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Planting Fields A Place on Long Island

Edited by Gina J. Wouters and Jerome E. Singerman, with essays by Witold Rybczynski, John Dixon Hunt, Arleyn A. Levee, Jennifer L. Anderson, and Patricia M. O'Donnell, with photographs by David Almeida

Planting Fields is an English Country House transported to the North Shore of Long Island, about 48 kilometres/30 miles east of Manhattan. Once home to William R. Coe, chairman of Johnson & Higgins, and his wife, Mai, an heir to the Standard Oil fortune, this lavish Tudor-revival mansion sits on a 400-acre landscape of rolling lawns, formal gardens, and woodlands. Now open to the public as a New York State Historic Park, Planting Fields is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and its lawns and gardens draw more than 250,000 visitors annually, hosting both informal gatherings and celebrations. ***Planting Fields: A Place on Long Island*** is the first book to offer a comprehensive exploration of the estate's layered history, examining it through social, architectural, and ecological frameworks.

Planting Fields is structured as a series of essays by leading historians and preservationists, each offering a unique perspective on the estate's rich history. In 'A Country Place and Its Makers,' Witold Rybczynski untangles the complex story of the estate's twentieth-century development, examining the influence of its designers, owners, and caretakers. Jennifer Anderson's essay then takes readers back to the land's earlier history, tracing the story of the Matinecock tribe, their displacement by European settlers, the growth of Oyster Bay, and the agricultural and industrial transformations of the nineteenth century that paved the way for the region's wealthy industrialists.

The book also explores the estate's renowned landscape design. John Dixon Hunt's essay, "On Planting Fields and the Making of Place" situates the estate within the broader tradition of English landscape design, while Arleyn A. Levee examines the Olmsted Brothers' design for the property, contextualizing it among the firm's other notable Long Island projects. The final section of the book turns toward the future, with Patricia M. O'Donnell's essay on preserving and sustainably managing Planting Fields in response to contemporary environmental challenges.

Elegantly designed with stunning new photographs by David Almeida and archival images throughout, ***Planting Fields*** invites readers to explore the estate with new eyes, offering both a contemporary understanding and a deep sense of history and place. It is a must-read for landscape and architecture enthusiasts, preservationists, and those interested in the Gold Coast of Long Island.

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About the Authors

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John Dixon Hunt is Professor Emeritus in the Weitzman School of Design of the University of Pennsylvania.

Arleyn A. Levee is a landscape historian and preservation consultant.

David Almeida is a Long Island-based photographer with twenty years of professional experience in the heritage sector.

Patricia M. O'Donnell is founding partner of Heritage Landscapes LLC, Preservation Landscape Architects and Planners.

Jennifer L. Anderson is an Associate Professor of History at Stony Brook University who advised on the Long Island Museum's groundbreaking exhibition, 'Long Road to Freedom: Surviving Slavery on Long Island.'

About Monacelli

As a leading publisher of illustrated books for more than twenty-five years, **Monacelli** has challenged the conventions of publishing to produce provocative, inspiring, and essential titles. Founded in 1994 by Gianfranco Monacelli, the organization has released nearly 600 books on architecture, art, interior design, landscape and gardens, photography, and the applied arts. Monacelli's books have been made in collaboration with prominent practitioners and scholars ever since its inaugural title, the groundbreaking *S,M,L,XL* by Rem Koolhaas and Bruce Mau. In 2015, the applied arts imprint Monacelli Studio was launched, adding elevated books on art instruction, photography technique, and crafts to the publisher's roster. In 2020, Monacelli joined the Phaidon family of companies.

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