**Project Description:**

This house’s history informed the design. For one, the pedestrian suspension bridge is one of a handful of pedestrian commissions that John Roebling’s son, Charles Roebling, had designed and built at the turn of the last century.

The landscape architect was asked to design for the client’s large multi-generational family. There needed to be room for everyone and every event, large or small. On this steeply sloping site, there was a desire for safety and circulation for the young and the old, shade, the largest pool that the site would allow, a tennis court in the center yard, and the beauty of the waterfront views to be emphasized in all ways. New steps were needed, as well as an enclosure for the pool equipment and outdoor furniture. These were designed to match the stonework on the house. The pool edge was designed to curve and seamlessly blend in with the Long Island Sound.

Fastigiate beech trees were the choice for the narrow front-entry sequence – they continue to remain simultaneously majestic and narrow. The rear garden needed a new layout and steps to the lower levels for handicap access, as well as a straight path to the bridge. Shade was created with a grove of Crimean lindens. A sculptural component, the apple—one of Claude Lalanne’s Pomme d’Hiver—was part of the client’s vision. A curved end of the step wall was designed to feature it.
The rear garden layout was redesigned to include gently sloping paths for handicap access.
On this steeply sloping site, steps from the upper terrace to the lower site were redesigned for safety and ease of use.
Our watercolor rendering showed the new steps leading to the pool terrace. The steps were designed to match the existing stonework of the historic home.
A wonderful sculptural component, the apple—one of Claude Lalanne’s Pomme d’Hiver—was part of the client’s vision. We designed the curved end of the step wall to hold it.
The new arrival sequence includes a custom designed security gate. Fastigiate beech trees were the choice for the narrow front-entry sequence – they continue to remain simultaneously majestic and narrow.
The tennis court sits in the center yard, lushly planted to privacy while preserving the views of the water beyond.
Cedar Lake granite surrounds the pool. Transition corners on the coping add a clean detail. A grid of Linden trees surrounded by peastone gravel provide a shaded seating area next to the pool.
The pedestrian suspension bridge evokes the Brooklyn Bridge, designed by John A. Roebling. He died in 1869 before the Brooklyn Bridge was completed, but his sons carried on the family business of finishing the bridge and the subsequent successful and innovative wire-rope manufacturing business.
Water creates a magnetic pull to the edges of the pool terrace.
A fire bowl sits at the lower garden terrace. Low style, high style, big, delicate, careless and careful plantings soften the steep slopes and provide elaborate transitions from garden rooms.
Perennial gardens sit below the pool, softening the retaining walls.
A winding path follows the seawall leading from the pedestrian bridge, to the apple - one of Claude Lalanne's Pomme d'Hiver and ending at the circular Pirate Stairs.
Masonry details and lush plantings create the final touches.
The sculptural elements throughout the site provide four season interest.