

WALTER HOOD REDESIGN— THE ARTHUR ROSS TERRACE AND GARDEN



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In 1901, the garden at the Carnegie Mansion was envisioned as a playland for the Carnegies' five-year-old daughter Margaret. In 1991, in recognition of a major gift from Arthur Ross, the space became known as the Arthur Ross Terrace and Garden. The garden—a rare treasure in the middle of Manhattan—is the final phase of Cooper Hewitt's massive transformation, and will open for all to enjoy in the coming years.

01

The renovated rockery recalls Schermerhorn's unbuilt garden design.

LAWN



SCHERMERHORN

AS BUILT

HOOD PROPOSED

SCHERMERHORN
LAWN OUTLINED

ROCKERY GEOMETRIES



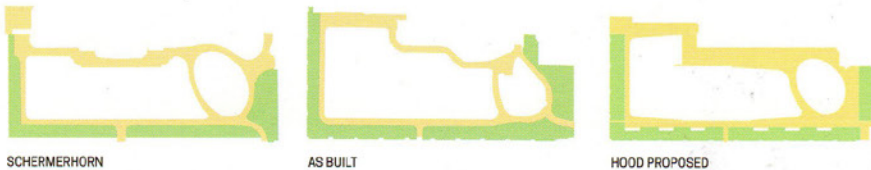
SCHERMERHORN

AS BUILT

HOOD PROPOSED

SCHERMERHORN
ROCKERY OUTLINED

PATHWAYS/HERBACEOUS BORDERS



SCHERMERHORN

AS BUILT

HOOD PROPOSED

TERRACE



SCHERMERHORN
PROPOSAL 1901

EXISTING CONDITIONS
(BASED ON 1996 SURVEY)

HOOD DESIGN
PROPOSAL 2013

American landscape architect Walter Hood, the principal of Hood Design (Oakland, California) and 2009 National Design Award winner, was selected to redesign Cooper Hewitt's garden. Hood has dedicated his career to public garden design, developing community-inclusive landscapes across the country, from San Francisco's M.H. de Young Museum and Oakland's Kapor Center for Social Impact to Curtis "50 Cent" Community Garden in Queens, New York, and Atlanta's Center for Civil and Human Rights.

Hood Design's process is rooted in culture, and, in order to imbue the new space with a sense of place specific to Cooper Hewitt, took into account: Richard Schermerhorn's original 1901 garden design drawings for Andrew Carnegie; the garden's location at the edge of Central Park and creating a contextual relationship between the two green spaces; a range of color and texture that provides seasonal interest; and Cooper Hewitt's diverse and growing programs. Together with RAFT Landscape Architecture, new terrace pavers, garden pathways, plantings, and a reimagined rock garden provide a new landscape experience for the museum. Hood's design and plantings focus on durable materials and hardy species that can withstand frequent use and climate fluctuations.

"Balancing the need for more program space outdoors with the responsibility to honor the historic nature of the garden and mansion was top-of-mind at each phase," says Hood. "We designed new garden spaces around the museum to create opportunities for engagement and discussion." The newly designed exterior face of the garden draws neighbors and visitors with its lighted corner pillars, and through the 90th Street entrance featuring a striking canopy designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro. With the museum's growing audience and free public access to the garden and café, the spaces can accommodate groups of various sizes, from two engaged in an intimate conversation to larger programs and events.

02



03

02

Diagrams illuminating the differences between Schermerhorn's original plans for the garden, the as-built condition, and the new proposed design.

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A new sloped walkway brings garden visitors into the lower garden, where the shade of silver leaf Linden trees, movable tables and chairs, and garden planting enliven the space.

The redesign of the **ARTHUR ROSS TERRACE AND GARDEN** is made possible by major capital funding from The City of New York. Generous support is provided by Nancy Marks. Additional funding is provided by Enid and Lester Morse and the Arthur Ross Endowment Fund.