



# Freer House Garden Nears Completion

The Freer garden revitalization project, under development for several years, took an exciting leap forward this summer. Flat paving stones, with an interesting history themselves, were arranged to create decorative areas for outdoor events. The pavers are Lake Erie sandstone, salvaged from old Toledo sidewalks (circa 1900), that perfectly complement the original stonework of the Freer House. Expert masons also crafted a seat bench and masonry columns of Pennsylvania bluestone to support the iron gates and fencing to be installed later this fall. The subtle colors of the stone range from lilac and rust tones to gray and slate blue, echoing the hues of the original Freer House stonework.

Trees, shrubs, bushes and grasses that reflect Freer's original selections for his garden, were planted in the courtyard and front yard. The plants combine Asian and American varieties, and mirror Freer's combining of Asian and American art in his collection. An exact replica of the Peacock Room's missing iron porch railing, designed by Wilson Eyre, Jr. in 1906 but removed in 1966, has been painstakingly replicated by James Viste of Edgewise Forge as the finishing touch on this unique and stunning project.

Fred Knight of K.C. Runciman Landscapes designed the intricate garden and has overseen its installation. Associate curator of U-M's Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, David Michener, provided invaluable guidance, as did members of the Freer House Garden Committee. The garden has been expertly installed



The Freer House garden has been completely transformed with a new walkway, pillars, benches, trees and other plantings. Inset – Expert craftsmen James Viste, Edgewise Forge, installs a new porch railing that is an exact replica of the railing removed 50 years ago. Fred Knight (in background) of K.C. Runciman Landscapes.



by W.H. Canon Landscape Company under the supervision of project manager Tim McAlister and foreman Tim Diaz

The Denise Little Memorial Fund, the Birkhill Family Foundation, Chemical Bank, Grosse Pointe Farm and Garden Club, Junior League Gardeners, Grosse Pointe Questers #147, and more than 90 individual donors generously donated funds to support this project.

While close to completion, the Freer House Garden Project still needs your help.

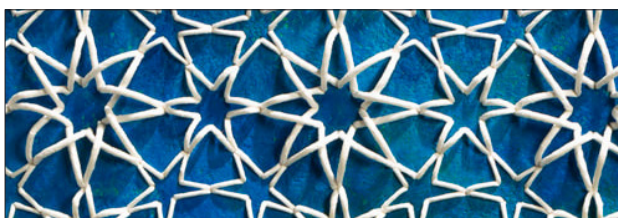
We seek donations to purchase the garden's centerpiece: a stone Japanese lantern, similar to the one Freer received in 1905 as a gift from Yamanaka & Company. The original resides outside the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

To help with the lantern or support the overall garden project, please contact William Colburn at [william.colburn@wayne.edu](mailto:william.colburn@wayne.edu)

JOIN US

Exhibit open, 1-5 pm | Artist's talk, 3 pm | Free & open to the public

## Artist in Resonance: Hiroko Lancour at the Charles Lang Freer House



A special one-day exhibition of art by Japanese born Detroit artist, Hiroko Lancour, in the unique setting of the historic Freer House.

Hiroko Lancour, inspired by the legacy of Detroit industrialist and collector of Asian and American art, Charles Lang Freer, will display her artwork throughout the house. Lancour earned an MFA from Wayne State University and has received numerous awards for her art. Select works will be available for purchase. Registration not required.

**Saturday Nov. 4, 2017**