7 Wintry Arrangements for your Home

A SOUTHERN NEW YEAR’S WEDDING BY TARA GUÉRARD

TERRAIN, Anthropologie’s Ultrahip Garden Shop

NINA CAMPBELL’S BLOOMING INTERIORS
sweet virginia

Celebrating its 80th anniversary this spring, the Virginia Historic Garden Week showcases dozens of houses and their gardens across the state

Written and photographed by Catriona Tudor Erlar

Every year in the third week of April, Virginia becomes a mecca for house and garden lovers from all over the country and the world. They come for Historic Garden Week, the oldest and largest statewide garden event in the nation, touted as “America’s Largest Open House.” Sponsored by the Garden Club of Virginia, the event gives participants the opportunity to visit a wonderful selection of outstanding private homes and gardens as well as significant historic venues. Most of the private properties are open to the public for the first time for Garden Week, making this event a garden-lover’s heaven.

Since 1929 (with time taken off during World War II) the Garden Club of Virginia has coordinated this vast eight-day-long open house as a fund-raiser to help restore and maintain the many historic gardens in the state. The total tour income over the previous 79 years has exceeded $16 million, benefiting beloved historic properties such as Monticello, Mount Vernon, and Montpelier.

Thirty-two garden club chapters throughout the state participate, each offering an engaging variety of local...
homes and gardens to tour. The clubs host their open houses on different days of the week so that enterprising travelers can tour the state and enjoy the wide variety of properties open to them. In addition to showcasing bloom-filled gardens on the tour, the garden clubs create beautiful arrangements to fill the interiors.

This April marks the 80th anniversary, and to celebrate it, Historic Garden Week is offering a statewide pass that will allow access to all of the properties throughout Virginia as well as numerous special events. For a sneak preview, here are highlights of two gardens that will be open during Historic Garden Week this April:

An arrangement in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Boeve in Richmond, created by the Boxwood Garden Club for the 2012 Historic Garden Week

Orange lilies line a gravel path through robin’s-egg-blue pergolas, arbors, and trellis walls at the Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum in Lynchburg.

Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum
Lynchburg, Virginia
SPONSORED BY THE HILLSIDE GARDEN CLUB

The Anne Spencer House and Garden Museum has attracted international attention. It celebrates Anne Bethel Spencer, a Harlem Renaissance poet who entertained the likes of Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., Langston Hughes, and Marian Anderson. More than 30 of Anne’s poems were published in her lifetime, including some that are included in the 1973 edition of the Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry. Anne was also a passionate gardener. She and her husband, Edward, transformed their deep, narrow suburban lot into an Eden. Edward built a framework of robin’s-egg-blue pergolas, arbors, and trellis walls to divide the space, creating garden rooms that distract from the lot’s difficult, narrow dimensions. He also built Anne a “writing hut” they called Edenkraal, which is a central feature of the garden. Anne planted and tended the colorful flowers that bring the space to life.

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Rocklands
Gordonsville, Virginia
SPONSORED BY THE DOLLEY MADISON GARDEN CLUB

Visitors on the Orange County tour will be treated to a visit to Rocklands, an estate with both an English and a French garden. Each garden “room” is embellished with imported, antique stone sculptures and urns. The impressive flight of stairs leading down to the French garden was salvaged from a property in France and carved from three monolithic pieces of stone. Energetic visitors can walk up the hill to the four-story medieval stone tower, which was brought in pieces from France and rebuilt on a site overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains.