

Stan Hywet Hall

Akron, Ohio

Photographs by Alan Ward 1984-96

Notes on the Making of the Photographs

Frank A. Seiberling, the founder of The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company, purchased the site of an old sandstone quarry outside of Akron, Ohio for his family estate. Landscape architect Warren Manning took advantage of the varied topography by positioning the house and gardens near the edge of a plateau for views over the Cuyahoga River valley to the west and north. The landscape design extends outward in a pattern of rectangular spaces including the elongated west terrace, bowling green, orchard, and a walled sunken garden - later re-planted by Ellen Shipman (8-10). A Plane tree allée from the south end of the house and Birch allée from the north end further expand the design outward (6, 20-23). Beyond the plateau, Manning converted the excavated quarry into naturalistic woodland gardens with lagoons in contrast to the orthogonal geometries of the gardens near the residence (17-19). He designed view corridors from the terrace to the valley beyond by opening slots through the woodland edge, including an axis from the center of the house to the west terrace and down steps to an overlook. It is a carefully designed sequence that integrates the architecture of the manor house with the site and its surroundings (4-6).

I photographed Stan Hywet in 1984-85 for landscape architects Child Hornbeck Associates, including Doug Reed, to illustrate their on-going

work restoring the landscape, which had deteriorated in places and was quite overgrown. I returned to Stan Hywet recurrently to show the seasonal differences, as well as the dynamic nature of the landscape over time.

The design of the entry drive along the Great Meadow and through an orchard was being restored in the mid 1980s. I chose early morning light to emphasize the spatial layers created by trees where views were opened up to partially reveal the manor house (1,2). Another key part of the rehabilitation plan was the thinning of woodlands to reclaim the views from the terrace to the valley, including the central axis west from the house to an overlook and a vista to the north at the terminus of the Birch allée (5,11,24). The sequence of images of the Birch allée shows the axial view from the house in different seasons and design adjustments made to the planting and path (20-23).

These photographs of Stan Hywet are a visual history at certain points in time. Time is embedded in the viewer's reading of when a photograph was taken. Likewise, time is integral to the experience of a landscape design composed of living materials, whose form and shape evolves, undergoes change, and is renewed.

List of Photographs

1. Great Meadow and Stan Hywet Hall from entry drive, 1984
2. Entry drive through orchard, 1984
3. Approach to the entrance, 1985
4. West side of the manor house, 1984
5. Axis from house to fountain and view through woodlands, 1984
6. Steps to overlook on central axis from house, 1990
7. Remnant of south allée of Plane trees, 1984
8. Walled sunken English Garden, 1984
9. Walled sunken English Garden, 1986
10. The Garden of the Water Goddess sculpture, 1986
11. South entry to west terrace, 1996
12. West terrace looking north, 1984
13. Path from west terrace through woodlands, 1996
14. View corridor to Cuyahoga River Valley, 1984
15. Woodland path in former quarry, 1996
16. Japanese Garden, 1996
17. Waterfall in Japanese Garden, 1996
18. Path along lagoon, 1996
19. Approach to bridges at lagoon, 1996
20. Bridges over lagoon in autumn, 1986
21. Bridge over lagoon in winter, 1985
22. View north of Birch allée in summer, 1996
23. Birch allée in fall, 1986
24. Birch allée in winter, 1985
25. North end of Birch allée and tea house, 1996
26. Vista from tea house, 1985
27. North lagoon and tea houses, 1985























































Notes

Selected Publication of the Photographs:

Linden-Ward, Blanche, "Stan Hywet: Warren Manning's Design Intent at an Akron Estate is Recalled through Skillful Restoration," *Landscape Architecture*, July/August 1987

"Stan Hywet Hall," Awards Issue of *Landscape Architecture*, November/December, 1987

Levinson, Nancy, "Reconstructed Grandeur," *Landscape Architecture*, June 1991