

May 1964

FACT SHEET ON THE ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER SCULPTURE GARDEN

Total area is approximately 35,000 square feet; 13,650 square feet newly added. Garden is now on three levels: the 75' x 100' Upper Terrace approximately 16 feet above the rest of the Sculpture Garden, an intermediate terrace surrounding the central sunken garden, which measures about 140' x 90', is four feet above the lower terrace.

The entire garden is paved with unpolished grey Vermont Marble, as are the stairs leading up to the Terrace; the 18-foot wall at the east end of the lower Garden Wing is also faced with grey marble. The grey brick wall along 54th Street is 220 feet long and 18 feet high; the wall is interspersed with two grill-work gates which open on to 54th Street.

The two pools measure 13' x 48' and 13' x 80', are lined with black lead and are fitted with 90-watt, 12 volt special fountain lighting units.

Special lighting units have been used throughout the Garden and Upper Terrace; there is a row of 8 pole-mounted floumeric light units along the east wall of the Terrace, as well as a 60-foot light pole which lights the stair landing. Eight 750-watt units with hoods will be placed in the roof of the Museum overlooking the Garden. Almost 50 reflector lamps will be used to light the trees on the dining terrace and directly in front of the terrace in the sunken garden area. Another 12 fixtures have been placed in sunken wells in the birch groves between the pools. Forty up-right fixtures have been mounted on racks along the 54th Street wall and will light the north end of the garden.

more...

SCULPTURE
GARDEN

Tree: European weeping beeches - 2 new, 5 existing - total 7

European weeping birch (white) - 18

Plane trees - 2 new, 2 existing - total 4

Hornbeam - 8 (all existing)

Lombardy poplars - over 70 (all new)

Ivy is used as underplanting throughout the Garden and on the slopes between the sunken area and the intermediate terrace, pierias--a low-growing broadleaf evergreen plant--has been used in plantings throughout the Garden, and various kinds of seasonal flowers (marigolds, at present) will be planted beneath the birch trees in front of the dining terrace.

Philip C. Johnson, Architect

Zion and Breen, Landscape Architects
