

# Garden DELIGHT

Graham Landscape Architecture

inform  
AWARDS



Photos: Celia Pearson

**Architects:** Graham Landscape Architecture, Annapolis, Maryland (Jay Graham, ASLA, principal in charge; Pearse O'Doherty, ASLA, and Tish Tyson, ASLA, design team)

**Client:** State of Maryland

**Contractors:** Historical Arts and Casting (fountain); J.H. Burton & Sons (garden); R.M. Woody Masonry (masonry)

**Contributor:** Lyle Beddes, sculptor, Historical Arts and Casting

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This project, a garden for the Maryland Governor's Mansion, covers a small parcel in the rich traditional setting of historic Annapolis. The landscape architects were asked to make the garden part of the public domain, a kind of stage set for the house. Designed as a series of episodes that occur along a path that sweeps behind the building, the project includes a private terrace, curving walk, rose garden and fountain garden. The largest of these is the fountain garden, which is dominated by an elaborate bronze fountain whose imagery captures the essence of Chesapeake Bay flora and fauna and incorporates symbols including the state bird and state tree. In its massing, the fountain is intended to recall the Victorian style of the mansion backdrop. Overall, the development of the garden creates a civic presence for the mansion along the road that serves as the main entrance to the historic district.

The jury focused on the fountain's success as a civic symbol and placemaker. "Did you realize the designers did this fountain? It's a wonderful piece," Olin said. Jurors observed that at first glance the piece seemed to rely too simplistically on styles of the past. "But on the other hand it's the sort of thing that is accessible," Olin said. "People will love it. The kids will come up and talk about it. Everyone will be making up stories about it. I was surprised how good it was. And when this fills out a bit more, it's going to seem that it's always been there, even though it clearly hasn't. And yet, when you look at the massing of the plants, it is not Victorian. It's not 1920s. It's vaguely environmental. The handicapped can move through it and see and touch and smell things. It's the most politically correct thing I've seen in years."

