

NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE



School House at The Clearing

JENS JENSEN AND BEYOND

presented by

Stephen McCarthy

February 22 & March 2, 1996



April 20, 1948

Miss G. Dierfif
1624 Rowley Avenue
Madison 5, Wisconsin

Dear Miss Dierfif:

The enclosed folder will give you some information as to the activities at The Clearing.

As you will note, the mornings are spent in field and forest where life's ways are revealed to the student by a daily association with living examples. These ways are most vital to all who are interested in the creative fields or in the fields pertaining to humanities. We must all go to living examples for proof and inspiration from the living fountain.

All students are given full freedom in the afternoons to pursue that subject in which they are most interested. Instructions are given when needed but the student is encouraged to search out for himself into untraveled fields.

Our student group last summer consisted of dancers, painters, writers, reporters, school teachers, comedians, a landscape architect and an architect.

If you are interested, I will be happy to answer any further questions.

JJ/MF

Most sincere'y,



Stephen McCarthy is the Development and Natural Resource Manager of the Lake County Forest Preserve District, Libertyville, IL, where many of the design techniques of Jens Jensen have been put into effect.

Bibliography

- American Landscape Architecture -Edited by P.H. Elwood Jr., 1924
Jens Jensen, Maker of Natural Parks and Gardens -Robert Grese, 1992
Landscape Artist in America -Leonard Eaton, 1964
Siftings -Jen Jensen 1956
The Jens Jensen I Knew -Sid Telfer Sr. 1982
*Special Thanks to Robert Grese and Stephen Christy for generously exchanging slides of Jensen's Projects

Design Principles/Trademarks

- Spatial Composition -movement, mystery, selective removals
- Native Vegetation -haws, massing
- Water Features -prairie rivers, ponds, pools
- Light and Shadow -sun opening, cedar glades
- Expanse -breadth, long view
- Rockwork -council rings, water features

Light and shadow and their distribution during the entire circle of day and night are important fundamentals in the art of landscaping. Many of the fine and soft shadows in the color scheme of the Master's work are far beyond human hands to produce. But here is the real motive, the cue to the beginning.

-Jens Jensen, Siftings

Reoccurring Themes

- Nature as Inspiration for Life and Art
- Ceremony, Social Interaction, Democracy
- Spiritualism, Religion

That there is a kindred relationship between all living expressions is soon discovered in a bit of primitive woodlands still moist with the freshness of birth. But the great truth that "love" is the ratio is not revealed before walking softly amidst this grandeur. It is then one can hear the song of one's own heart in complete harmony with the song of the treetops. It is then the truth unfolds and one knows he has been touched by the hem of the Great Plan, the reason of all being. By walking softly, and listening, with steps in rhythm to the song, one becomes a part of the chorus, and the tune fills every fiber of one's being, and the unfoldment of creation comes into view.

-Jens Jensen, Siftings

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Danish Roots

- Landscape
- Danish Ceremonies
- Folk Schools



1860 - 1951

Chicago Area Influences

- Frederick Law Olmsted, Columbian Exposition 1893, Washington Park, Riverside, IL
- O.C. Simonds, Graceland Cemetery
- The Prairie School
- The Prairie Landscape
- Chicago's Slums

Early Public Works

- West Parks System Humboldt, Garfield, and Columbus Park

Conservancy Efforts

- Friends of our Native Landscape
- Forest Preserve System
- State and County Parks

Private Works

- Dwight Perkins Residence Evanston, IL 1904
- Henry Ford Estate Dearborn, MI 1914
- William Kelly Estate Lake Forest, IL 1913-26
- Edsel Ford Estate Detroit, MI 1922-26
- Edsel Ford Estate Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 1926-32
- Harley Clarke Estate Evanston, IL 1926-28
- A.G. Becker Estate Highland Park, IL 1926
- Herbert Kurth Residence Mequon, WI 1940

1935-1951

- Lincoln Memorial Garden Springfield, IL 1934-40
- The Clearing Ellison Bay, WI 1950-51

Contemporary Natural Landscaping Projects

- Lincoln Park Zoo Rookery Alfred Caldwell, Chicago, IL
- Soros Residence A.E. Bye, Long Island, NY
- Half Day and Wright Woods Preserve Lake County Forest Preserve District, Lake County, IL 1986-92
- Solo Cup Co. Highland Park, IL 1987-93
- McCarthy Residence Evanston, IL 1984-91