huntington (as an example, refer to the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards for Rehabilitation” and “Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes” in Appendix \_\_\_\_).
- Maintain and restore existing key views and vistas, removing landscape in selected areas that have been lost or become overgrown.
- Minimize new construction in historic areas.

*Build on the site’s continuity and order in planning current and future developments.*

- Acknowledge the site’s evolution into areas that are well-defined, humanly-scaled and connected ( the North, South and East Zones). Maintain the integrity of these existing areas, and create similarly-scaled zones in future planning and development. The Huntington Gallery, the Library and the Boone Gallery should serve as benchmarks for scale and articulation.
- Maintain and restore existing key views and vistas as the key to intuitive wayfinding. Provide physical and visual connections through the landscape to buildings, roads and paths.
- Recognize the landscape as the setting and the connection between buildings. Maintain the direct and well-planned engagement of all buildings with the landscape through the creation of arcades, loggias and windows that both establish edges and frame views to the landscape.

- Balance desires for access, openness and connections with the landscape with needs to protect and secure the collections, which would prefer a closed perimeter.
- Develop a unified palette of paving, lighting, signage and other landscape accessories that helps visitors orient themselves to a common circulation system throughout the estate, and extend the use of these materials in all new developments.
- Design and install signage and interpretative information that is aesthetically complementary to the estate character and consistent between departments. This acknowledges that the Huntington now welcomes a diverse audience, with varied levels of understanding of the site’s history, and botany.
- Use enduring traditional and contemporary materials and a high level of craft. This will ensure compatibility with the level of quality of the Huntington Gallery, the Library building, the Desert Garden and other original features as long-term durability and lower maintenance costs for the long term.
- Welcome contemporary design and materials. Distinguish new buildings and landscapes from significant historic elements. Replications of buildings have long been discouraged in America’s and Europe’s historic sites. Embrace new, environmentally-responsive landscape expressions which are an exciting addition to the Huntington’s own spirit of research and exploration, and ideas. Allow opportunities for unique expressions, such as within themed garden areas, while promoting design of high integrity.
- Plan new landscape or building initiatives to take advantage of existing infrastructure wherever possible and/or to

minimize the need for new or expanded infrastructure and operating costs.

## **Design Guidelines**

Design guidelines serve as tools for discussion, open to subjective application, fostering creative dialogue. Given the Huntington's diversity of gardens and buildings, its institutional mission, its circulation, and gathering areas, the guidelines must promote distinction within a unified whole. Balance is critical to this whole. The guidelines suggest that no single aspect of the site and no building should overpower another. The public, scholars, and staff should be served, inspired, and educated by an environment that is aesthetically integrated, coherent and legible. The following is a list of considerations to be addressed as part of a detailed system of architectural and landscape design guidelines.

### **Architectural Guidelines**

#### **Preservation, Maintenance and Renovations**

At a minimum, repairs and renovations carried out on significant buildings should be consistent with the following basic principles, which recognize that historic materials and details have proven records for durability and compatibility, and that regular maintenance at frequent intervals minimizes large investments in repairs. Key recommendations include:

- Identify significant features of the historic buildings, and plan for their conservation, preservation and renewal.
- Repair deteriorated architectural features rather than replacing them wherever possible.
- When replacement is necessary, new materials should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture and other visual qualities.
- Replacement of missing architectural features should be based

on accurate duplication from historical or physical evidence rather than conjecture.

- Repair methods should acknowledge craft and materials which are historic, and use methods that are well-proven and accepted within conservation practice.

#### **New Construction**

Each architectural addition to the Huntington estate faces the challenge of respecting and continuing the tradition of its predecessors, while clearly articulating the evolving mission of a dynamic institution. While each of the major buildings on the Huntington estate has its own distinct attributes and style, they can all be described in terms of site orientation, massing & scale, ornament & style, and building materials. These parameters have been used to understand the commonalities and differences between the existing Huntington buildings and to develop principles to guide the future construction on the estate.

#### **Axiality and Orientation**

The North Vista and Rose Garden were laid out before the construction of the house. The house was originally intended to be located at the intersection of the main axis for each garden, but the footprint was shifted slightly during construction to avoid impacting an oak tree that Huntington wished to save. The House and Library were constructed roughly, though not strictly, orthogonal to one another with their lengths oriented roughly east-west. These relationships between key garden vistas and the most important building elevations serve to link the buildings and the landscape visually as well as spatially.

Many later buildings have continued this tradition. The Scott Gallery and the Conservatory were located on axis with the Mausoleum & Rose Garden Pergola and on the same east-west orientation as the House and the Library. Both the Visitor Center and the Munger Center are orthogonal to the Library. Other buildings, typically related with the gardens, depart from



this tradition. The Japanese Garden was placed to align with the topography of the canyon and to capture views from the Rose Garden, and thus suggests a more informal character, and one more aligned with nature than civilization. The Boone Gallery was originally a service building whose placement related more to roadways and other outbuildings than to the House or the Library.

#### *Recommendations*

Buildings which relate to the formal curatorial and educational mission of the site should maintain the east-west orientation and should align with key axes that relate to major views or outdoor spaces.

Buildings which relate to garden spaces may be sited more informally, relating to topography or key site features.

#### **Frontality**

The original approach to the House was from the south along a drive that provided a series of episodic views to the front of the house. The Palm Drive from the north, added later, brought visitors past the side of the Library and to the porte-cochere, rather than directly facing the entrance in the center of the north façade. When a public entrance was introduced in the 1930's, visitors were brought in parallel to both the House and the Library, rather than being confronted by the monumental entrances. Both the Visitor Center and the Scott Gallery invite the public into a covered atrium which offers views to the estate beyond, rather than a formal entrance into the building.

Thus, whether by intent or accident of siting, frontality has never been a key quality at the Huntington. Instead, informality and the connections to the landscape have been emphasized. This contributes to the sense of the site as a private estate rather than a civic space or academic campus. The orientation of Munger entrance façade perpendicular to the path of visitor entry

continues this tradition, and makes it clear that this is not part of the public path.

#### *Recommendations*

Buildings should typically not be sited with their entrances directly in line with key axes or approaches. Porches, loggias or other devices that provide architectural emphasis while also offering views to the landscape should be employed.

#### **Massing & Scale**

The House and the Library are both two stories in height, which places them within the canopy of trees in the landscape. They both are relatively horizontal in proportion, which emphasizes their connection to the site as well. The loggia and terraces on the House and the colonnade on the Library further emphasize their horizontality.

Both the House and original volume of the Library are also relatively the same depth in plan, about 20 feet [verify]. This distance allows natural light can penetrate into the interiors, and was common in the period before artificial lighting was introduced. It also ensures that occupants of the buildings will have views of the landscape. The Tea Room and Boone Gallery maintain this similar scale, as do the spaces of the Botanical Center, which incorporate courtyards and atria. More recent museum and library buildings, such as the Scott Gallery and the Munger Center, which deliberately exclude natural light in the interest of conservation, expand their footprints beyond the more intimate depth of the original buildings.

#### *Recommendations*

New construction should preserve the relatively modest volumes of the original buildings, and their intimate relationship with the landscape. In the case of gallery or archival buildings, these connections must be carefully studied in relation to conservation criteria, but many successful contemporary examples can be

cited, such as the Nasher Sculpture Center in Houston.

### **Solid and Void**

The windows on the House and Library were originally important elements in breaking down the larger scale of the building mass to a more intimate and human level, both in the overall size of the openings and the mullions within them. Though the windows on the Library have been filled in, the colonnade that framed the openings remains to provide some measure of scale.

Relatively few of the new museum buildings on the site have windows, but the Munger Center appears to have attempted to replicate the windows on the house. While the spacing of the openings is relatively similar, they are different in proportion and detail. While those on the house are the same width on both levels, those on the Munger are smaller on top. While those on the house are three over five with vertically-proportioned lights on the second floor, those on the second floor of the Munger are two over three and square in proportion. While the openings in the house relate to breaks in the balustrade and are grouped in twos or threes to emphasize changing functions or orientation, those on the Munger are uniform.

### *Recommendations*

Overall building masses should be broken down into a more human scale through the use of windows, trellises, arcades, or other articulation of the walls in proportions similar to those on the House and Library.

### **Building Materials**

The House and Library are constructed of relatively simple and almost vernacular materials, with clay tile roofs and white stucco walls with limestone details. Outbuildings such as the Tea House and the Boone Gallery were similarly constructed, with less stonework. The Visitor Center and Scott Gallery continued

this tradition. Among contemporary buildings, the Visitor Center uses many of the same materials as the House & adjacent Library, as does the Munger Center. They both demonstrate the importance of the subtle details—the use of modern stucco systems do not have the same richness, texture and sense of craftsmanship as the historical buildings.

The Mausoleum, with its marble columns and entablature, was constructed of the most expensive and refined materials. The Erburu Gallery is also clad in stone.

### *Recommendations*

Continue the use of enduring traditional materials and a high level of craft, and consider contemporary materials that share the same light palette as the original buildings, and the sense of craft. This will ensure long-term durability and lower maintenance costs for the long term.

### **Ornament & Style**

“Ornament is not style, a fact that can scarcely be too often brought to our minds. Style is made up of the inherent quality in a building occasioned by its plan, by its site, by local building materials, by the life that goes on within its walls.” —Elmer Grey, 1905.<sup>2</sup>

The House, Library, Mausoleum, Tearoom and Boone Gallery were all constructed by Grey and partner Myron Hunt in a simplified version of the neoclassical or Beaux Arts style. This style relies strongly on the use of an integral system of proportioning, which carefully balances the level of ornamentation with the scale and the function of the building. The deceptive simplicity of the buildings was noteworthy in their time, and they remain outstanding examples of turn-of-the-century architecture today.

As Grey points out, the success of the buildings lies in the

careful balance and clear integrity of siting, plan, craft and materials. The Scott Gallery and Munger Center also exhibit classical details, though without the comprehensive adherence to classical proportioning or Hunt and Grey's sophisticated abstraction. This points out the challenge of attempting to legislate the design, yet also allows the opportunity for contemporary design that shares the same integrity of design and construction.

#### *Recommendations*

Distinguish new buildings and landscapes from significant historic elements, while promoting design of high integrity. Unique expressions may be considered within themed garden areas.

### **Site Planning**

#### *Vistas*

- Organize and integrate new buildings and gardens to respect the hierarchy of vistas within the historic estate. Avoid locating new buildings and/or other large-scale visual elements that would obscure or compete with vistas.
- Ensure maintenance of existing and new plant materials to sustain vistas and views.
- As new projects are contemplated, conduct a site-specific spatial analysis to identify and protect sensitive view corridors around buildings or within landscapes.

#### *Circulation Systems*

- Design access ways for new buildings and gardens in context with overall Estate access and circulation. New development in general should incorporate any improvement or correction of existing deficiencies, and should be determined in conjunction with conceptual design for any new work.

- As a feature of sustainable site design, use grading techniques that complement or acknowledge the estate's natural landforms in order to maintain the character of precedent grading solutions. For example, large-scale terracing of slopes is absent from the site. Buildings and gardens have historically been integrated into their specific sites. Building site selection historically reflects a desire to utilize effectively level areas instead of sloped areas. Reliance on retaining walls to create multiple building pads is uncommon and undesirable.
- Evaluate the appropriate use of ramps and stairs for building connections to adjacent walks, paths and plazas. Universal accessibility is the goal, so structures required to achieve that must be considered for their ability to blend aesthetically with their built or garden context.
- Design surface drainage systems to minimize concentration of surface runoff and avoid soil erosion
- Promote natural infiltration, such as grass-lined swales, to restrain surface flows, filter water and reduce storm water drainage into municipal system
- Utilize a comprehensive hydrology master plan to determine capacity and extent of "quiet berming" swales and basins. An understanding of overall site hydrology will contribute to more effective, incremental implementation of detention basins.

#### *Service Areas*

- Integrate enclosures for service areas with adjacent buildings, and use finishes complementary to the construction materials of the buildings.

- Accommodate large utilities or trash containers within the building. If not possible, cluster components and screen from entries and primary pedestrian paths.
- Integrate external enclosures into the surrounding environments with appropriate lighting, materials and finishes. Conceal enclosures by using walls, screens, trees, shrubs and vines
- Locate service areas away from the center of the site, to avoid conflict of visitors, scholars, and staff.

#### *Utilities - Below Grade*

- Consolidate new underground utilities into corridors that are run in locations that optimize service or maintenance accessibility, i.e., underneath walks and roads.
- Locate surface hatches, utility covers and ventilation and access elements within paved areas. If planted areas are the only option, coordinate with existing tree locations and integrate into shrub and ground cover.
- Conceal vault covers utilizing pan-like covers to accept the finish paving material

#### *Utilities - Above Grade*

- Design and coordinate the location of new surface utilities to accommodate long-term maintenance requirements and minimize conflicts with the estate's mature landscape
- Integrate above grade elements into the site or building design to minimize their impact on the landscape.
- With new building construction, consolidate utilities with adjacent facilities where possible.
- Locate air intake units for buildings away from outdoor

sitting areas and service areas to minimize the intake of smoke and exhaust fumes.

- If utilities occur in the landscape, locate away from primary entries and walks and screen with an enclosure and/or plant material
- Integrate external enclosures into the surrounding environment by using appropriate scale, materials, etc., depending on the building and landscape context.
- Locate sound generating utilities/infrastructure away from sensitive receptors such as entries, offices, and visitor gathering areas. Incorporate sound absorption or baffling materials into enclosures.
- Paint above grade utilities with an approved, Estate-standard color, unless specific color is required by code or the location makes it more desirable to blend with an adjacent structure color.
- Coordinate landscape and engineering disciplines to prevent visible utilities in historic view corridors and other locations of visual importance.

#### *Plant Materials*

- Ensure replacement of plant material due to age or decline with the goal of perpetuating historic landscape character.
- Strengthen existing or incorporate new plant materials that are integral to the overall estate open space framework. Examples include the use of plants to define and visually enclose discrete gardens; plants that demarcate circulation and view corridors; and plants that, by their stature, play a role in providing compositional balance with buildings or open space. Reinforce the expression of outdoor spaces



through formal and informal plantings.

- Enhance and accentuate the architectural styles of the estate with complementary plant palettes.
- Consider incorporating plant palettes to promote sustainability at any new building or garden area. Recognize that this must also fit within the overall context of the botanical collections.
- Respect and reinforce natural and designed slopes and their functions.
- Evaluate existing plant material at perimeters and undeveloped zones to identify functional efficacy. For example, perimeters should function as visual buffers between the estate and the outside community. The decline of plant materials may compromise the continuity of this buffer characteristic, and should be mitigated with replacement. Where visual buffers do not exist, i.e., at the south end of the relatively undeveloped western boundary, install plant material in anticipation of future development. At a minimum, establish a visual buffer that allows the estate a reasonable flexibility with this land pertinent to proprietary activities near to long term.

#### *Paving Materials*

- Enrich the Estate environment, improve functional and aesthetic qualities and further the estate's sustainability goals
- Depending on purpose and location, consider materials that are compatible with historic landscape compositions. While roadways may be expressed in monolithic swaths of asphalt or concrete, finish textures (aggregates for the former, jointing and finish for the latter) can be utilized to remove their inherent, engineered quality. For pedestrian pathways

or pedestrian oriented plazas, more appropriately scaled materials, such as unit modules in more rustic finishes, should be considered.

- The selection and use of curbs and gutters should be driven by how closely they can replicate the conditions or module and finish of historic curbs and gutters on the Estate.

#### *Lighting*

- Consider the locations and intensity of light fixtures in context with trees and other site elements to help diminish their appearance in the open landscape
- Incorporate lighting techniques to manage light pollution, i.e., eliminate point source lighting.
- Carefully integrate special-use lights into the landscape so as not to distract or diminish the historic value of the cultural landscape
- Consider the area context when selecting a fixture for material, scale and finish.
- Consider maintenance and availability of replacement
- Incorporate industry-standard components that provide long lamp life and full-spectrum color rendition
- Develop a strategy for lighting to address security, safety, and orientation while minimizing light intrusion to promote views of night sky.

#### *Gates, Walls, Rails, Fences and Garden Structures*

- Use materials and products that contribute to a system of unified aesthetic expression throughout the Estate's grounds.

- Construct at a height and scale appropriate for context and function
- Consider materials and products that address sustainability issues through their recycled content, non-toxic/low VOC finishes, origin, etc.
- Separate circulation routes for pedestrian and vehicles through physically distinct or time-managed routes
- Provide an accessible physical environment for families, elderly, and the physically-challenged
- Utilize existing and new garden structures to announce circulation, e.g., consider constructing a portal to announce the Shakespeare Garden.

#### *Site Furnishings*

- Provide adequate lighting, furnishings, and signage to accommodate day and nighttime pedestrian use.
- Integrate seating opportunities with the pedestrian circulation system and plazas
- Consider seating in the form of low landscape walls
- Incorporate adequate space for companion wheelchair parking as an integral component in bench layouts and configurations
- Limit visual clutter of waste and recycling containers in the proximity of historical buildings and landscapes
- Integrate containers into the landscape of gathering areas, major pedestrian walks and building entrances without dominating the view
- Locate collection containers with consideration for servicing needs and aesthetic orientation
- Provide recycling opportunities

#### *Wayfinding and Signage*

- Locate signs to minimize visual impact to vistas
- Locate freestanding signs off walk edges and outside of pedestrian plazas, preferably to planting areas

Future Initiatives





# Future Initiatives

## Introduction

A series of initiatives were proposed in response to the needs and analysis outlined in Chapters II and III. These were presented in workshops with the Buildings & Grounds Committee in August and September, in plans, models and renderings. This summary of the initiatives, enumerated on the following pages, groups them into categories according to their principal goals. Many of these require further study to understand their full implications for the institution in terms of construction and operating costs. Priorities and a strategy for implementation will be developed by Director of Operations Laurie Sowd and the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

## Immediate/Short Term Initiatives

The master plan incorporates four infrastructure and deferred maintenance priorities that are clearly identified in the Strategic Plan:

- Repair the Huntington Gallery
- Replace the Library electrical system
- Increase funding for deferred maintenance from \$500,000 to \$1 million annually
- Continue site-wide hydrology study and implement irrigation improvements

These initiatives will be pursued during the strategic planning period (to 2010). In addition, the following infrastructure needs have been identified during the master planning process:

- Separate vehicular and pedestrian traffic as much as

possible—this affects the design of the parking lot, crosswalks, service routes for both internal and external vehicles, visitor vehicular entrance, and visitor pedestrian entrance.

- Separate fire suppression from irrigation system.
- Extend 16 kv electrical supply to the south and west portions of the property.
- Enhance storm water capacity.
- Extend site lighting throughout the public portions of the property.

## Primary Initiatives

*Express the message and character of the Huntington from the moment of arrival on the site*

- Route visitors from the Allen Gate to parking via Palm Drive and past the Orange Grove.
- Provide safe, clear pedestrian paths from parking areas to the visitor entrance.
- Accommodate buses in an area that is visually secluded from general entry areas..
- Reorganize parking to maintain current number of spaces and improve aesthetics—connecting the parking with the mission of the Huntington.
- Provide convenient and adequate staff and research fellow parking, segregated from visitor parking and preferably shaded.
- Rehabilitate gatehouses to provide strong welcoming image.
- Extend lighting in parking area.

*Enhance the visitor's understanding of the Huntington's offerings*

- Provide a single entrance for visitors and researchers.
- Open up the view—Provide a direct visual connection between parking, the arrival point and the gardens—the welcoming vistas.
- Provide appropriate space for the ticketing function and traffic flow—Locate ticketing and information stations closer to parking and drop-off. Provide facilities so visitors don't queue in sun, members are not delayed in general visitor queues, and groups can be accommodated more quickly.
- Provide an easy and secure way to circulate from the ticketing area to the new Botanical Center for visitors and evening events at the Boone Gallery and future Chinese Garden.
- Share the Huntington's history, programs and mission—Provide dedicated space for a general introduction to the Huntington—the site, its history and key features, as part of the visitor entrance. Provide space to accommodate brochures and information systems—audio tours and stations, and a full site linkage. Clearly display changing information—current exhibits, plants in bloom, the day's programs—to build awareness of the dynamic programming and the seasonality of the Huntington.
- Redesign the plazas north of the entrance to complement the existing character of the historic core. Relocate Desert Greenhouse to west end of Desert Garden.

*Improve visitor circulation to enhance enjoyment of the entire site and improve safety*

- Provide a comprehensive program of site signage & wayfinding that is consistent with the Huntington's mission

and heritage. This should extend from signage for botanical specimens to brochures and site markers.

- Provide a new ADA-accessible path through the Sub-Tropical, Jungle and Palm Gardens.
- Establish a main visitor loop that connects core buildings and gardens and is keyed to information points, educational facilities, drinking fountains and rest rooms.
- Provide a transportation system to allow disabled and infirm visitors to experience the site—either group systems like trams or individual systems like scooters. Establish “stops” along a path of travel and waiting facilities, etc. and storage and servicing locations for vehicles outside visitor areas.
- Provide site lighting along pathways used for evening events. Select fixture style to complement the estate's historic character.
- Locate service activities such as kitchens and maintenance facilities outside the visitor core to limit conflicts between heavy vehicles and pedestrians and preserve the estate character.

*Redesign food services to express the mission and character of the Huntington and to serve scholars and the public*

- Relocate the Café closer to entrance to permit better servicing, limit traffic for service vehicles through key public areas and enhance use by scholars and for after-hours events.
- Increase the capacity of the Tea Room after relocating the café. Redesign terraces adjacent to Herb Garden and Rose Garden and improve rest rooms.
- Provide space for families and school groups to have picnics within parking area and/or adjacent to botanical education building.

*Provide first class space for special events to support scholarly symposia and fund-raising activities and preserve the perception of the Huntington as a unique venue*

- Construct a main kitchen, to support the Tea House, Chinese Garden, Children's Garden and other facilities within the estate. Locate trash and delivery outside the visitor areas and adjacent to vehicle access points, to minimize pedestrian-vehicular conflicts.
- Provide space which could function as a signature restaurant and for special events, with high quality interior finishes and potential for outdoor dining in the gardens as well as easy access to parking and drop-off (see Appendix \_\_\_ for a description of alternatives in the LA area).
- Provide key tent locations with lighting and utility hook-ups adjacent to Boone Gallery, at Lily ponds.
- Provide satellite food service locations for special events with lighting and utility hook-ups adjacent to garden terrace, Australian Garden, lawn, and the Children's Garden.

### **Primary Design Options**

Two options were studied for the location of visitor services and educational facilities, which are illustrated on the following pages. Their suitability should be studied further by the Huntington in the coming year, as facilities such as the Erburu Gallery are brought on line. The option of locating the visitor facilities closer to the gate, as at the Getty Center, was studied initially, but was not considered suitable because it would take up parking space and require a large and costly transportation system, among other problems. Following are current thoughts about the advantages and disadvantages of the schemes:

#### **If the entrance is positioned in the East Zone:**

- Visitors arrive at the historic core of the property.
- The new facility should balance the mass of the Munger Center, without necessarily being of the same proportions or style.
- Landscape between the Munger Center and the new visitor center should be developed to guide the visitor through public areas to the east, rather than research areas on the west.
- This entry location is made more desirable by the addition of an optional path to the west, leading to the North Zone. Location of ticketing and security should be reviewed, as well as how to provide screening for offices in the Munger Center.
- The view of the Huntington Gallery and gardens should envelope the visitor and be the first impression.

#### **If the entrance is positioned at the North Zone:**

- A gatehouse at the North entrance would be more visible from Palm Drive.
- The entrance should offer a gracious entry sequence, incorporating amenities such as the shop, rest rooms and a café, while still respecting the scale and importance of the adjacent Munger Center and the Botanical Education Center.
- Parking could be reconfigured some to allow more space for an entry plaza, etc. There may be some conflict with deliveries to the Munger Center.

#### **In either situation:**

- The garden environment needs to be an immediate part of the entry experience, not be delayed by the entry experience.
- The bookstore, orientation, and food service options should

be part of the entry complex.

- The entry experience should be leisurely, not overly axial, and should include an informal gathering area.
- Reconfigure Brown Garden—The team presented alternative ideas to the current configuration of the Brown Garden. These encourage more facile wayfinding, the potential separation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and opportunities for a variety of activities.

### **Long Term Initiatives**

The following activities are already being planned by the Huntington, or would likely take place after the initiatives listed above. Because their scope and implementation time are unknown at this time, cost estimates were not developed:

- Complete Chinese Garden
- Expand the Munger Center collections storage underground north of the current building.
- Expand the Erburu Gallery by growing into collections storage space and extending the south side of the building.
- Re-locate garden service facilities to perimeter of site.
- Develop a new garden or building in the service yard.
- Expand on-site transportation system & visitor/service nodes as public areas expand.



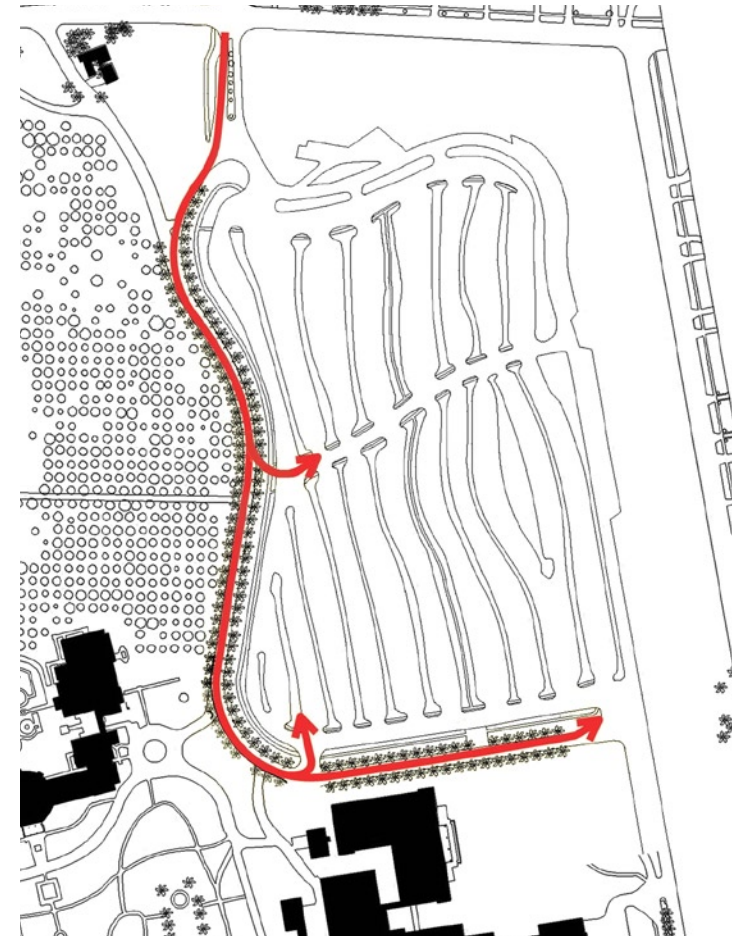
## Palm Drive



Existing Palm Drive



Proposed extended Palm Drive

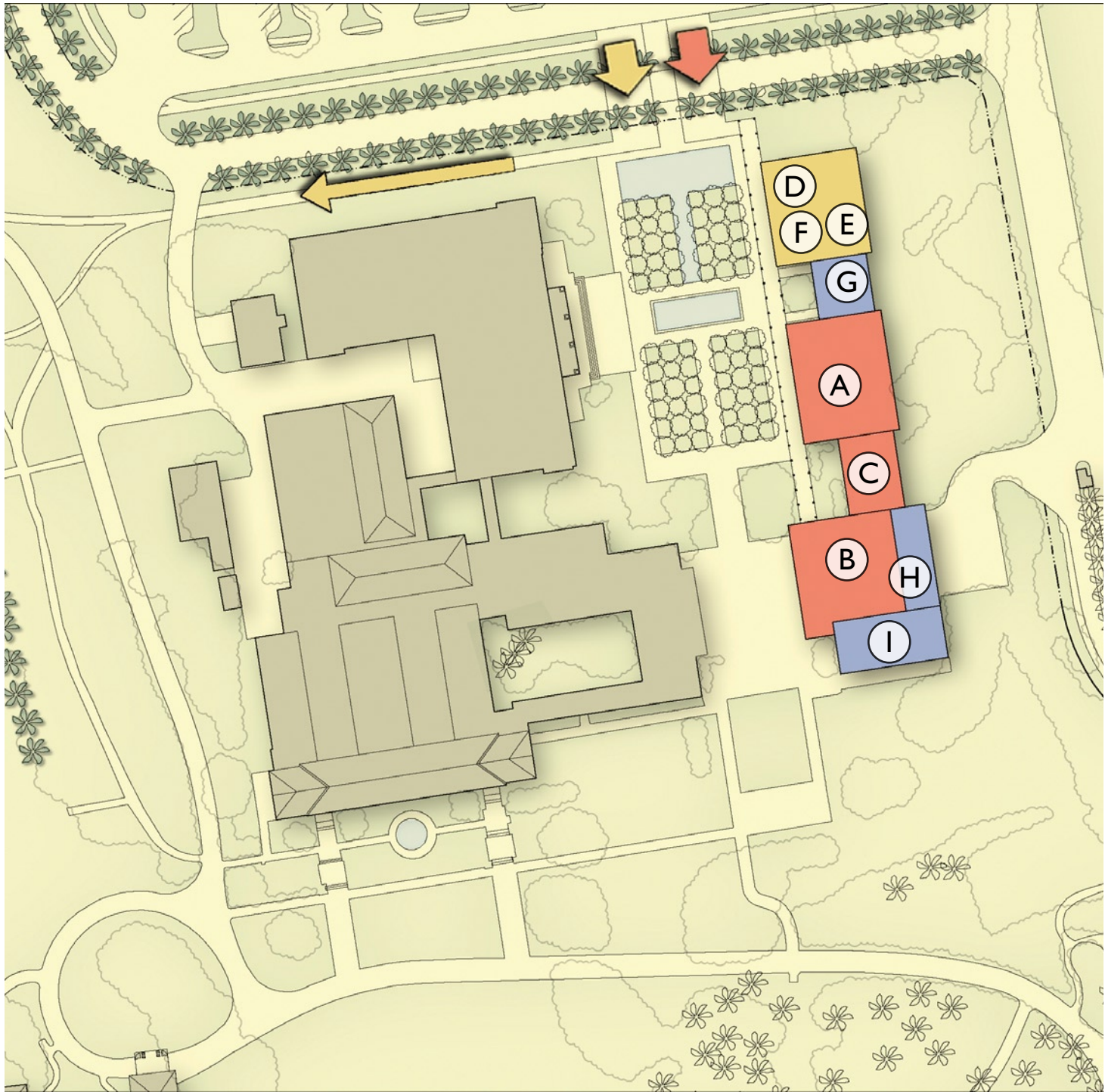


Proposed reconfiguration of Palm Drive and parking



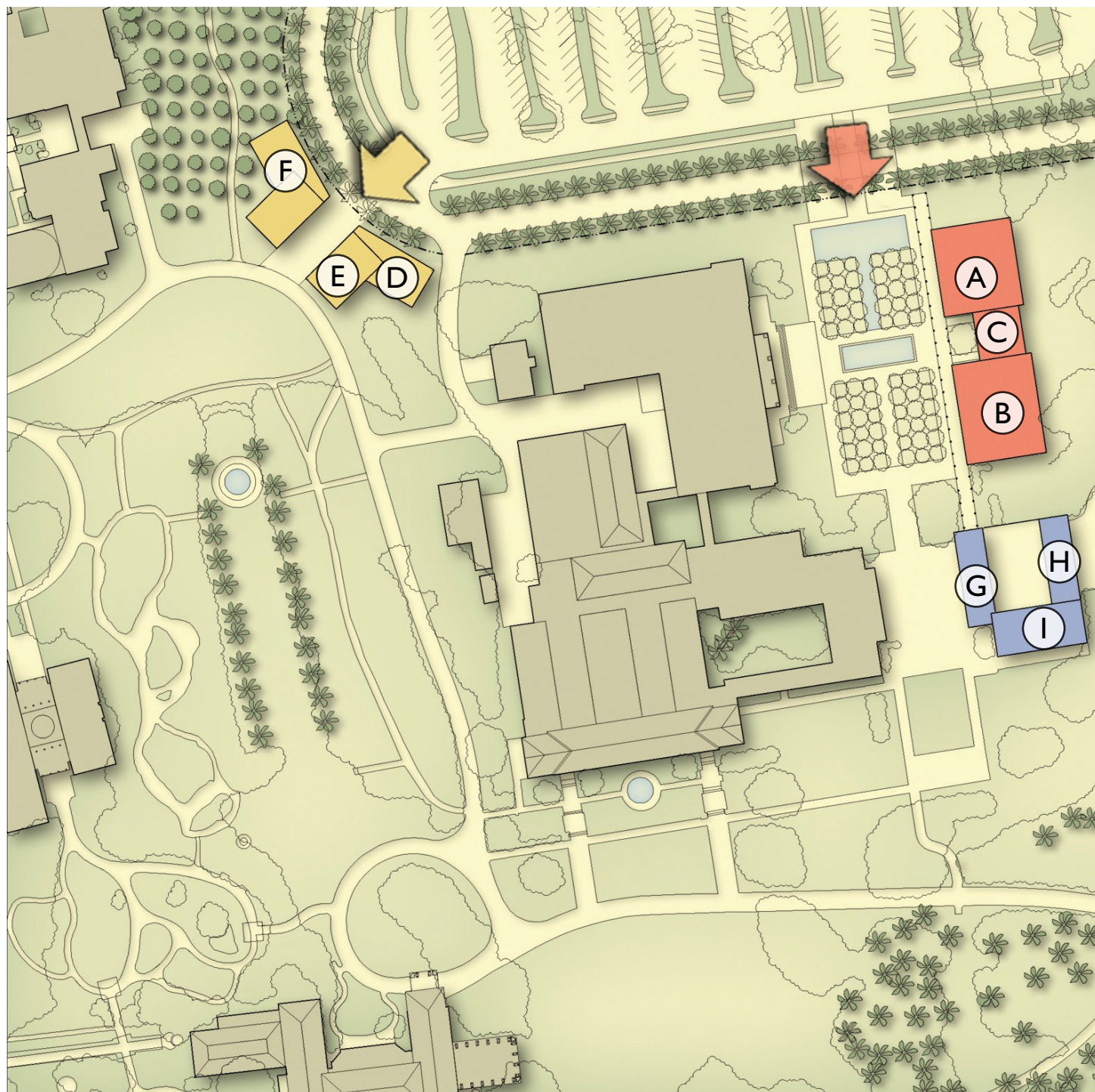
East Entry Option

- Education*
- A Auditorium
  - B Multipurpose Room
  - C Seminar Rooms
- Visitor*
- D Ticketing & Membership
  - E Orientation
  - F Shop
- Dining & Events*
- G Relocated Visitor Café
  - H New Full-service Kitchen
  - I Event/dining Restaurant





## North Entry Option



### Education

- A Auditorium
- B Multipurpose Room
- C Seminar Rooms

### Visitor

- D Ticketing & Membership
- E Orientation
- F Shop

### Dining & Events

- G Relocated Visitor Café
- H New Full-service Kitchen
- I Event/dining Restaurant



East Zone



Existing Entrance



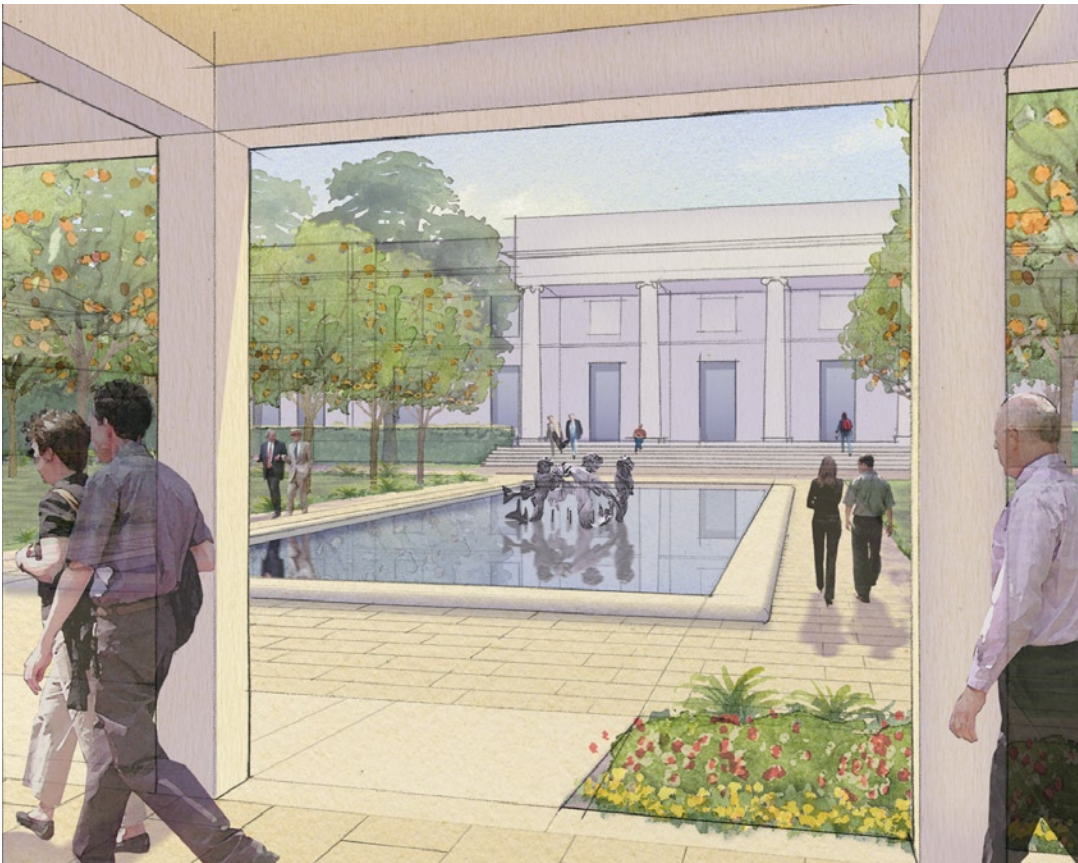
Proposed Entrance



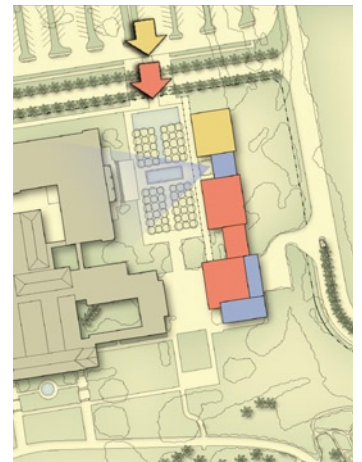
## Scholar's Court



Existing view of Munger Center



Proposed Scholars Court





Path to North Zone



Existing View to North Zone



Proposed Path to North Zone



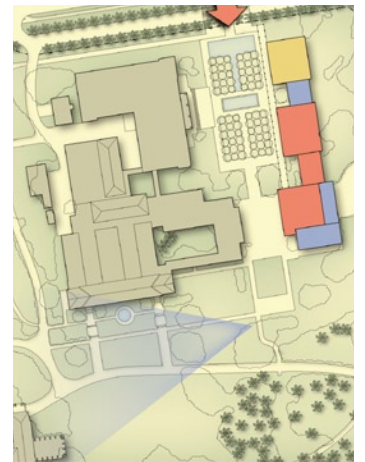
## South Zone



Existing View of South Zone



Proposed view of South Zone





Brown Garden



Existing View of Brown Garden



Proposed View of Brown Garden



## Brown Garden Gatehouse Option



View of Gatehouse from Palm Drive



View of Brown Garden through Proposed Gatehouse

