



GARDEN OF NUMBER FIFTY LEGARE STREET

2004

50 Legare Street

c. 1985

Residence of Mr. and Mrs. R. Edward Holt

This house is a splendid example of fine workmanship still being executed in Charleston. The plan is a variant of the single house configuration with a central entrance and one room on each side, and a porch or piazza along its length. The house was built in 1985 and the exterior is clad with stucco.

This house and garden is set back from the street. Walking up to the gate, the visitor passes a border of double yellow Lady Banks rose and an assortment of colorful annuals, bulbs and rosemary.

Upon entering the garden, a very different Charleston yard is seen. Two neatly cropped grass parterres front the entrance of the home, and oriental boxwood borders it. A profusion of color sets off the simple grass sections as though the walkways were flowered hallways surrounding green carpeted rooms.

To the south side a crape myrtle grows over vibrant underplantings of annuals and perennials, while to the north side a large variegated pittosporum is seen near a lovely Japanese red maple. Two large pots hold various winter plants such as pansies, and snapdragons, and act as a pedestals in separating the grassy parterres. Large bronzy cordylines grow in containers in the border.

On either side of the front entrance, two medium cypress trees contribute to the symmetry of the garden. This is furthered by the presence of another crape myrtle to balance out the one found near the front gate.

Going into the back area, a large swimming pool is set among a background of vertical and filling plants. Japanese cedar trees or cryptomeria grow in the rear in company with four magnolia trees (possibly Little Gem or Hasse), Majestic Beauty raphiolepis, hydrangea, agapanthus and other bulbs.

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The neighbor's landscape to the south contributes a canopy of large loquat trees and oak trees. Another Japanese maple is planted on this side with an interesting spherical underplanting of ivy and ferns. More cryptomeria is seen on the north east corner and a cherry laurel in the next yard gives a green background to this side, with creeping fig on the wall.

The warm color of the stucco on this home sets off the plantings surrounding it. The color of the many annuals, bulbs, and perennials in company with the simplicity of the grassy parterres makes it a charming garden.