Introduction
Site Analysis

Circulation and Context
**Existing courtyard** contains many plantings, including: locust (primary shade tree); a small dogwood; a small magnolia tree; a large lilac bush; and numerous boxwoods and yews. Planting is sporadic and provides no spatial definition, but does soften the harsh lines of the courtyard. Existing large locusts will provide shade for parts of the courtyard. Two locusts in southern courtyard are to be removed as part of regular maintenance. Yews and boxwoods should be removed because of toxicity concerns.

**Very flat topography exists** with inadequate drainage away from building. Drain inlet in courtyard low spot does not pick up all water and occasionally will backup. Drain inlet daylighted into channelized stream that eventually runs through Dyck Aboretum.

**Existing downspouts** daylight onto rock/dirt close to building with inadequate slope to carry water away. Consider use of rain gardens (minimum 20' from foundation) or rain barrels.

**Maximize views** into courtyard from all locations Provide "standing" views into courtyard. **Mowing strips** should be installed throughout the courtyard to minimize trimming.
Site Analysis

Existing vegetation is an important design factor.

Construction of ‘My Garden” creates opportunities to address current drainage issues.

Site is extremely flat.

Existing sidewalks should be removed.

Gazebo can be relocated.

Removal of diseased locusts also creates opportunities.

Small trees can be relocated.
Healing:
a beneficial process that promotes overall well-being.

...Relief from physical symptoms
...Stress reduction
...Improvement in overall sense of well-being

“ANY ENVIRONMENT CAN HINDER OR ENHANCE THESE COMPONENTS OF HEALING.”

“Nature is another name for health...”
Henry David Thoreau
Healing Gardens
Background Readings

Attention Restoration Theory
Rachel & Stephen Kaplan, 1995

BEING AWAY
FASCINATION
EXTENT
COMPATABILITY

Directed Attention--Fights distraction and allows us to stay focused. Too much work leads to Directed Attention Fatigue.

Restorative environments can restore the ability to perform tasks that require directed attention.
‘My Garden’

Clare Cooper-Marcus’ Garden Audit Tool

Check-list tool
Seventy-four items
Can be used by: staff; policymakers; landscape architects, maintenance personnel, research, teaching

Background Readings
Background Readings

John Zeisel


“The more like a residential frontyard or backyard the garden looks and feels,... the more those using it will themselves feel normal.”

“...Image of clear and evident landmarks connected by clear and evident pathways, without the garden becoming either trite or simplistic.”
Showalter Villa’s ‘My Garden’ is organized around “areas with clear meaning in the context of home--front porch..., back porch, and back yard.” In addition to these ordering principles which center on the home, ‘My Garden’ will also include a Park area, another concept which should be reassuring, familiar and engaging for residents, visitors and staff. Each area will have a unique character determined by memories of these locations as well as new opportunities for spontaneous and supervised activities.

“The rhythm of being with and being apart from, coming & going and separation...a dynamic recognition of the livingness of nature.”

‘My Garden’

Concept Statement

Design Characteristics: Formal, public Plantings will have year-round structure with opportunities for seasonal plantings to reinforce temporal patterns.

Front Porch

The patio area in the northwest corner takes on the designation of Front Porch—a place to be seen and observe the activities of others. A place to enjoy the weather, share a cup of coffee or a mel. A place to relax and socialize with guests or other residents. A “together” place.
‘My Garden’

Back Yard:
The backyard is where the work is done. The vegetable garden is here, as are the clothesline and tool shed. Here you can be out of the public eye or be in a “together place” when gardening with friends.

Design Characteristics: Flexible, informal, messy, active, seasonal, sunny
Concept Statement

Back Porch

The Back Porch is more intimate than the front porch. This is where residents might slip out in the morning for a cup of coffee, check on the garden, or watch the birds gathered at the feeder.

Design Characteristics:
Flexible, informal, private, a “take-over” area
‘My Garden’

The Park

The Park will be a spacious, open area for large gatherings and barbecues. Park benches will be provided for sitting alone or with others and for watching the daycare center children on their occasional treks into the park. The park area will provide pleasant views the area from residential rooms and the other areas of the courtyard.

Design Characteristics:

Simple, open restorative, solitary, fascinating
Design Guidelines

Simple paths intersecting at 90 degree angles
No dead ends
Path Hierarchy
Things to see along the way
Visibility from 2′-6′
Paths wide enough for 2 wheelchairs
Variety of covered and open areas to accommodate diverse needs
Non-glare paths
Take-over areas

Expert Paradigms:
Roger Ulrich
Am. Horticultural Assoc
Kevin Lynch
Attention Restoration Theory
Hoover’s Remembrance Therapy
John Zeisel
Clare Cooper-Marcus

General Concensus on these Design Guidelines
‘My Garden’

‘My Garden’: The Heart of the Green

Plan Key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Gazebo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Dining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VG</td>
<td>Vegetable Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BF</td>
<td>Butterfly Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG</td>
<td>Memory Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WF</td>
<td>Water Feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TS</td>
<td>Tool Shed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RG</td>
<td>Rain Garden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘My Garden’: Raingarden Ribbons

Plan Key

- G: Gazebo
- D: Dining
- VG: Vegetable Garden
- BF: Butterfly Garden
- MG: Memory Garden
- WF: Water Feature
- TS: Tool Shed
- RG: Rain Garden

‘My Garden’
Plan Key

G  Gazebo
D  Dining
VG  Vegetable Garden
BF  Butterfly Garden
MG  Memory Garden
WF  Water Feature
TS  Tool Shed
RG  Rain Garden
‘My Garden’: Encore

Plan Key

G  Gazebo
D  Dining
VG  Vegetable Garden
BF  Butterfly Garden
MG  Memory Garden
WF  Water Feature
TS  Tool Shed
RG  Rain Garden
‘My Garden’

Memory Garden
Butterfly Garden
Bird Watching Area

Specific Garden Themes
Specific Garden Themes

- Vegetable Garden
- Heritage Garden
- Rain Garden
- Native Grasses
‘My Garden’

Raised Planters
Square Foot Gardening
Formal Perennial Garden
Annual Garden

Specific Garden Themes
‘My Garden’

Summary

Site Analysis
Background Reading
Design Guidelines
Concepts

Four Concept Sketches
The Heart of the Garden
Raingarden Ribbons
In the Park
Encore

Specific Garden Themes