American landscape architecture began with exposure to the English idea of landscape. The expanse of natural land in America allowed for translation of literary and pictorial ideas into reality. Gradually, beginning with farmers and their manipulation of the soil, Americans began to read and study ways to alter the landscape for aesthetic purposes. Wealthy planters like Jefferson and Washington took up amateur landscape design using volumes shipped from England. The following is a selectively annotated bibliography of the Library of Virginia's holdings related to landscape architecture.

ARCHIVAL AND MANUSCRIPT MATERIALS

Audit of Public Accounts, Record Group 48, State Government Records Administration of State Government, Contingent Funds
This record sub-series contains vouchers for work done by private contractors on state property or at state buildings. Accounts for projects such as garden walls or fencing on Capitol Square may be found in this collection. In addition, vouchers for pay owed by the state to gardeners or contractors are contained in this collection, such as the pay voucher for Charles A. Ruhle for three months work as a gardener at Capitol Square (RG 48, APA Entry 139, Folder 1858-1859).

General Contingent Fund. Vouchers. 1776-1859, APA Entry 139
Includes vouchers for work done at public buildings, 1785-1788, 1799, 1813-1816, 1822, 1831, n.d.

Civil Contingent Fund. Records. 1860-1914, APA Entry 140
Includes information on work done at hospitals and public buildings (vouchers), 1870.

Bland, Robert Taylor, Papers, 1848-1889, Personal Papers Collection, Accession 35892.
The Robert Taylor Bland Collection contains letters, legal papers, and business accounts concerning Bland's activities in King and Queen and Middlesex Counties. Of particular interest is a "Patron of Husbandry" certificate (oversized) dated 1877.

Butterworth, John Reynoldson, 1817-1874, Personal Papers Collection, Accession 21536.
This collection contains a charter from the National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry for the Dinwiddie [County, Virginia] Central Grange No. 22.

City of Richmond, Office of the City Engineer, Architectural Drawings, Plans, and Plats, 1809-1975, Local Records Collection, Accession 34886a-b.
The following is a select number of records and should only be considered representation of the type of materials in the collection. Please consult the guide in the Map Research Room for more information.


"Shields Lake, William Byrd Park," Dated: 18 December 1914, LVA File Number: 37, City File Number: 52-B-3c, 1 sheet.

"Proposed Civic Center for Richmond, Virginia," n.d., LVA File Number: 92, City File
Charles Freeman Gillette, a native of Wisconsin, became synonymous with landscape architecture in Virginia in the twentieth century. He received no formal training in landscape design other than a brief apprenticeship with Boston landscape architect Warren Manning (1860-1938). Gillette’s career in Richmond spanned over fifty years. This collection contains working and finished architectural drawings, photographs, and correspondence. The collection also contains materials from other professionals, such as surveyors and other architects. Please see the guide in the Map Research Room for a detailed listing of materials in this collection.

Mount Airy, near Warsaw, Virginia, Measured Plan, Drawings and Plans Collection, 1931, Accession 36538. [Facsimile]  
This drawing is a measured plan for Mount Airy near Warsaw, Virginia, the home of the Tayloe family. The drawing shows layout for plants, shrubs, trees, and other landscape elements. The drawing is signed "Measured by Arthur A. Shurcliff, Landscape Architect, Boston, Mass."

Certain contracts in this collection deal with work executed at Capitol Square during the period 1816-1819 and again in the 1850s. In several agreements, reference is made to Maximillian Godfroy's plan for Capitol Square circa 1816. An index to these contracts can be found in the Archives Research Room in a black binder entitled "Capitol Square Data."

Southern Eclectic Nurseries (Dinwiddie County, Virginia), A Catalogue of Fruit Trees, Grape Vines, &c.: Cultivated at the Southern Eclectic Nurseries, Near Crimea, Dinwiddie County, Virginia, by George Whitmore, 1861, Special Collections, Broadside.

These drawings document proposed improvements to the grounds at the state capitol. These landscaping improvements coincide with the expansion of the capitol building. The 1906 expansion added wings to either side of the original which was based on Thomas Jefferson's interpretation of the Maison de Carrée.


PRINTED PERIOD MATERIALS


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Jefferson kept this record book until 1824, two years prior to his death. It chronicles the changes and additions to his gardens at Monticello and Poplar Forest over a fifty-eight year period. Betts has included relevant materials from Jefferson's farm and weather books, correspondence, and memoranda to overseers. This work is arranged chronologically.


Miller, Philip. *The Gardeners Kalendar; Directing What Works Are Necessary to be Done Every Month in the Kitchen, Fruit and Pleasure-Gardens, and Also in the Conservatory and Nursery*. London: R. Rivington, for J. and J. Rivington, 1754.


Redd, George. *A Late Discovery, Extremely Interesting to Planters and Farmers, Relative to Fertilizing Poor and Exhausted Lands, Upon a Cheap and Easy Plan; with Some Remarks and Observations on Orchard and Gardening*. Winchester: J. A. Lingan, 1809.


Smith, Charles H. J. *Landscape Gardening, or, Parks and Pleasure Grounds: With


PRINTED SOURCES ON VIRGINIA

Articles
Favretti, Rudy J. "Thomas Jefferson's 'Ferme Ornèe' at Monticello." Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society 75 (1993): 17-29. The author originally presented this piece as a lecture to the American Antiquarian Society. He discusses how Jefferson used English models and adaptations of English models to create the gardens at Monticello. The author focuses on Monticello's layout and Jefferson's influences while planning the site.


Gillette discusses a specific home and some of the landscape details that were used to enhance the site. The second article comments on the author's home.

Gillette, Charles F., Bradford Williams, and Gilmore D. Clarke. "Look Here Upon This Picture, and On This: In Virginia." Landscape Architecture 28 (October 1937): 50-51.

Gillette discusses a specific home and some of the landscape details that were used to enhance the site. The second article comments on the author's home.

Kelso, William M. "Landscape Archeology: A Key to Virginia's Cultivated Past." Eighteenth Century Life 8 (January 1983): 159-169. The author discusses the value of archeology in uncovering the landscapes of the past. He remarks on shortcomings in early archeological theory that largely ignored the period landscape, and the progress of the recent past. He discusses several specific examples at historic Virginia homes, namely Monticello, Carter's Grove, and Kingsmill.

Kornwolf, James D. "Doing Good to Posterity: Francis Nicholson, First Patron of Architecture, Landscape Design, and Town Planning in Virginia, Maryland, and South Carolina, 1688-1725." Virginia Magazine of History and Biography 101 (July 1993): 333-374. This article discusses the largely unknown beneficence of Francis Nicholson. He served as governor or lieutenant governor of several colonies. He proved himself a great proponent of building, landscape design, and town planning. Nicholson often used his own funds to sponsor projects.

Shurcliff, Arthur A. "Look Here Upon This Picture, and On This: At Williamsburg Virginia." Landscape Architecture 28 (January 1938): 102-107. In a regular feature of the publication, the author comments on views of Williamsburg before and after its restoration. At the time of the publication, the restoration work was still in progress.

Williams, Morley J. "Washington's Changes at Mount Vernon Plantation." Landscape
The author discusses the then on-going restoration of Washington's home. He looks at techniques, including the use of period documents, utilized to recreate the grounds organized by Washington.

Books
Originally intended to document most homes and gardens of historic or architectural interest, the authors condensed the work. Accordingly, this volume departs from the format of its predecessors in that it is not meant to be a guide book for annual tours, but rather a study of historic structures and landscapes. The work discusses various homes and gardens from across the state of Virginia.

Using previously undiscovered gardening and landscape plans of George Washington, the book discusses how researchers used correspondence, diaries, and plans written by Washington to create and recreate Mount Vernon. The writer portrays Washington as the typical eighteenth-century amateur landscape architect.

The author investigates the long and impressive career of landscape architect Charles F. Gillette. Gillette worked on some of the most well-known residences in Virginia, including Agecroft Hall and Virginia House. His career coincided with the County Place era, which suited his style perfectly. Gillette developed a regional style centered on proportion, detail, and spatial arrangement.

This work contends that Thomas Jefferson used innovative garden designs founded in tradition. It also holds that his knowledge of architecture, surveying, climate, soil, and other features gave him a unique perspective not bound by one particular style. The author looks at Jefferson's contributions to what eventually became a fine art, landscape architecture.

This work was written in conjunction with the bicentennial of George Washington's birth. Noted landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff discusses gardens in the southern United States.

This book chronicles the preservation efforts of the Garden Club of Virginia and their pioneering efforts in saving Virginia's landscape treasures. The author uses the records and drawings of the garden club to tell the story of restoration gardens in Virginia. The book is arranged by historic home.

Compiled by Vincent T. Brooks
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