THE DECONSTRUCTED FOREST

2024 INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL

Forest Thicket Perimeter

Shrub Layer

Primary Path -

Aspen Allee

Secondary Path

Ground Cover Layer

Concept Summary

The first type of ecosystem many people think of when they think of "ecology" is a forest – the complexity and harmony of a forest ecosystem is no doubt the muse of environmentalists around the world. The forest can appear wild, untamed, and messy, but it is by no means unorganized. We, as humans, have long drawn a division between ourselves – neat – and nature – messy.

The human desire to dispel, organize, and thus make sense of the world around us is the inspiration for The Deconstructed Forest.

To what extent can we rearrange the natural world while still maintaining ecological integrity? Does ecological integrity have to look a certain way? How do we feel when we are in artificially constructed ecosystems?

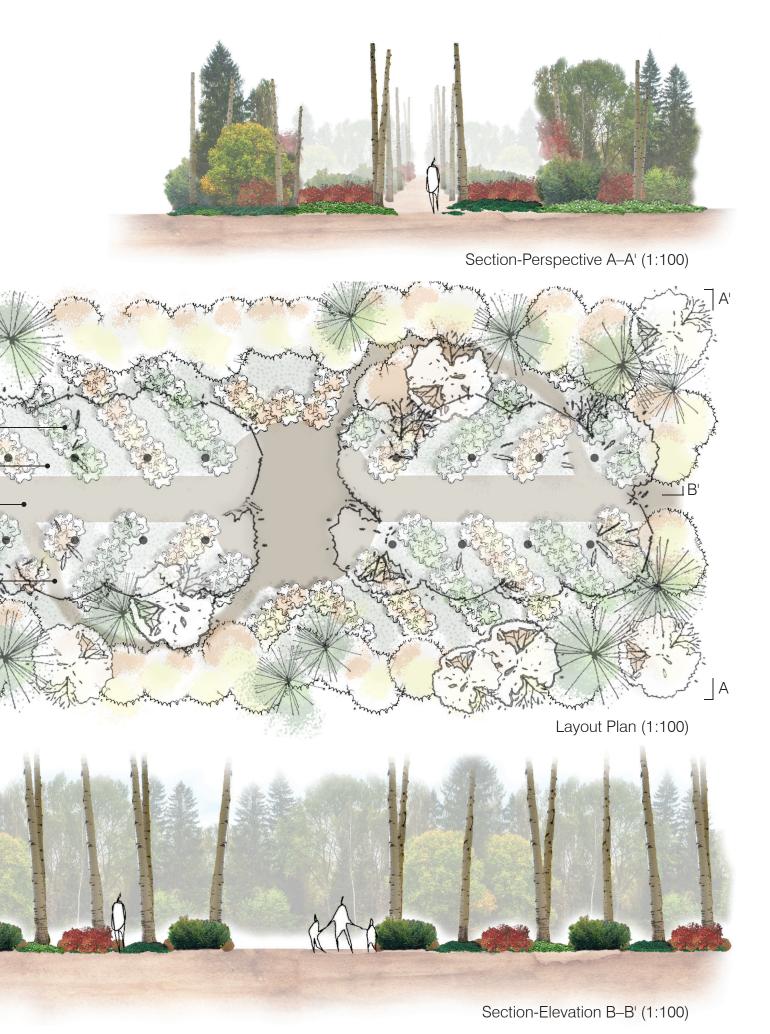
This garden seeks to answer some of these questions by taking the components of the forest and arranging them, as humans sometimes like to do, into a neatly organized microcosm.

In juxtaposition, the wild and untamed forest lies at the edges. At moments, it punctuates the careful arrangement, creating moments for us to leave predictability behind and enter the thickets to momentarily lose ourselves in the mass of vegetation.



Suggested Plant List

Populous tremuloides (Quaking Aspen)
Abies balsamea (Balsam Fir)
Vaccinium myrtilloides (Velvet-Leaf Blueberry)
Taxus canadensis (Canadian Yew)
Oxalis montana (Northern Wood Sorrel)
Gaultheria hispidula (Creeping Snowberry)



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Central space for rest and reflection



Use of timber and evergreen species for Winter enjoyment