

TEA HOUSE GARDEN

*Japanese Style Garden at
Marble House*

Newport, Rhode Island

Project Data

Date: 1999

Size: ¼ acre

Context: Adjacent to Tea House
overlooking Cliff Walk



Existing condition photographs

Project Description:

Tea house gardens symbolize nature by using traditional materials, such as rocks, gravel and manipulated plant materials. Creative use of perspective, sense of scale, asymmetrical balance, and unity are all used to enhance and control the visitor's experience. Components of such gardens include stone, water, and deciduous and evergreen plants. Each feature within the garden symbolizes a corresponding element in the broader landscape.

The Marble House garden combines and captures the spirit of traditional Japanese stroll and tea house gardens. Located adjacent to a Chinese/Japanese inspired Tea House, this garden transforms the visitor's inner sense as they move through the garden. A rebuilt garden bridge provides quick access along the existing path, while a meandering step stone walk and a universally accessible walk permit visitors the opportunity to experience its numerous symbolism. To promote the sense and feel of a traditional tea house garden, this garden is enclosed with a clipped hedge that mimics ocean waves while controlling views within the garden and to the broader landscape. Rock formations, a small pond with small waterfalls and evergreen trees symbolize the mountains with a large cascading waterfall. A stone bridge, water basin, several stone lanterns and specially located benches all help to enhance the visitors experience while making their way to the Tea House beyond.

EDC Principal Thomas Elmore was Principal-In-Charge and Project Manager for this project. To date, only schematic designs have been developed for this garden.



Schematic Design