



HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

**GARDEN OF NUMBER EIGHTY AND EIGHTY AND ONE-HALF TRADD STREET
WHICH ALSO FEATURES A LARGE SCALE MODEL GARDEN RAILWAY
c. 1756**

2009

Residence of Mr. John Nickum and Dr. Linda Lear

This new shade garden was installed in August 2003 on the ruins of a parterre garden. The four huge *Washingtonia filifera* palms were planted along the brick walkway in front of the tiny jewel box dependency where the present owners were then living to provide privacy and shade along the western edge. A pineapple fountain in the front border featuring *Tasmania tree ferns*, *dianella*, *rhodea japonica* and variegated *aspidistra* mimics the trunks of the palms as does the large turquoise glazed pot in the center of one of the interlocking circles of the back garden.

The garden was designed by John Snitzer of Maryland, who also designed the owners' Maryland garden. He was assisted by Jerry Poore Landscaping of Charleston in the original plant selection. The mandate was to design a non-traditional garden that stretched the eye to the furthest point where a cherubic fountain was mounted against the rear garden wall. Adapting the concept of labyrinth with broken sight-lines, the hard-scape was laid out in five intersecting circles of brick filled with oyster shells creating a secret garden with a heavily tropical theme. The owners wanted the garden to evoke a sense of mystery and quietude. Windmill, sago, saw palmetto, a newly installed planting circle of *zamia floridana* palms, along with a variety of variegated plants dominate the lush theme. Classic planters are filled with ferns including several varieties of *salaginella pallescens*, *hosta*, and a specimen variegated agave.

In 2008 the owners restored and enlarged the single house in front where they now live. They added a rear patio access from the dependency and a sunken foliage garden with burbling Japanese fountain which provides the backdrop for a bamboo planting that both screens the neighboring house and adds dramatic night-time accent.

The original mass plantings of sword ferns, variegated *pittosporum*, *fatsia*, *fatsheydera* and many species of *colocasia* became too dense and so in 2008 the owners asked Beverly Rivers of Blooming Designs to open up the garden. Winter blooming shrubs and perennials, including an *odontomema strictum*, climbing jasmine and several varieties of *farfugium* add to the wonderful texture of the ground covers.

Sabal palms remain as circular accents along with daphne, hellebores, shrub camelias and the three camelia trees original to the site. There are two Okame cherries and one red cut-leaf Japanese maple as well as yaupon holly, *ligustrum*, tea olive, and that old Charleston favorite, rose of sharon.

This year, Mr Nickum installed a very small part of his original Holly Hill Maryland Garden Railroad. It is a G Gauge, Large Scale model railroad typical of the garden railroads that are so popular in the UK and in mild climates in the US.

The owners succeeded in designing a shade garden which extends the plant palate, accents leaf and texture, and creates a sense of lushness in a very small space.



CARVED MANTEL AND ENGLISH EMBOSSED IRON FIRE PLACE AT THE HOME OF W. de BRUYN
80 TRADD STREET.