

- ◆ Lancelot “Capability” Brown (1767-1783) - perhaps the most important landscape designer in English history with at least 170 commissions. Brown embellished the natural landscape - revealing its capabilities. His work became an example for public parks across the world. Highlighting edges of a lakes in serpentine lines with trees, using trees to frame elements while hiding others, serpentine paths designed for exploration on foot revealing surprises at the turns and focal points along the way are some concepts classic to Browns designs. Capability Brown made the most of natural features not only including them in design but making them the focus- the hills and valleys creating the parkland vista.
- ◆ Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852) born to a nurserymen in the Hudson river valley Downing’s passion and commitment to the common man, his skill at writing, his leadership in landscape design for public spaces (i.e. central park), the innovative establishment of a commercial value for landscape design and of course his outstanding talent has Downing known as the father of American landscape architecture.  
 “Although that delicacy of organization, usually called taste, is a natural gift, which can no more be acquired than hearing can be by a deaf man, yet, in most persons, this sensibility to the beautiful may be cultivated and ripened into good taste by the study and comparison of beautiful productions in nature and art.”
- ◆ Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959) - A woman in a man’s world - Beatrix listened to the light and the wind and the grade of each area she studied, and the gardens grew naturally from each other. One of her signature design concepts was to create 3 dimensional landscapes using the natural contours of the land, hardscapes and exterior walls for planting vertically. For 18 years Beatrix was the head landscape gardener at Yale, designing close to 75% of their gardens. In 1925 Yale awarded Beatrix with an honorary masters degree siting her as the leading exponent in America of landscape architecture as a profession for woman. In 1899 Beatrix was the only woman of the 11 founding members of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Her commissions covered Connecticut from Greenwich, Fairfield, Ridgefield, New Haven and on. Beatrix’s work survives at Hillstead Museum, Farnam Park, and Yale University. And of course the rose garden at NYBG - and many others across the country.