



North Vista Fact Sheet

Overview

The North Vista frames a view of the San Gabriel Mountains and is flanked on each side by rows of 17th- and 18th-century statues from Padua, Italy, with an Italian Renaissance stone fountain at the farthest end. Beyond these lie several acres of camellias. The limestone statues on each side of the North Vista depict characters from classical mythology and folklore.

History

The North Vista was laid out in 1907 to be perpendicular to the axis of the planned house, although when the house was built in 1908, it was realigned to avoid damaging some trees. This has left the North Vista off axis as it is today. The edge of the lawn was planted with rows of palms. Camellias were planted to either side under the existing oaks. At first, the North Vista was lined with manicured hedges that were later replaced with azaleas. Columns marked the far end of the lawn before the foundation was installed. The biggest change, however, was the view itself. When the North Vista was planned, two towering oaks grew at the south end of the lawn between the house and the open space. To see the view, one had to walk out into the lawn. The oaks have since passed away, opening up the vista from the house straight across to the mountains.

Landscape

The elegant North Vista, designed by Myron Hunt, is reminiscent of a formal European garden. It combines an expanse of lawn, flowering shrubs, and 17th-century stone statues portraying allegorical and mythological subjects. Each statue was originally matched to a stately palm.

Collections

- Tall columns of FOUNTAIN PALMS (*Livistona australis*) line each side of the North Vista.
- CAMELLIAS line the paths on either side of the North Vista.