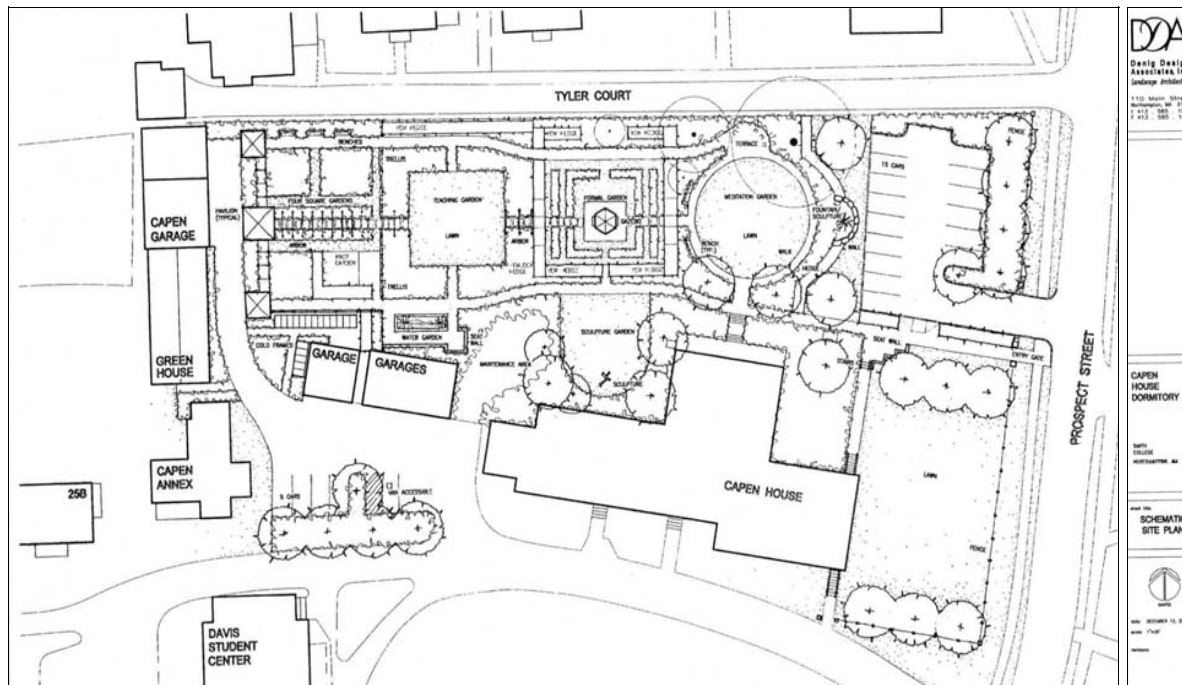


Capen Garden Renovations

The renovation of Capen Garden is intended to make the garden more functional and provide better access to the public. Landscape architect Nancy Denig (class of 1968), of Denig Design Associates in Northampton, has done a great job solving ongoing problems with the garden and adding elements that will increase the visibility and utility of the space. The new design features stone and metal entrance gates, one at the west side of Capen House and one on Prospect Street. A large water fountain will grace the new “classroom,” which will be a series of artfully arranged granite ledges on the edge of the garden. Other improvements are the realignment of the Jill Ker Conway Gazebo with the central axis of the garden rooms, the addition of a place to exhibit sculpture (student work rotated one per year), more educational labeling, additional trellises, and barrier fences to hide the work areas from view.



Aerial view of Capen Garden in June of 2001
Photograph taken by Madelaine Zadik while up in a cherry picker



Over the years many plants have either lost their labels or plants of unknown identity were planted. This has limited the educational value of the garden. Since many of our visitors often want to know the exact cultivar names, the decision was made to remove any plant that cannot be positively identified and replant the garden with known cultivars, using reliable plant labels. Collections Manager Tracy Omar has determined which plants would be removed. Fortunately, most of the woody plants and trees are correctly labeled.

Generous bequests to the Botanic Garden by two sisters, Elizabeth Spetnagel (Smith class of 1928) and Louise Spetnagel (Smith class of 1929), provided the funding for this major renovation. 