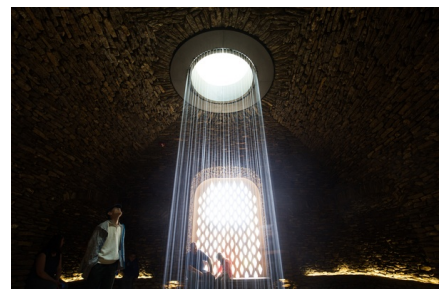


# LONGWOOD MAIN FOUNTAIN GARDEN

2010-2017, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, USA



West 8's work on Longwood's Main Fountain Garden builds upon Longwood's first-ever physical master plan, which was completed by West 8 in 2011.

"New Heights: The Fountain Revitalization Project," replaces the 83-year-old fountains' infrastructure with the latest technology, improves guest access to the Garden, and adds innovative new elements that honor the visionary original design by Longwood Gardens founder Pierre S. du Pont.

West 8 is responsible for the design of the garden's public spaces to harmonize with the original design, the enhancement of the Main Fountain Garden's horticultural elements and the creation of new gardens that will provide new amenities for Longwood's guests. The new public spaces will achieve a renaissance for the Garden while retaining its identity as recognizably "Longwood."

Within the context of the master plan, which aims to transform Longwood Gardens into one of the Great Gardens of the World, the Main Fountain Garden becomes the first and most dramatic encounter in the 1,077 acres of gardens at Longwood.

Creating a new model for how interdisciplinary projects such as these unfold, the revitalization by Beyer Blinder Belle + West 8 + Fluidity includes:

- the complete restoration of 4,000 pieces of carved Italian limestone by specialists throughout the five-acre Garden;
- the total replacement of the fountains' electric and plumbing infrastructure with 21st-century systems that pump 300,000 gallons of water around 380 fountains, allowing the fountains to run more efficiently and for a significantly longer period of time during the year;
- new water choreography, which will include jets that project water 175 feet in the air—45 feet higher than the current capabilities; the jets will also allow for more precise control of the water movement to create unique undulating, flexing, spinning effects, and a state of the art flame feature;
- replacement of the fountain lighting system with energy-efficient LED lights, which will also allow the water choreography to take on a new range of colors;
- new areas for guests to explore, honoring the spirit of the original design, including:
  - the re-opening of the elegant south wall, which has been closed to the public for the last 20 years, containing 20 wall-mounted fountains;
  - the Grotto, entered from passageways on either side of the loggia, which lead to a vaulted central hall; at the center will be a circular water curtain wall and oculus that allows natural light to enter the space;
  - a trellis bridge connecting to the Fountain Terrace allowing guests to look out over the surrounding gardens;
  - new seating areas, including a seat wall along the fountains as well as table and chairs behind the trellis bridge;
  - a renovated Pump House lobby, which will showcase the original pumps that powered the Main Fountain Garden from 1931 to 2014;
  - an enhanced landscape that includes increased planting, enhanced horticultural displays, and expanded, fully accessible walking areas.

For an indepth overview of the [New Heights Fountain Revitalization Project](#) click [here](#)

Here is also [Architectural Record's article on Longwood Garden](#) by Suzanne Stephens.

#### client

Longwood Gardens, Inc.

#### partners

Beyer Blinder Belle, Fluidity Design Consultants, L'Observatoire International

#### consultants

Urban Engineers, Landis Inc., Irrigation Consulting Inc, Keast & Hood Co., Bancroft Construction

#### awards

ASLA Professional Award, Honor Award in category General Design 2018, ENR MidAtlantic Best Landscape Hardscape Urban Development award 2018, 2018 Trumbauer Award by the ICAA Philadelphia Chapter in category HISTORIC PRESERVATION, Philadelphia Preservation Alliance's 2018 Preservation Grand Jury Award, 2017 DCA Construction Excellence Award, Architects Newspaper 2017 Best of Design Awards for Lighting – Outdoor, 17th Edition Palladio Award 2018, 2018 Excellence in Concrete Award by EPDACI, Excellence in Concrete Award in the Decorative Concrete category, Eastern Pennsylvania & Delaware, United States 2018.

#### team

Claire Agre, Adriaan Geuze, Jamie Maslyn Larson, Jelle Therry, Brandon Cappellari, Steve Carlucci, William DiBernardo, Blair Guppy, David Hanrahan, Perry Maas, Adam Novack, John Payne, Erin Wythoff, David Zielnicki