

COURETIVE LAND-CAKE PLATE
FOR THE AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

by

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A TESTS

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the study underlying this thesis was to produce a landscape design that included a private outdoor area for entertaining and family living on the grounds of the Kansas Governor's mansion, Topeka, Kansas. This landscape design was to be contemporary.

PROCEDURE OF DESIGN

The design process in landscape architecture includes consideration of: existing conditions, special problems, desires of residents, functionally related space, and final synthesis of areas, forms, and materials.

The Kansas Governor's Mansion is located on the southwest corner of Eighth and Buchanan Streets, Topeka, Kansas. The property is bounded by streets to the east, north, and west. It extends from Buchanan Street, which extends north and south, along the south side of Eighth Street to Lincoln Avenue, which extends north and south. The Mansion fronts to the east onto Buchanan Street.

The only blueprint of the mansion that was available was prepared by the state architect prior to the installation of air-conditioning during 1955. Neither the state architect, the county register of deeds, nor the county engineer could furnish a plat or plot plan of the mansion site.

After much investigation, an original plat of the property was found in the records of the Columbia Abstract Company, 114

West Sixth Street, Topeka, Kansas.

Since the plat did not indicate buildings and objects that were on the property, it was necessary to prepare a map of the site. This was done to record the relative locations of existing buildings, walks, drives, and trees.

A transit and a surveyor's tape were used to establish reference points and relative elevations of objects and areas on the ground and on the map. An alidade, plane table, and tape were used to locate buildings, other objects, and trees upon the map. The scale of this map was one inch equals ten feet.

The survey showed that the greatest difference in elevations on the entire property was two feet. Small elevation differences on a property are more often a handicap than an asset to a landscape designer. After areas and objects are specified, proper drainage of surface water from these use areas involves fine grading with minute, elevation changes.

Pervading summer breezes are from the south, southwest, and the prevailing, cold, winter winds are from the north, northwest.

A visual survey was made in order to note the character of existing buildings, the proximity of neighboring houses, and the condition of the grounds.

The mansion and a stable were designed and built of brick in the 1890's as a private estate. Today, the brick of these structures is painted white, and the stable has been converted into a garage and storage area. The south side of the property

was the only side immediately adjacent to private property.

The trees and shrubs on the property were young as compared to the age of the mansion and the garage. The trees were in good condition, but the shrubbery was overgrown in some instances and in poor condition in most instances. The poor condition of the shrubbery was due to age and continual, unorthodox trimming.

The lawn areas were overrun with weeds such as crabgrass, foxtail, knotweed, and plantain.

With the exception of existing trees, it was decided, and approved by the residents, to disregard existing ornamental plant materials during the design process and discard them during the renovation of the mansion grounds.

An asphalt drive entered the southeast corner of the property, proceeded around the south side and west side of the mansion, and joined Eighth Street to the north of the property. A spur from this drive entered the garage. The garage opening was on the east side of the building.

The front drive did not lead visitors to the front door of the mansion. As the existing drive continued along the south and west side of the mansion, it cut up the grounds in a manner that prevented a functional relationship between the house and the best part of the grounds for outdoor living in privacy.

A wide sidewalk cut through the center of the front lawn from Buchanan Street to the front door steps. This walk was in poor repair as were the walks on the west, north, and east side

of the property. The candidate was given permission to relocate drives and walks.

Ordinary wire field fencing abounded the south and west side of the property.

An interview with the wife of the incumbent governor revealed the needs and desires of the inhabitants of the mansion.

Uppermost in the minds of the Governor and first lady of Kansas was the desire for outdoor privacy. Visual privacy on the mansion grounds, as the survey revealed, was practically impossible.

The Governor's family is called upon to entertain large groups of people. They might entertain as many as 350 persons during an afternoon tea or reception. Accommodations for entertaining out of doors and handling house overflow during such an occasion in spring, summer, and fall were desired.

When asked about outdoor recreation, the first family expressed a desire for a swimming pool. Since the governor played golf but disliked the inevitable public gallery of the public course, the candidate suggested the building of a practice putting green. This suggestion was whole-heartedly accepted.

A drive was suggested to give easy access to the main, public entrance of the mansion, and this was enthusiastically endorsed.

Preliminary studies were prepared and presented. Incumbent Governor Hall, Mrs. Hall, and Mr. Brown, State Architect, viewed these studies. The general location for drives, walks,

walls, and use areas was approved. The final design and the details were left to the discretion of the candidate and his major professor, L. R. Quinlan.

Following the preparation of many studies and eventually a final study, a study-model of the outdoor living area was built in order to study vertical and horizontal space relationships. The scale of the model was one inch equals five feet. Later, after refining the final study, the model was restudied for design, including the colors of architectural materials for the outdoor living area (Plate I).¹

Patio

The factors affecting the design of the patio were: relation to the house, line of vision to the main garden feature--the pool, privacy with prevailing breezes, access to public area, consideration of southwest shade tree, and command of the entire area from the patio.

Since a surfaced area was needed in connection with all of the contemplated, outdoor living activities, the patio was extended into the entire outdoor living area as a linear patio (Plate II). Its boundary lines were predetermined by anticipating the traffic flow and the relationships to areas.

In order to have a better indoor-outdoor relationship between the house and the largest area of patio, the patio was

¹ All plats are in the Appendix.

elevated where it connected to the mansion dining room. This gave better transition from house to garden (Plates III and VIII).

In determining the measurements of riser and tread for outdoor steps, the following formula was used:

$$2 R + T = 26$$

Let R = height of riser in inches

T = length of tread in inches

In using this formula, the measurements of the steps for the patio deck became:

Risers = 6 inches

Treads = 14 inches

$$2(6) + 14 = 26$$

According to Thomas Church (1), one of the foremost, practicing landscape architects in the Americas, this formula gives the most trip-proof, outdoor steps.

The part of the patio designed for family, outdoor eating, is the part nearest the kitchen, northeast of the pool, and south of the wrought iron trellis.

Swimming Pool

The factors affecting the design of the swimming pool were: relation to parts of the outdoor living area, need for windbreaks, consideration of existing trees, concealment of the filtering plant, desire for privacy, and general safety.

Due to the development of the shotcrete (14) or gunite (15) process in concrete construction, it was possible to let the demands of the garden to shape the pool rather than the opposite. The pool is an important garden focal point. When not in use, the swimming pool becomes a reflecting pool for sky, trees, and structures.

The deep end of the swimming pool was located to take advantage of the old stable for the installation of the filtering plant and the dressing room (Plates I, II, and VII). Furthermore, this building provided a north windbreak.

The lines formed by the swimming pool coping and walk at the shallow end of the pool gave the feeling of bending and forming on a line with the visual axis of the garden from the patio deck. The pool and the patio deck have a good visual relationship. This is the only type of relationship demanded between these two areas. Connecting walls proceed on predetermined, traffic-flow lines. The walk is functional, and the line at the edge of the walk is rhythmic. In addition, the large American Elm which is located southeast of the garage building was saved. This tree is important as a screen and as a softening element for the upstairs rooms of the mansion as viewed from Lincoln Avenue and from the west end of the outdoor living area. The free-form line which outlines the walk from the patio deck and around the pool helps to open the design of the pool area and connect the major parts of the garden.

Two sub-axial lines are perpendicular to the southwest and northwest edges of the pool patio, and they provide the base lines for the design of the practice putting green and the more or less natural area.

The patio cover is to provide partial shade to persons while they enjoy the use of the practice putting green, the view of the natural area, and the use of the swimming pool. In addition to providing partial shade, this cover can give protection from light rains. Wrought iron and fiberglass were used to build the patio cover in order to give it a visual lightness. Thus, there is little interference with the view of the rest of the garden from the patio deck. At the same time, the cover helps to unify the pool design as one use area. Black, wrought iron, pale yellow fiberglass, and white brick gave a rich combination befitting a Governor's Mansion. The translucent fiberglass allows light rays of low intensity to reach the plant materials on the south side of the garage building and on the north side of the family dining area.

The swimming pool area is protected from south winds by the solid brick wall and by the evergreen trees.

Practice Putting Green

The putting green is edged with a mowing strip for easy maintenance and a back stop or curb of white brick to keep putted golf balls from entering the shrubbery. This edging gives a note of rhythm and form to the area.

Wall

The wall was not only designed for a high degree of visual privacy, but it was designed as a safety factor in connection with the swimming pool. wrought iron gates were used in the design. These gates may be closed and locked when the first family is not using the area.

White brick was used for the construction of the wall in order to compliment the white brick of the existing buildings.

The entire property was not surrounded with the wall. This was preferred in order to avoid giving the feeling of completely shunning the public.

The upper four feet of the wall located south of the patio deck is to be constructed of alternating redwood and fiberglass panels (Plate IX and Plate II, View B). This type of construction gives privacy while allowing for the penetration of south, summer breezes.

The jog that was placed in the wall as it passed south of the swimming pool (Plates I, II, and III) was made in order to get the south, wind protection close to the pool. The ever-green trees which were placed in the jog on the south side of the wall are to give visual privacy to the pool area during the entire year. The pool could be seen from the neighboring house which adjoins the property at this point. The trees are ever-green to cut down on the chore of raking leaves from the pool, and most of the needles that fall will be confined to the south side of the wall.

The jog in the west wall (Plates I, II, III, and IV) was made in order to save a good shade tree.

If the wall was connected to the southwest corner of the garage building instead of on the west side of the building, as shown by the model and general plan (Plates I and II), the garden would have seemed in poor proportion and would have given the feeling of being too constricted. As it was actually designed, the wall gives the area a better feeling of freedom and relaxation.

A wrought iron trellis and board wall were used on the north side of the patio between the garage building and the mansion. These structures allow the prevailing, south, summer breezes to flow through the area. This is the area where the family may wish to dine. This area is located adjacent to the southeast corner of the garage and under the patio cover. It is close to the kitchen service. The wrought iron trellis with vines will provide adequate privacy since the service area is adequately screened from the public by the use of plant materials.

Plant Materials

Ornamental plant materials were used singly and in groups and masses to accent, to define, to screen, to soften, to frame, to compliment, to shade, and to beautify objects, areas, and structures on the grounds of the mansion.

The selection of specific plants to perform these functions was based on adaptability or hardiness, and the plant design characteristics: form, texture, and color.

During the preparation of tracing paper studies, plants were considered in the abstract sense for their contribution to the garden design. The location of the plant materials and the type of plant materials were determined as the design of the garden was determined. It was during this stage of the design process that first attention was given to existing trees.

After determining the garden design, a preliminary planting plan was made. Ornamental plants, adapted to the Topeka area, were specified on the preliminary planting plan according to the location, type, and form as was determined during the preparation of the garden design.

The list of ornamental plants adapted to Topeka and other cities in eastern Kansas is much longer than the list of adapted ornamental plants for the western three fourths of Kansas because of climatic conditions. Furthermore, because of the design of the garden, many favorable small climates were developed in the outdoor living area. This is called "Climate Control" in the field of landscape architecture. The wall on the south edge of the property provided shade for the plants adjacent to the wall, and it cut off direct, hot, south winds in summer. The evaporation of water from the swimming pool increased the humidity in the area. By using redwood and colored concrete in construction work, less heat was reflected. The mature trees and patio cover provided lower, summer temperatures in the shaded areas.

Because of the small climates that were created, the list

of ornamental plants that are adapted to use here could be expanded. For example, it was possible to use many different broadleaf evergreens in the outdoor living area. Broadleaf evergreens were used extensively since they have many pleasing characteristics which tolerate the more intimate inspection given by persons as they enjoy an outdoor living area.

Next, the preliminary planting plan was studied for colors, in terms of bloom, foliage, and bark, and for textures. Texture studies (Plate V), were made at this time. During the study of colors and textures, certain plants were substituted for other plants if a color or a texture seemed undesirable as previously planned.

Eventually, a final planting plan (Plate IV) was prepared. Abbreviations for designated plants were used on the planting plan in order to keep the plant name legible. The full names of the designated plants are included in this thesis.¹

Plans Submitted

The following plans are respectfully submitted with this thesis:

1. General plan, rendered in ink, colored pencil, and pencil on heavyweight, cold press surface No. 100, Crescent, Illustration Board. This presentation shows the complete plan of the proposed development of the grounds, plus two perspectives

¹ Plant key is in the Appendix.

which illustrate the designer's conception of the outdoor living area, and a section which illustrates relative elevations of objects and areas.

2. Grading plan, on vellum, tracing paper in ink and pencil, shows proposed elevations and dimensions for proposed construction.

3. Planting plan, on vellum, tracing paper in ink, shows the existing trees and proposed trees and shrubs. All trees and shrubs are listed according to botanical names and common names in this thesis, and the total of each specie is given. Each specie of trees and shrubs is designated on the plan by an abbreviation of the botanical name.

4. Plant texture studies, on vellum, tracing paper in ink, shows the texture composition of the plants on the south side of the property as proposed on the planting plan.

5. Construction details, four sheets, on vellum, tracing paper in ink and pencil, shows construction of patio deck, swimming pool, wall, and patio cover.

SUMMARY

The author feels that this garden, as designed, fulfills the outdoor, garden needs of the first family of Kansas. Furthermore, the author feels that this garden blends well with the site, is in character, and is of contemporary design.

This garden was designed with the thought in mind that it would be installed at the Kansas Governor's Mansion, Topeka, Kansas.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author wishes to thank Professor L. R. Quinlan for his assistance in outlining the thesis and for his guidance and critiques in producing the plans. Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. William F. Rickett for his encouragement and to Governor and Mrs. Fred Hall for their cooperation.

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APPENDIX

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

Photograph, showing model of the outdoor living
area, Kansas Governor's Mansion.

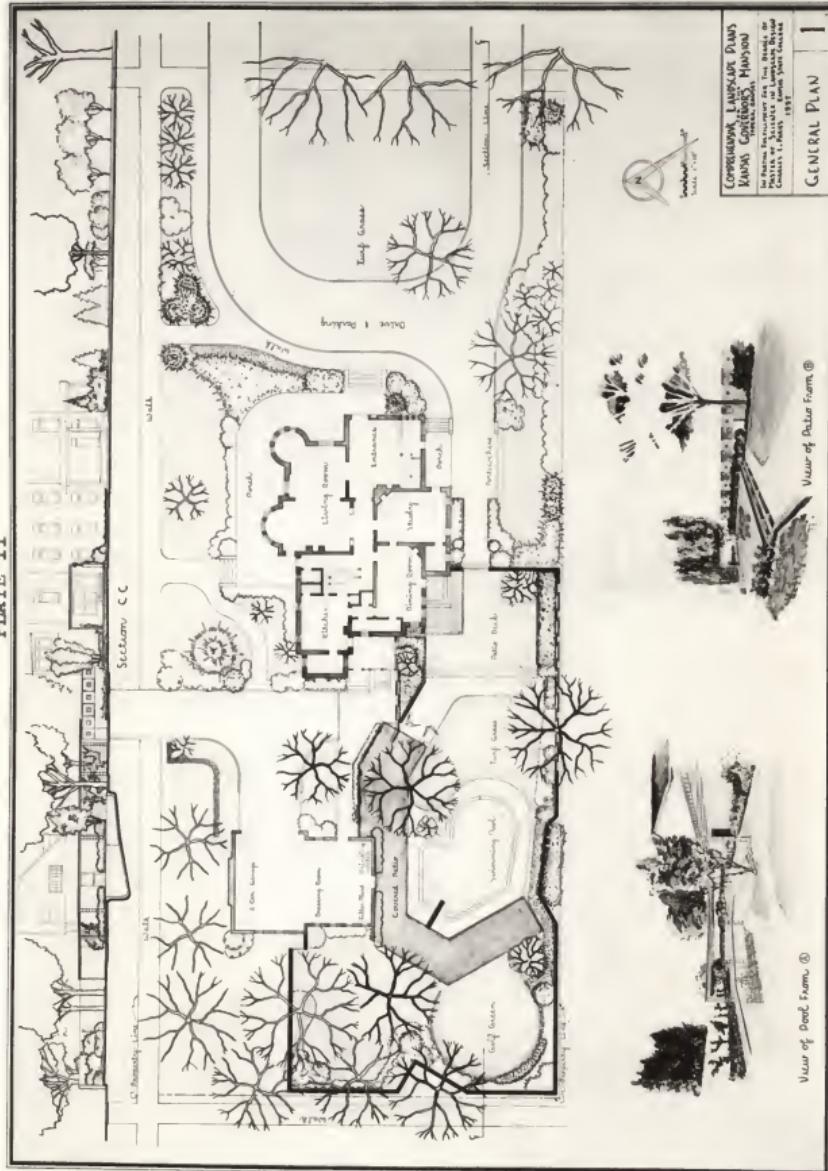


PLATE I

EXPLANATION OF PLATE II

General landscape plan with section of grounds
and perspectives of outdoor living area.

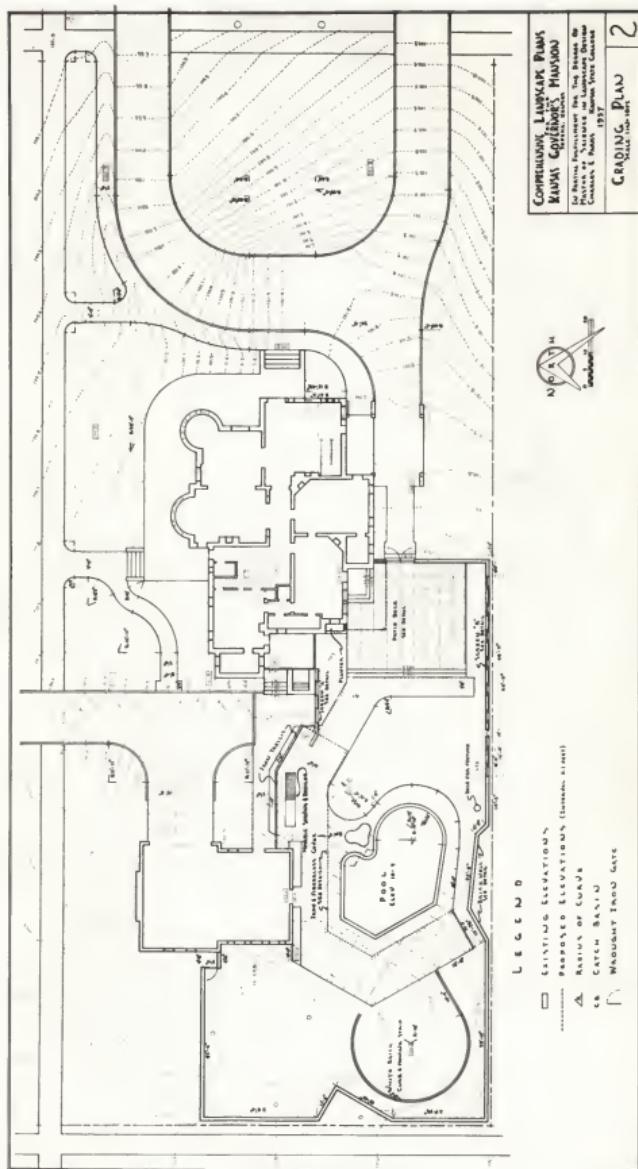
PLATE II



EXPLANATION OF PLATE III

Grading plan for the entire grounds.

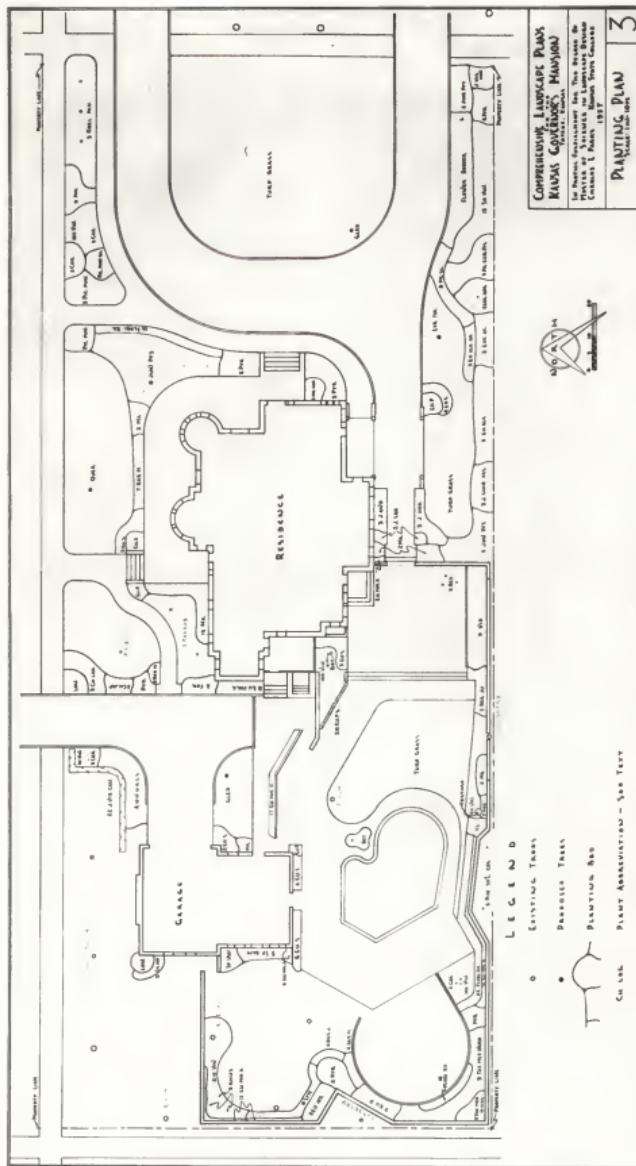
PLATE III



Planting Plan.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE IV

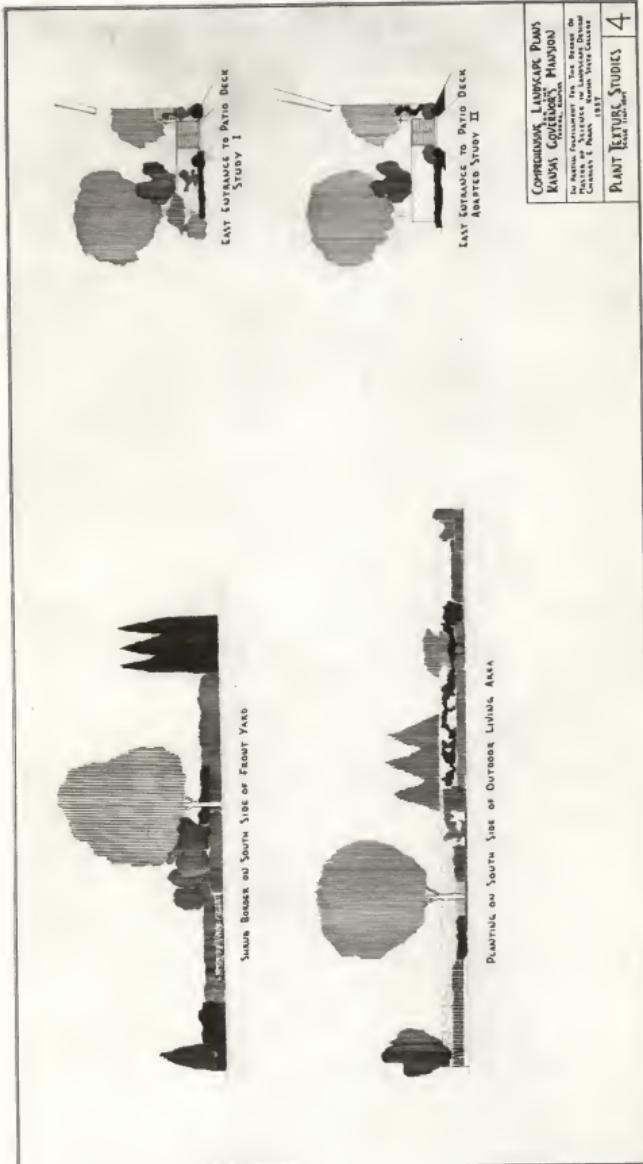
PLATE IV



EXPLANATION OF PLATE V

Plant texture studies on the south side of
the mansion grounds.

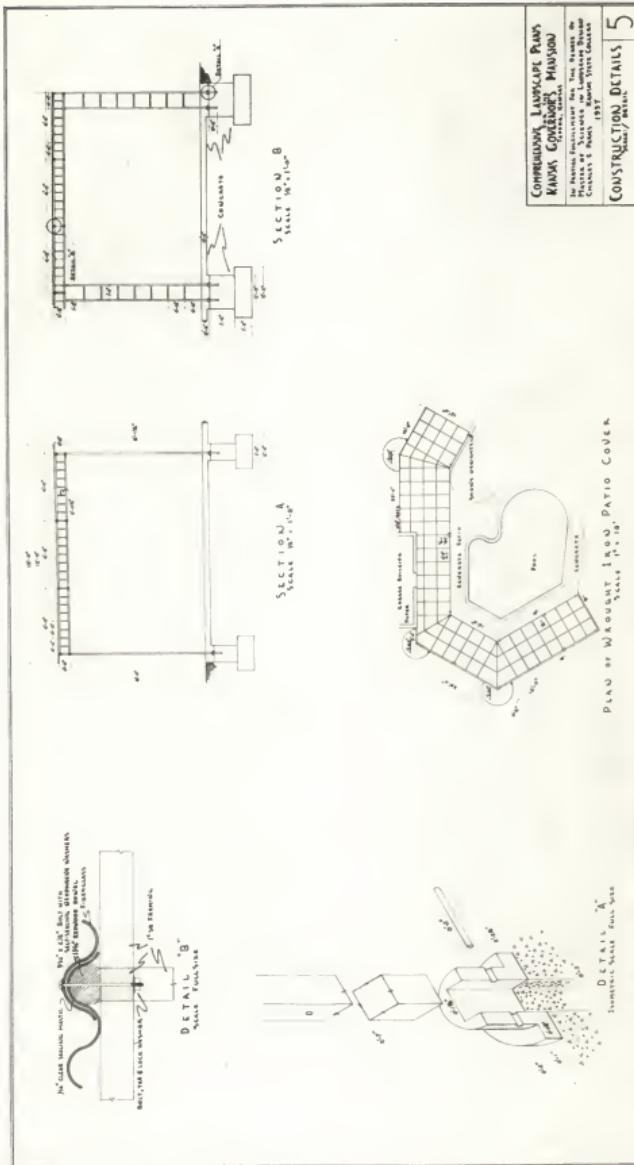
PLATE V



EXPLANATION OF PLATE VI

Construction details for the patio cover.

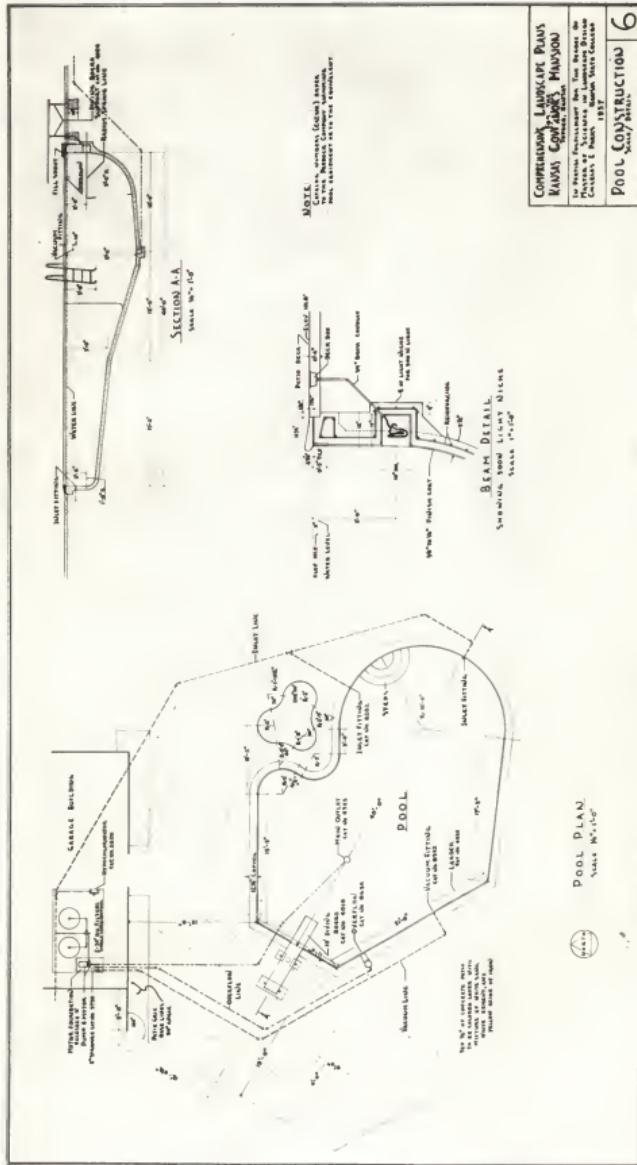
PLATE VI



EXPLANATION OF PLATE VII

Construction details for swimming pool.

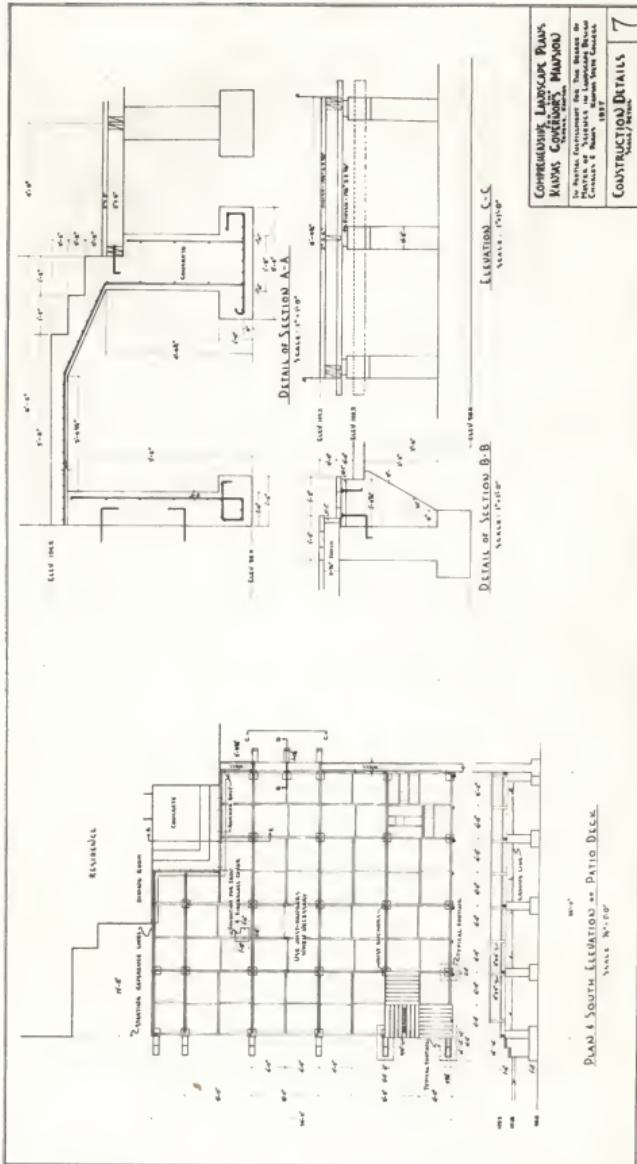
PLATE VII



EXPLANATION OF PLATE VIII

Construction details for patio deck.

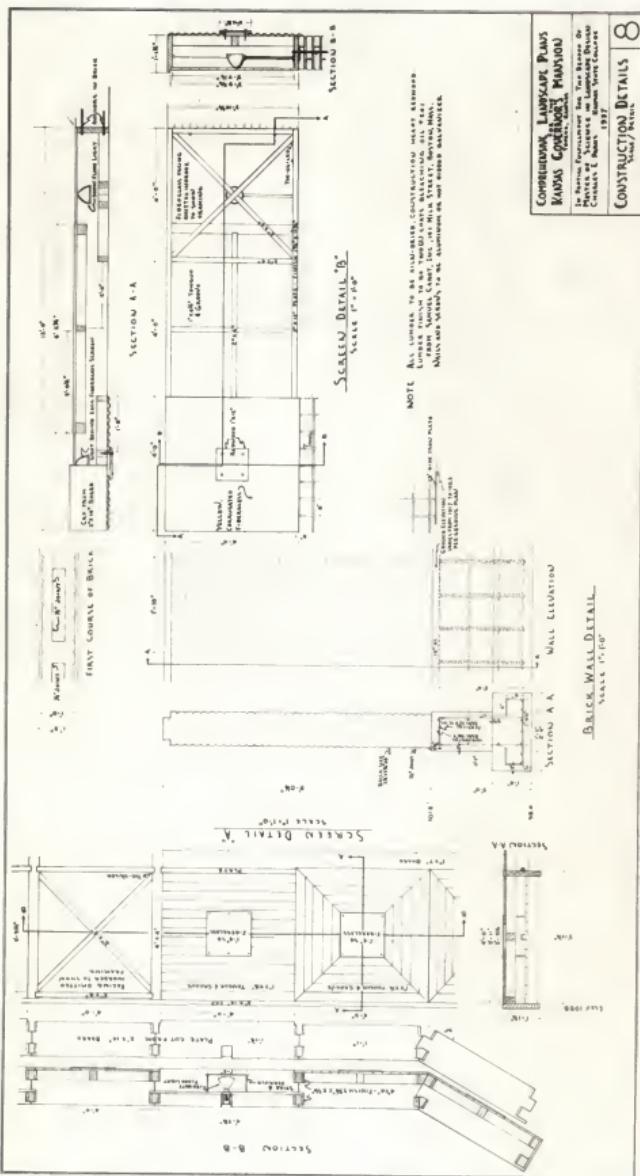
PLATE VIII



EXPLANATION OF PLATE IX

Construction details for wall

PLATE IX



PLANT KEY

Quan.	Ident.	Abbrev.	Names	Size
<u>Evergreen Trees</u>				
3	J. chin. Col.		<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> Green Columnar Chinese Juniper	10' - 12' B & B
2	J. vir. Can		<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> Canært Eastern Redcedar	10' - 12' B & B
22	J. vir. Can		<i>Juniperus virginiana</i> Canært Eastern Redcedar, clipped hedge	24" - 36" B & B
3	Pic. pun.		<i>Picea pungens</i> Colorado Spruce	4' - 6' B & B
1	Pic. pun. gl.		<i>Picea pungens</i> Blue Colorado Spruce	3' - 4' B & B
3	Pin. styl. Col.		<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> Pyramidal Scotch Pine	10' - 12' B & B
<u>Low Evergreens</u>				
8	J. and.		<i>Juniperus horizontalis plumosa</i> Andorra Juniper	12" - 14" B & B
10	Jun. pft.		<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> Fritzer Chinese Juniper	30" - 36" B & B
2	J. sab.		<i>Juniperus sabina</i> Globe Savin Juniper	12" - 14" B & B

		<u>Broadleaf Evergreens</u>	
5	Ber. ju.	Berberis julianae Wintergreen Barberry	18" - 24" B & B
1	Eu. for. c.	Euonymus fortunei Purpleleaf Wintercreeper Euonymus	2' - 3' B & B
28	Eu. for. r.	Euonymus fortunei radicans Common Wintercreeper Euonymus	18" Potted
13	Eu. for. v.	Euonymus fortunei vegetus Bigleaf Wintercreeper Euonymus	18" Potted
8	Eu. P.	Euonymus kiautschovicus Spreading Euonymus	24" - 30" B & B
23	Eu. p. s.	Euonymus kiautschovicus, clipped hedge (Small-leaf) Spreading Euonymus	6" - 8" Potted
27	Eu. s.	Euonymus kiautschovicus (Small-leaf) Spreading Euonymus	15" - 18" B & B
7	Hed.	Hedera helix English Ivy	No. 1 Potted
1	Il.	Ilex cornuta Chinese Holly	24" - 30" B & B
18	Ma.	Mahonia aquifolium Oregon grape Mahonia	18" - 24" B & B
10	Pyr.	Pyracantha coccinea laalandii Laaland Firethorn	30" - 36" B & B
3	Tax. med.	Hick's Taxus media Hick's Yew	30" - 36" B & B

9	Tax. med. Wardi	<i>Taxus media</i> Ward Yew	18" - 24" B & B
8	Vib.	<i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i> Leatherleaf Viburnum	24" - 30" B & B
530	Vin.	<i>Vinca minor</i> Common Periwinkle	No. 1 Potted
<u>Deciduous Trees</u>			
5	Bet.	<i>Betula pendula</i> European White Birch	10' - 12' B & B
9	Cer.	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> Eastern Redbud	6' - 8'
1	Elag. ang.	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> Russian olive	8' - 10'
2	Gled.	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> Mormone locust	10' - 12'
3	Koel.	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> Panicled Goldenraintree	8' - 10'
1	Lir. tul.	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> Tuliptree	10' - 12'
3	Prun. cer. pis.	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> Pissard Myrobalan Plum	6' - 8'
1	Quer.	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i> Shingle Oak	10' - 12' B & B
3	Rhus.	<i>Rhus typhina</i> Staghorn Sumac	4' - 6'

<u>Deciduous Shrubs</u>		
4	Ber. J.	Berberis thunbergii Japanese Barberry
13	Ber. m.	Berberis mentorensis Mentor Barberry
5	Ch. Jap.	Chaenomeles japonica Japanese Flowering Quince
3	Ch. lag.	Chaenomeles lagenaria Common Flowering Quince
2	Cor.	Cornus stolonifera Redosier Dogwood
3	Cot. ac.	Cotoneaster acutifolia Peking Cotoneaster
5	Eu. ala.	Euonymus alatus Winged Euonymus
5	Eu. ala. na.	Euonymus alatus HV. Dwarf Winged Euonymus
3	Fu. atr.	Euonymus atropurpureus Eastern Wahoo
50	Flori. Ro.	Floribunda Rose Var. Siren
5	For.	Forsythia intermedia Border Forsythia
2	Lon.	Lonicera fragrantissima Winter Honeysuckle
		No. 1 Potted
		12" - 14" B & B
		14" - 16" B & B
		12" - 14"
		18" - 24"
		24" - 30"
		30" - 36"
		30" - 36"
		18" - 24"
		30" - 36"
		18" - 24"
		24" - 30"

8	Pr. gl.	<i>Prunus glandulosa</i> HV. Flowering Almond	12" - 24"
5	Sp. bum.	<i>Spiraea bumalda</i> HV. Froebel Spirea	12" - 24"
13	Sp. van.	<i>Spiraea vanhouttei</i> Vanhoutte Spirea	30" - 36"
8	Sym.	<i>Symporicarpus orbiculatus</i> Indiancurrant Coralberry	10" - 12"

B & B, Balled and Burlapped Specimens

COMPREHENSIVE LANDSCAPE PLAN
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA

by

CHARLES ALWOOD FISH

B. S., University of Illinois, 1959

AN ABSTRACT
OF A DISSERTATION

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree of

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1957

The purpose of the study underlying this thesis was to produce a landscape design that included a private outdoor area for entertaining and family living on the grounds of the Kansas Governor's mansion, Topeka, Kansas. The Governor had requested assistance from Kansas State College.

The scope of the contemplated changes on the grounds presented a landscape design challenge.

The old, three-story, brick mansion, which had been painted white, and the old brick stable, which had been converted into a garage and storage and painted white, occupied a large proportion of the grounds. Furthermore, because of the location of the mansion and stable on the grounds, which was in the middle of a long, rectangular lot, it was difficult, at first, to visualize a functional relationship between the mansion and any outdoor use area. This situation is typical of many large, old houses which are found in the older areas of a city and close to the business district.

Neither the state architect, the county register of deeds, nor the county engineer could furnish a plat or plot plan of the mansion site. By searching through the old files of an abstract company in Topeka, a plat was found. A map of the area was prepared. This map showed the location of buildings, objects, and existing trees.

With the exception of shade trees, the plant materials on the mansion grounds were in poor condition through neglect and age.

Interviews with Governor and Mrs. Hall revealed their needs and desires for outdoor living.

Preliminary studies in the form of drawings were prepared. The general idea for the landscape design was approved. The final landscape design was left to the discretion of the author and the major instructor, L. R. Quinlan.

After many studies were prepared, a final design was decided upon. A model was constructed, and landscape plans were drawn. The landscape plans are: a general plan, a grading plan, a planting plan, a plant texture study, and four sheets of construction details.

This garden was designed with the thought in mind that it would be installed at the Kansas Governor's mansion, Topeka, Kansas.