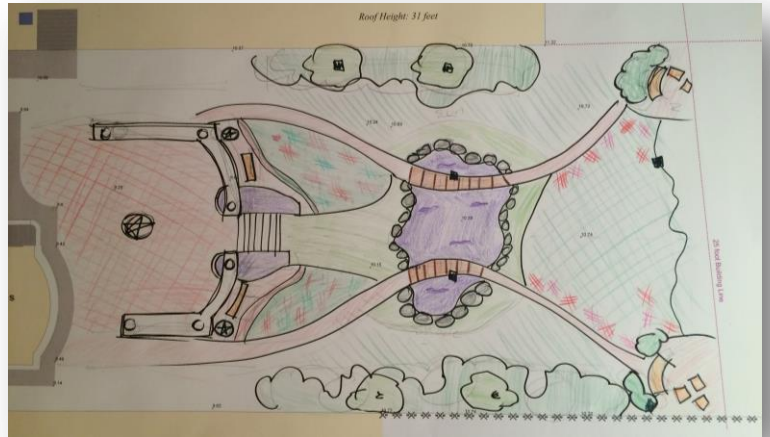


Burrowes Hall Garden

The challenge of a high minded garden is to reflect the inherent local strengths, identify and express core values while merging the best of what we technically know into a functional, aesthetic experience.

The students who worked on this plan are passionate that Burrowes Hall Garden has a great opportunity to uplift Loyola University's Jesuit tradition, build on the historic strengths of a uniquely Chicagoan George Maher design, and, simply, be a pleasing, reflective space – offering daily inspiration to campus officials.

Shown here is the conceptual draft of their efforts. A playful and restive pond and water elements by the stairs are not shown due to their higher maintenance character. The balance between lawn and a naturalistic landscape is scalable. The students believe strongly in a natural garden to emphasize sustainable values, highlight native plants and to support wildlife.



The strength of this planting palette is based upon these themes explicitly deriving from the local conditions – showing design can work with nature. Plants are expected to thrive in conditions they prefer rather than managing their growth to fit a human-centric design. A change of grade functionally gives water an area to collect and drain.

To the north is a naturalist border blending native, ornamental and edible plants. To the south is a complimentary woodland boarder with white tree trunks, soft carpet of green textural plants, which are prodigiously interspersed with spring blooming bulbs.

The lawn and low-growing meadow combine as a green sward with colorful accents. The magnificent, wonder of an eastward view out to Lake Michigan is preserved and framed.

The patio reflects the arch motif found in much of George Maher's work throughout his career by its basic footprint shape and use of trellis elements. The central, eastern edge trellis represents a gateway the students felt was a strong conceptual element - representing both an outward view to the lake and an inward view to the house. When one passes through the loose arch form, there is a sense of enclosure with a dramatic reveal following. Lake views from the building windows remain. A short limestone wall partially buffers the wind to the house, adds the dramatic element of height and provides sun warmed-stone with protected seating spaces for a quick retreat out the back door. Should one wish to stroll through the garden – being reminded of our shared environmental values, one finds more private spaces for reflection on informal, limestone outcroppings closer to the water's edge.