



THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

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For Immediate Release

Visionary Gardener and Designer Henriette Suhr Remembered

MARCH 18, 2015, GARRISON, NY: The Garden Conservancy is saddened to learn that Henriette Suhr, 98, passed away on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, after a sudden illness.

“Henriette was a true lady in every sense of the word. Her vibrant energy, graciousness, and dry wit will continue to inspire everyone who had the privilege of knowing and working with her,” said Jenny Young du Pont, president of the Garden Conservancy. “She will be remembered for her impressive accomplishments in design, both indoors and outdoors, including half a century spent creating her wonderful garden, Rocky Hills, in Mount Kisco. She greatly enjoyed sharing the garden with the public, and she was dedicated to conserving her property for future generations to enjoy.”

Henriette Granville Suhr was a ground-breaking interior design executive and, with her husband, art conservator William Suhr, created an eight-acre strolling garden within the natural woodland of Mount Kisco, New York.

Born in Austria, Mrs. Suhr spent her early years in Paris where she received her professional training at a branch of the Parsons School of Design. She moved to the United States in 1941 and began what became an illustrious career as an interior designer in the home furnishing division at Macy’s. Later, as head of Bloomingdale’s decorating department, she revolutionized interior design by introducing new, contemporary American and European furniture designers to the U.S. market and displaying their work in lavish model rooms (the first of their kind) featuring a blend of merchandise from many different sources. Mrs. Suhr’s innovative approach educated consumers’ tastes with these model rooms, thus enabling them to make easier, more informed purchasing and décor decisions. After Bloomingdale’s, she worked as an interior designer and served as a consultant for numerous department stores, including Burdines, I. Magnin, and Lord & Taylor.

Henriette Suhr has also won well-deserved renown as a visionary self-taught gardener whose eye for color and design is reflected in the innovative plantings at Rocky Hills. Beginning in the 1950s, Henriette and William transformed their property into what the *New York Times* called an “eight-acre wonderland”—a rolling landscape of beautifully arranged flowers, shrubs, and trees—for which she received the Foundation for Landscape Studies’ 2009 Place Maker Award. In recent years, she was also recognized by Westchester County and the Town of New Castle for her dedication to environmental stewardship.

Rocky Hills was the first private garden from the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program to also become a preservation garden of the Conservancy. Since 2000, the Garden Conservancy has held a conservation easement protecting the garden from development and has assisted in raising local awareness and support for the garden as a community resource.

She was a great and remarkable lady, and she will be much missed.

***About the Garden Conservancy:** The Garden Conservancy is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to saving and sharing outstanding American gardens for the education and inspiration of the public. For more information: www.gardenconservancy.org*

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