Project Description:

The landscape architect was asked to blend garden romance and historical charm with versatile functionality and contemporary design. This historic site, originally designed by one of the pioneering women landscape architects in America, Ellen Biddle Shipman, was problematic, as it is western facing and very exposed and steep. The antique pavilion, fountain and curved bench were in disrepair. The goal became creating a new layer on top of a landscape that already had its own energy and personality, as well as structural and technical issues. After researching the history, the architectural details were addressed. The pieces of the remaining balustrade were sent to a restoration company to be repaired, and additional pieces were to be made for the new design and staircases. The lower fountain was finished in a pebble-stucco finish—a design form that often appears in gardens of this era, most notably Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D.C.. The architect found craftsmen who were willing to learn this technique to restore the fountain. The lovely, curved bench had been carved up several times - the Landscape architect reunited the various pieces and created something new that respected the original. Utilizing a handcrafted pebble matrix for the mosaic compass rose in the central paving surrounding the bench acknowledges the traditional architecture of the property without taking it too seriously.
The antique garden pavilion, stands restored overlooking a lawn panel. The flagstone grass jointed pavers acknowledge the traditional architecture of the property without taking it too seriously.

The original garden was designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman in 1920.
Traditional greenscapes of hornbeams, magnolias, dogwood and boxwood parterres play off against modern, sweeping under-plantings of chartreuse Hakonechola and “Limelight” hydrangeas, with bold repetition of fastigiate red beeches against the pale stonework.
Red fastigiate beech (Fagus sylvatica “Red Obelisk”) anchors the corner of the lawn panel.
Grass-jointed paving catches evening light and provides winter interest.
The wild stag of the garden is a product of both design whimsy and historical correctness.
The stucco pebble matrix was recreated on the renovated dolphin fountain.
Rounded boxwoods are echoed throughout the landscape. The restored steps and balustrades are framed by plantings.
A hornbeam hedge on a semicircle frames the antique bench. The original antique bench is held by the new pebble mosaic compass rose.
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