



LONGWOOD GARDENS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LONGWOOD GARDENS TO EXPAND AND TRANSFORM ITS RENOWNED CONSERVATORY GROUNDS ACROSS 17 ACRES, BLENDING THE HISTORIC AND THE VISIONARY

Longwood Reimagined: A New Garden Experience Creates a Journey Through Innovative Buildings and Landscapes by the Renowned Firms of WEISS/MANFREDI and Reed Hilderbrand

Most Ambitious Project in a Century Preserves and Enhances Cherished Features,
Including Roberto Burle Marx's Cascade Garden,
While Building a More Engaging Longwood for Decades to Come



KENNETT SQUARE, PA—Longwood Gardens today unveiled plans for a sweeping yet deeply sensitive transformation of its core area of conservatory gardens, in the most ambitious revitalization in a century of America's greatest center for horticultural display. Adding new plantings and buildings across 17 acres, *Longwood Reimagined: A New Garden Experience* will expand the public spaces of the renowned central grounds and connect them from east to west, offering a newly unified but continually varied journey from lush formal gardens to views over the open meadows of Pennsylvania's Brandywine Valley.

The project originates from a master plan developed in 2010 by West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture with WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism. Longwood has continued working with WEISS/MANFREDI as lead designer, in collaboration with Reed Hilderbrand, on *Longwood Reimagined*, which continues the institution's distinguished history of commissioning and collecting outstanding garden designs and glasshouses. The project will be managed by Bancroft Construction Company, based in Wilmington, Delaware.

In keeping with Longwood's tradition of blending fountain gardens and horticultural display, the centerpiece and largest single element of *Longwood Reimagined* is the creation of a new 32,000-square-foot glasshouse, designed by WEISS/MANFREDI, with gardens and pools designed by Reed Hilderbrand. This new West Conservatory with its asymmetrical, crystalline peaks seems to float on a pool of water, while the garden inside, inspired by the wild and cultivated landscapes of the Mediterranean, is conceived as seasonally changing islands set amid pools, canals, and low fountains. In the tapestry-like garden design, iconic plants of this ecology such as aloes, laurels, blueblossom, and Greek horehound hug the ground, with higher plants such as cypress and 100-year-old olive trees rising up into the soaring space while other plantings are suspended from above. Building on the great 19th-century tradition of glasshouses through new sustainable technologies, the West Conservatory is a living, breathing building, with earth tubes and operable glass walls and roof that allow the interior garden to thrive.

Longwood's Cascade Garden, the only design in North America by the great Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx, is being relocated in its totality to an all-new, 3,800-square-foot glasshouse of its own, a jewel box where the tropical plantings will be preserved and can thrive at the heart of the conservatory ensemble. A new outdoor Bonsai Courtyard, built alongside the West Conservatory, will exhibit one of the most outstanding collections of bonsai in the country. Wood walls and hedges will create an intimate, gallery-like space with bonsai displayed on free-standing pedestals and on ledges mounted to walls. Carved into the topography that faces the Main Fountain Garden, a new public restaurant and private event space with a series of vaults reveals the spectacular fountain displays. Above the restaurant and event space, the landscaping of a new South Terrace and South Walk provides a shady promenade extending along the existing and new conservatories to a new West Terrace, where the landform echoes the arc of a stand of hundred-year-old plane trees and frames views out toward the Brandywine's meadows.

Other elements of the \$250 million *Longwood Reimagined* project include construction of a new education and administration building with a state-of-the-art library and classrooms; renewal of the beloved Waterlily Court designed by Sir Peter Shephard (1913-2002); and preservation of six historic Lord & Burnham glasshouses from the early 20th century, to be relocated at a later date and used for year-round garden displays. As part of the initial phase of transforming the area, Longwood's beloved century-old Orchid and Banana Houses will close on March 1 for preservation and will re-open in time for Longwood's 2021 year-end holiday display.

Paul B. Redman, President and CEO of Longwood Gardens, said: "In the tradition of our founder Pierre S. du Pont, who transformed a rural arboretum into one of the world's most beautiful places for horticultural display, Longwood Gardens has been growing and evolving for more than half a century from a private estate into an inviting center for public enjoyment. Each generation of Longwood's stewards has both preserved and renewed the Gardens, commissioning the era's leading landscape designers and architects to add to the grounds. Over time, Longwood has assembled one of the world's most important collections of garden designs and glasshouses. With the assistance of the brilliant team of WEISS/MANFREDI and Reed Hilderbrand, *Longwood Reimagined* will be the largest undertaking in our history, enhancing the dazzling and deeply satisfying Longwood Gardens that will continue to enthrall our public for decades to come."

Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, founders and principals of WEISS/MANFREDI, said: "We're inspired by the sense of discovery and invention that are signatures of Longwood Gardens. We conceived of the design as a cinematic journey, a sequence of experiences that range from intimate to grand. The

West Conservatory, with its pleated crystalline ridge, appears to float on water and is magically reflected by day and night. The vaults of the new restaurant and event space are carved into the hillside to reveal views of the Main Fountain Garden. A new arcade frames the historic Waterlily Court, and the great Cascade Garden is sheltered in a custom-designed glasshouse. These transformations extend the DNA of Longwood Gardens through the creation of new settings for public enjoyment and delight.”

Douglas Reed, partner and principal of Reed Hilderbrand, said: “We felt our first responsibility in reimagining this expansive area of the grounds was to give expression and identity to the idea in the master plan to extend the conservatory complex along the high ridge. We drew inspiration from existing features of Longwood’s landscape, among them tree-lined walks. The expansion scheme structures trees to define space and direct movement, recognizing Longwood’s origins as an arboretum. Above all, we felt this ambitious project must retain the character and warmth associated with Longwood’s origin as an arboretum and country estate.”

A multitude of subtle and imaginative architectural elements link the components across all 17 acres of the project site. The graceful curvature of the steel tree-branch columns of the West Conservatory enables them to be slender while bearing their load. At its highest point, the roof of the West Conservatory matches that of the Main Conservatory, reinforcing the connections across the site. At the same time, the West Conservatory’s roofline surprisingly dips and rises again in a catenary, carrying WEISS/MANFREDI’s sense of gentle, organic processes into the architectural forms. Within the new restaurant and event space, trellis-like ceiling vaults and arches echo the forms of the Main Fountain Garden and further reveal connections between the architecture and garden. This theme is extended to reimagining the Waterlily Court, which is framed by a new arcade that redefines the court as an outdoor room and central destination.

Reed Hilderbrand’s design for the expanded landscape offers visitors an itinerary of grand walks and new and restored gardens, with places for gathering and pause provided throughout the intensive experience. Each garden reflects its identity and purpose: a West Walk that serves for strolling and orientation, a Central Grove along the Waterlily Court that serves as an entry to the new West Conservatory and relocated Cascade Garden, a walled Bonsai Courtyard that provides space for the exhibition of rare bonsai, and the expanded green of the West Terrace celebrating the grove of hundred-year-old plane trees.

A key element of *Longwood Reimagined* is the relocation and reconstruction of the Cascade Garden. Planned in consultation with WEISS/MANFREDI, Reed Hilderbrand, Burle Marx Landscape Design Studio, and a panel of preservation experts convened by Longwood, this is the first time that a historic garden has been relocated as a whole. Burle Marx designed the Cascade Garden in 1992 within an existing structure, which was retrofitted to accommodate hundreds of tropical plants, 35 tons of rock, and 3,000 feet of heating cable. Now this ensemble of richly textured plants that evokes elements of the rainforest—palms, bromeliads, philodendrons, and more—set amid vertical rock walls, cascading water, and clear pools will be moved into a new, custom-designed glasshouse.

Anita Berrizbeitia, Professor of Landscape Architecture and Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, said: “The Cascade Garden gathers in a condensed space all the recognizable elements of the work of Robert Burle Marx, one of the 20th century’s most influential landscape architects. Its unique esthetic vision was delicately realized and is exceptionally well preserved. The new space, custom-designed for the Cascade Garden’s optimal health and well-being, will allow it to thrive for many decades to come.”

Longwood expects to break ground on the project in Spring 2021. The Main and East Conservatories will remain open throughout the transformation, and Longwood Gardens will continue to present an ongoing schedule of events and performances.

About Longwood Gardens

In 1906, industrialist Pierre S. du Pont (1870-1954) purchased a small farm near Kennett Square, PA, to save a collection of historic trees from being sold for lumber. Today, Longwood Gardens is one of the world's great horticultural displays, encompassing 1,100 acres of dazzling gardens, woodlands, meadows, fountains, 10,010-pipe Aeolian organ and 4.5-acre conservatory. Longwood continues the mission set forth by Mr. du Pont to inspire people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education, and the performing arts, through programming that includes exhibitions, musical performances by leading artists, renowned horticulture education programs, horticulture research, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. Open daily, Longwood is one of more than 30 gardens in the Philadelphia region known as America's Garden Capital. For more information, visit longwoodgardens.org.

About WEISS/MANFREDI

WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism is a multidisciplinary design practice based in New York City. Founded by Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, the firm is known for the dynamic integration of architecture, art, infrastructure, and landscape design. The firm is well known for the Seattle Art Museum's celebrated Olympic Sculpture Park, named by TIME magazine as one of the top ten marvels in the world and by Architectural Record as one the "most significant works that defined architecture in our era." Other notable projects include the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Visitor Center, and Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park. The firm's current work includes the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India, the Artis—Naples Baker Museum and Cultural Campus, and the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale. Most recently, the firm was selected through an international competition to reimagine the La Brea Tar Pits and Page Museum in Los Angeles.

Weiss and Manfredi have won numerous awards, including the 2020 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture, the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award, the AIA President's Award, the Academy Award for Architecture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the International Veronica Rudge Green Prize for Urban Design. They have also been named one of North America's "Emerging Voices" by the Architectural League of New York, received the New York City AIA Gold Medal of Honor, and were inducted into the National Academy of Design. Michael Manfredi is a Senior Critic at Harvard University and Marion Weiss is the Graham Chair Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania. Three monographs on the firm's work have been published, including most recently *Public Natures*, and their work has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, the São Paulo Biennale, the Guggenheim Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. For more information visit weissmanfredi.com.

About Reed Hilderbrand

Reed Hilderbrand is the award-winning landscape architecture practice founded by Douglas Reed and Gary Hilderbrand. The firm's approach seeks to connect daily life with the visible systems of nature as well as the underlying patterns of culture. Recognized with more than 80 design awards, the practice is known for its great sensitivity to place and record of design excellence in collaborations with mission-driven organizations, institutions, communities, and individuals. Among Reed Hilderbrand's completed works are The Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Massachusetts; the Besthoff Sculpture Garden at the New Orleans Museum of Art; and the Leventritt Shrub and Vine Garden at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Massachusetts. Notable works in progress include commissions for Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Storm King Art Center, Tanglewood Music Center, and the U.S. National

Arboretum in Washington, D.C. The Architectural League of New York named Reed Hilderbrand one of North America's "Emerging Voices" in 2005. Douglas Reed is recipient of the ASLA Design Medal, awarded in 2019, and was a Resident at the American Academy of Rome 2011. ASLA named Reed Hilderbrand Firm of the Year in 2013. For more information visit reedhilderbrand.com.

About Bancroft Construction

Bancroft Construction is an award-winning, Mid-Atlantic construction management firm servicing clients throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland. For more than 45 years, Bancroft has taken great pride in not only building physical structures, but also long-standing relationships. Bancroft commits to a partnership approach for all projects that it manages – from major developments to revitalizing world-renowned cultural landmarks. Recently, Bancroft proudly managed the multiple award-winning revitalization of Longwood Gardens' Main Fountain Garden. Centered around the idea of bettering our community, Bancroft assists our clients with their projects from concept to completion and offers construction-based solutions in regard to program management, estimating services, construction management, owner's representation, virtual design & construction, as well as sustainability methods & materials.

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For more information, visit www.longwoodgardens.org.

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#LongwoodReimagined

IMAGE: Aerial View from Southwest, *Longwood Reimagined: A New Garden Experience*. Courtesy of WEISS/MANFREDI with Reed Hilderbrand for Longwood Gardens.

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LONGWOOD GARDENS

LONGWOOD REIMAGINED: A NEW GARDEN EXPERIENCE FACT SHEET

PROJECT OVERVIEW

A sweeping, sensitive transformation of 17 acres of Longwood's core conservatory area. Designed by WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism with Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architecture, the project expands the publicly accessible area of the grounds and connects them from east to west, offering a unified yet continually varied journey from lush formal gardens to open meadows.

MAIN COMPONENTS

Longwood Reimagined: A New Garden Experience

- adds to Longwood's core area of conservatory gardens by creating a **new West Conservatory**, designed by WEISS/MANFREDI to appear as if it is floating on water, housing Mediterranean-inspired gardens designed by Reed Hilderbrand conceived as islands amid canals and fountains
- **preserves and relocates the historic tropical Cascade Garden**—the only garden in North America by the great Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx, notable for its richly textured plantings of palms, bromeliads, and philodendrons set amid vertical rock channels, cascading water, and clear pools—faithfully reconstructing the design in a new, more prominently located standalone glasshouse designed by WEISS/MANFREDI and faithfully recreating the plantings as overseen by Reed Hildebrand
- establishes a **new outdoor Bonsai Courtyard**, designed by Reed Hilderbrand, exhibiting one of North America's most outstanding bonsai collections beside the West Conservatory
- **knits together the historic and new parts of the conservatory complex** by adding a new Central Grove by Reed Hilderbrand, outside of the West Conservatory, and renewing the Waterlily Court, designed by Sir Peter Shephard in 1989, and framing it with a new arcade designed by WEISS/MANFREDI
- **revitalizes the Orchid and Banana Houses**, preserving the structures and introducing a new, expanded display for the Gardens' expansive orchid collection
- **opens views toward the Brandywine Valley** with a sweeping new West Terrace designed by Reed Hildebrand overlooking a stand of plane trees dating to the 19th century
- develops a gracious **new public restaurant and private event space**, designed by WEISS/MANFREDI with a vista onto the Main Fountain Garden
- and **expands the education and administration building**, designed by WEISS/MANFREDI, with state-of-the-art classrooms, library, common spaces, and staff offices

LOCATION

Kennett Square, Chester County, Pennsylvania
Located in the Brandywine Valley, 30 miles west of Philadelphia

LEADERSHIP

Paul B. Redman, President & Chief Executive Officer, Longwood Gardens
Jane G. Pepper, Chair, Board of Trustees, Longwood Gardens

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION TEAM

Lead Designer: WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism—Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, Co-Founders; Todd Hoehn, Principal and Project Manager; Joseph Vessel, Heather McArthur, Andrew Ruggles, Justin Kwok, Senior Project Architects and team leaders; Eileen Witte, Sergio Salcedo, Tomoko Akiba, Jackie Krasnokutskaya, Scott Chung, Don David, Mike Harshman and Andreas Hausler, Design Team

Landscape Architect: Reed Hilderbrand Landscape Architecture—Douglas Reed, Principal and Partner; Kristin Fredrickson, Associate Principal; Eric Kramer, Principal and Partner; Jeremy Martin, Senior Associate

Construction Management Company: Bancroft Construction Company

Civil Engineer: Pennoni Associates, Inc
MEP Consulting Engineer: Jaros Baum & Bolles
Structural: Magnussen Klemencic Associates
Preservation Consultant: John Milner Architects
Environmental Design Consultant: Atelier Ten
Lighting: Tillotson Design Associates

PROJECT COST

\$250 million

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

New West Conservatory: 32,000 square feet
Pools for New West Conservatory: 27,500 square feet total
(8,200 square feet inside and 19,300 square feet outside)
Cascade Garden Glasshouse: 3,800 square feet
Restaurant: 6,100 square feet
Private Event Space: 5,600 square feet
Bonsai Courtyard: 12,000 square feet
Administration Building: 46,000 square feet
Offices and Research Areas: 12,000 square feet
Classrooms and Education Spaces: 2,000 square feet
Library: 1,500 square feet
Orchid and Banana Houses: 1,600 square feet

LONGWOOD MASTER PLAN AND PAST PROJECTS

Adopted in 2010, Longwood’s first master plan, “A World Apart,” provides a 40-year framework for the institution’s sustained growth while amplifying the qualities that distinguish it as one of the most beloved gardens in the world. Developed in partnership with West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture and WEISS/MANFREDI, the master plan combines an exciting array of new visitor amenities and experiences with crucial infrastructure and operational upgrades.

In 2010, Longwood opened a new East Conservatory Plaza, which features the largest green wall in North America. In 2011, Longwood installed a 10-acre solar field. In 2014, Longwood expanded the Meadow Garden from 40 to 86 acres of native wildflower plantings and trails. The revitalized Main Fountain Garden, the

crown jewel of the fountain collection, was unveiled in 2017. *Longwood Reimagined* is the largest and most ambitious project undertaken as part of the master plan.

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