



## Book Review

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### *Midwestern Landscape Architecture*

Edited by William H. Tishler, preface by Robin Karson, and Introduction by William H. Tishler

This book recently came across my desk and caught my attention because I had heard several of the chapter topics given as papers during one of The Clearing Institute's early biennial conferences. I remember the conference well as the late Jot Carpenter was in attendance and he became caught up in the mystique of 'The Clearing' as many others who have visited the site. The papers being presented at this Institute related to the Midwestern Landscape Architecture and brought to the surface the rich and interesting history related to the work of many early 20<sup>th</sup> century little known landscape architects within our midst. Through my own experience my family home near Oconomowoc, Wisconsin is located across the fields from what was once one of the premier dairy farms in the State of Wisconsin owned by the Pabst Family of the Pabst Breweries fame. I had driven past this area since my childhood only to find out that Warren H. Manning had consulted with Pabst about the layout of the farm, also the Cemetery where Captain Frederick Pabst is buried was designed by Annette Hoyt Flanders. Ms. Flanders was also in contact with Manning related to the Pabst farm and other projects in the area. There are many of these stories to be told and if they are not told soon any evidence of their existence will eventually be lost. At the present time it may be possible to find drawings that show what may have been planned or completed - this situation will not continue.

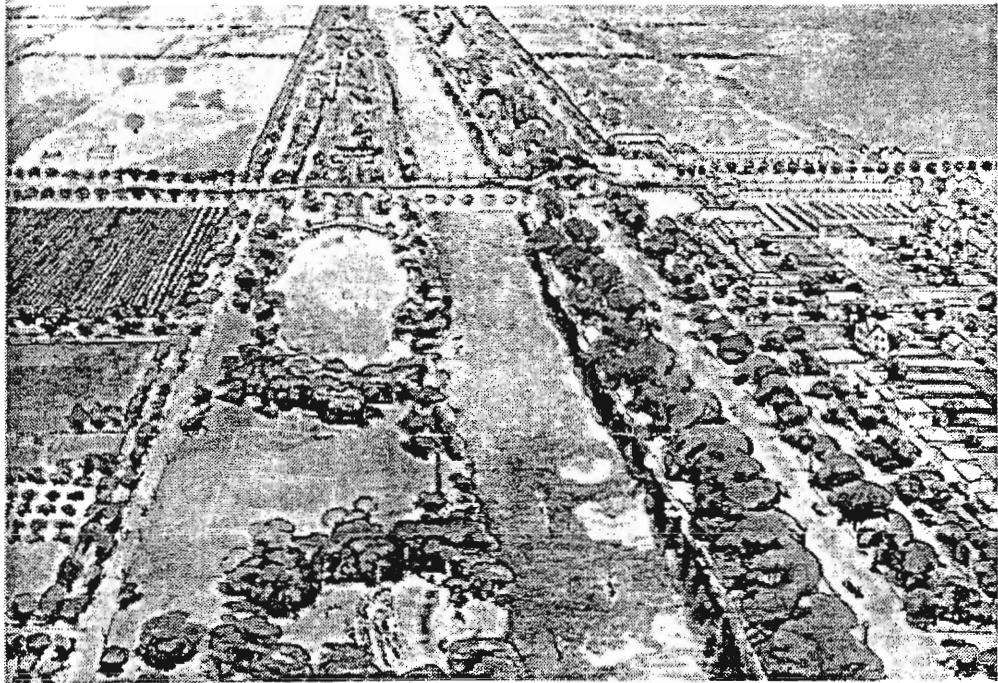
This book as a collection of essays about Midwestern landscape architecture is the important factor since there are no other books that discuss this topic and this in itself makes this truly a significant work. Hopefully this first book will be followed by new editions as more of the stories of Midwestern landscape architecture are researched and told during the week long conferences at The Clearing in Wisconsin's Door County.

Of the thirteen essays included within this book they include the icons of the early years of the profession of landscape architecture, Frederick Law Olmsted, William LeBaron Jenney, Horace Cleveland, O. C. Simonds, George E. Kessler, Jens Jensen, Warren H. Manning, and then a number of unknown Midwestern landscape architects, Wilhelm Miller, Elbert Peets, Genevieve Gillette, and Annette Hoyt Flanders. Not to be forgotten among this list of prominent individuals is the significant work of Adolph Strauch landscape gardener/designer of Spring Grove Cemetery, his life's work in Cincinnati.

Each chapter/essay provides a detailed snapshot of the life and work of that individual within the mid-western environment and highlight many of the significant works created during his or her lifetime. The essays provide the answers for all the important questions of why they designed in the way they did and what were the influences that affected their design directions. These chapters are well researched and provide significant detail in respects to the individual and their contribution to landscape architecture. These chapters provide an ideal model for faculty, practitioners, and others developing research papers for presentation on similar topics and many others.

The book contains many historic photos and images of the designers and their work along with detailed notes and sources of information at the end of each chapter. For those interested in the history of the profession this is a 'must have' book for reference and for your bookshelf.

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