



**HISTORY OF THE DESIGNED
LANDSCAPE FINAL PROJECT
ETHAN FISHER
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HEARST CASTLE

SAN SIMEON, CALIFORNIA

Address: 750 Hearst Castle Road,
San Simeon, CA 93452

Opened: 1919

Owner: William Randolph Hearst

Designated CA Historical Landmark

April 28, 1958

Architect: Julia Morgan



Panoramic view looking east of the hilltop complex of Hearst Castle. Hearst Castle is officially known as La Cuesta Encantada, Spanish for the enchanted hill. The managed property is 123 acres and owned by the State of California as the Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument.

SITE PLAN

LEGEND

	LANDSCAPE
	POOLS
	TERRACES AND STAIRS
	BUILDINGS
	ESPLANADE



TERRACE WITH OCEAN VIEW

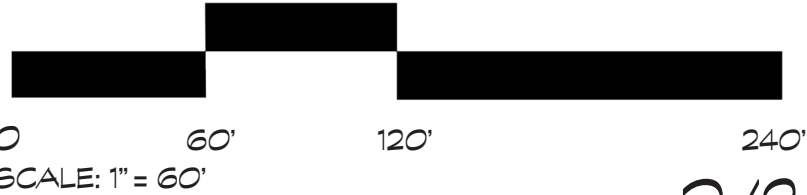
NEPTUNE POOL

PLANTING BEDS FOR ANNUALS

GUEST CASAS COTTAGES

CASA GRANDE

ROMAN POOL BELOW TENNIS COURT



Located in Central California along the Pacific Ocean, stands Hearst Castle. This architectural wonder and Californian jewel was the home of William Randolph Hearst from 1919 to 1947. The property was under construction for decades and entirely envisioned by Hearst. Hearst recruited the architect Julia Morgan from San Francisco to bring his vision to fruition. Morgan studied at the School of Beaux-Arts in Paris and successfully planned the site, designed the exterior and interior elements.



The property is 123 acres in total with gardens, pools, terraces, walkways, and houses. The centerpiece of the site is *Casa Grande*, a 68,500 square foot home. Multiple architectural and landscape styles exist throughout the property including Moorish, Roman-inspired, Italian Renaissance and French Baroque. The architecture of the main buildings is Spanish Revival which was common in California in the early 1900s. Spanish Revival architecture is marked by the prodigious use of smooth plaster (stucco) walls, low-pitched clay tile, shed, or flat roofs, and terracotta or cast concrete ornaments. The main western facade of *Casa Grande* is four stories, the entrance is inspired by a gateway in Seville, Spain and is flanked by twin bell towers modeled on the tower of a Spanish church.

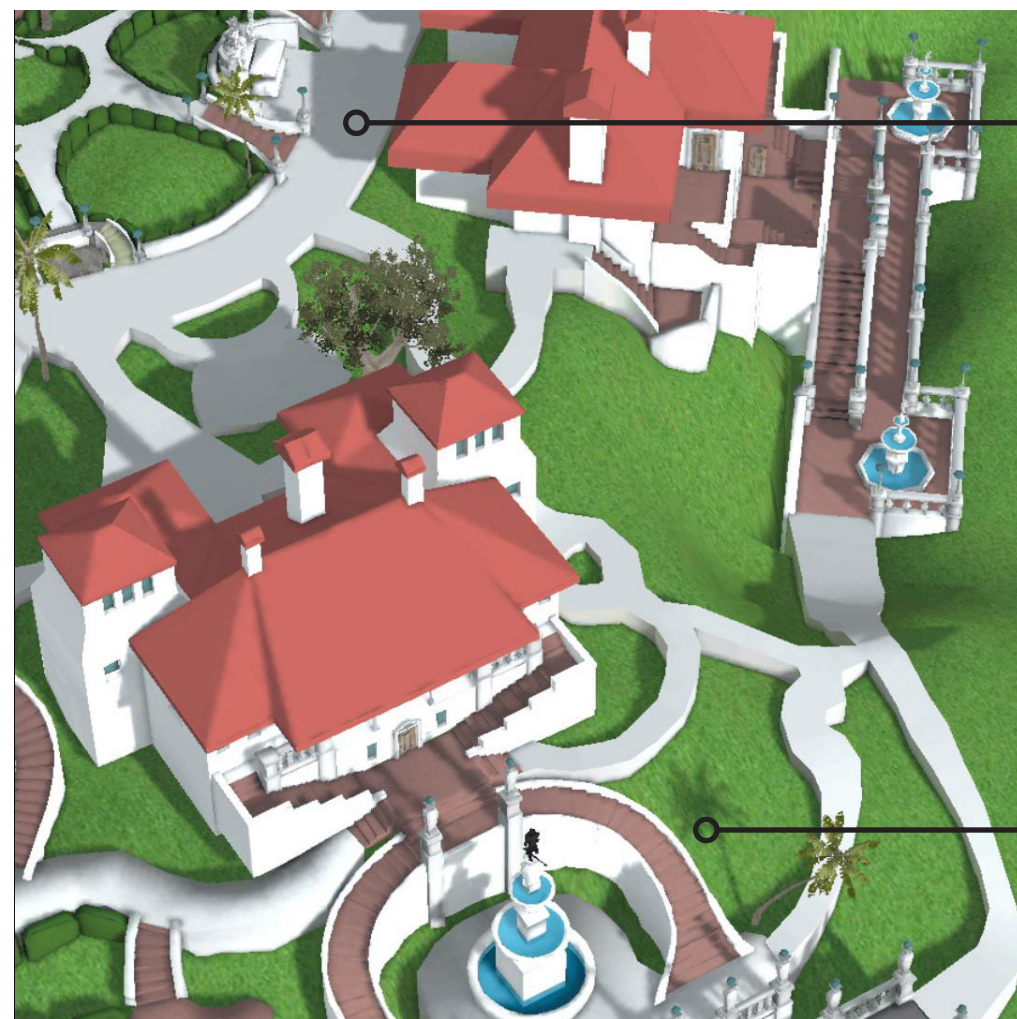
A unifying feature of the site is an esplanade. This curving, paved walkway connects the *Casa Grande* and three guest cottages. The path frames the main house and the architect described it as creating a “*coup de théâtre*” for guests. As people walk down the esplanade, they come around the curve and are surprised as the western façade of *Casa Grande* comes into full view.



“My buildings will be my legacy...they will speak for me long after I am gone.”

-Julia Morgan

Terraces are a key element of the site and take advantage of the natural landscape including dynamic views of the Pacific Ocean and the rolling hills of Central California. The terraces are like those found in the Renaissance gardens of Italy which had expansive views of the countryside. The site itself is like the Renaissance villas located in the rolling countryside with terraces on different levels. Fountains and sculptures from antiquity adorn the gardens and terraces showing off Hearst's wealth like the Baroque gardens of France. Citrus plantings are used throughout the property and were a common landscape element in Moorish gardens.



SINGLE STORY ENTRY

HILLSIDE TERRACES

GUEST CASA TERRACES



COMMANDING VIEWS OF PACIFIC OCEAN

TERRACES



Hearst pulled form antiquity with the two pools located on the property including the outdoor Neptune Pool and indoor swimming pool modeled after a Roman bath. The outdoor pool is the result of several renovations and expansions, now featuring an ancient Roman temple front Hearst had transported from Europe. The indoor pool is exquisite and lined with blue Murano glass tiles that have gold leaf embedded. Throughout the gardens and pool areas are ornate lampposts topped with alabaster globes.

LAMP POSTS

TERRACED BALCONY

GUEST CASA



IMPORTED TEMPLE FRONT FROM EUROPE

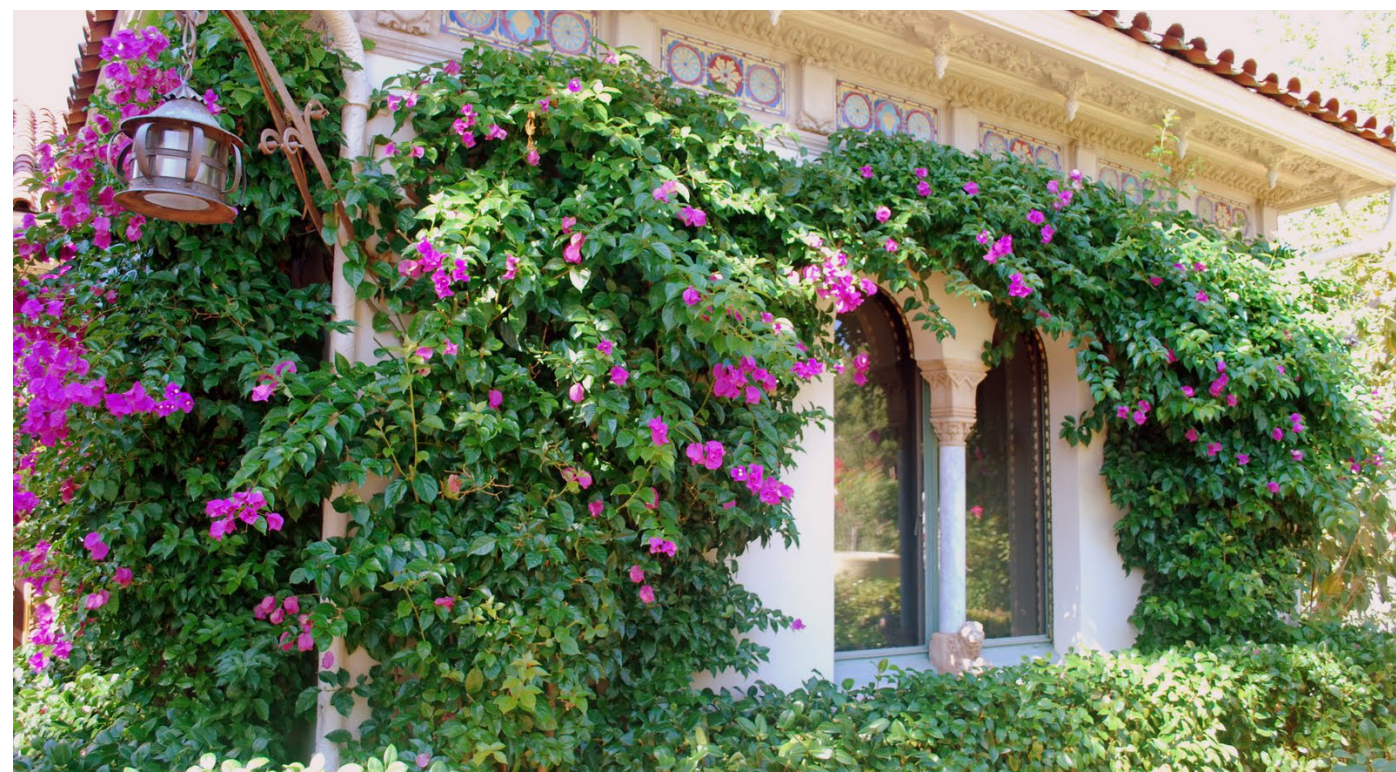


KEY MAP

3-D NEPTUNE POOL ENLARGEMENT

The smaller guest cottages, *casas*, are also built with Spanish influences and arranged around the esplanade. The *casas* are built so they appear one-story facing the *Casa Grande*, but are actually multiple stories and have terraces going down the slope.

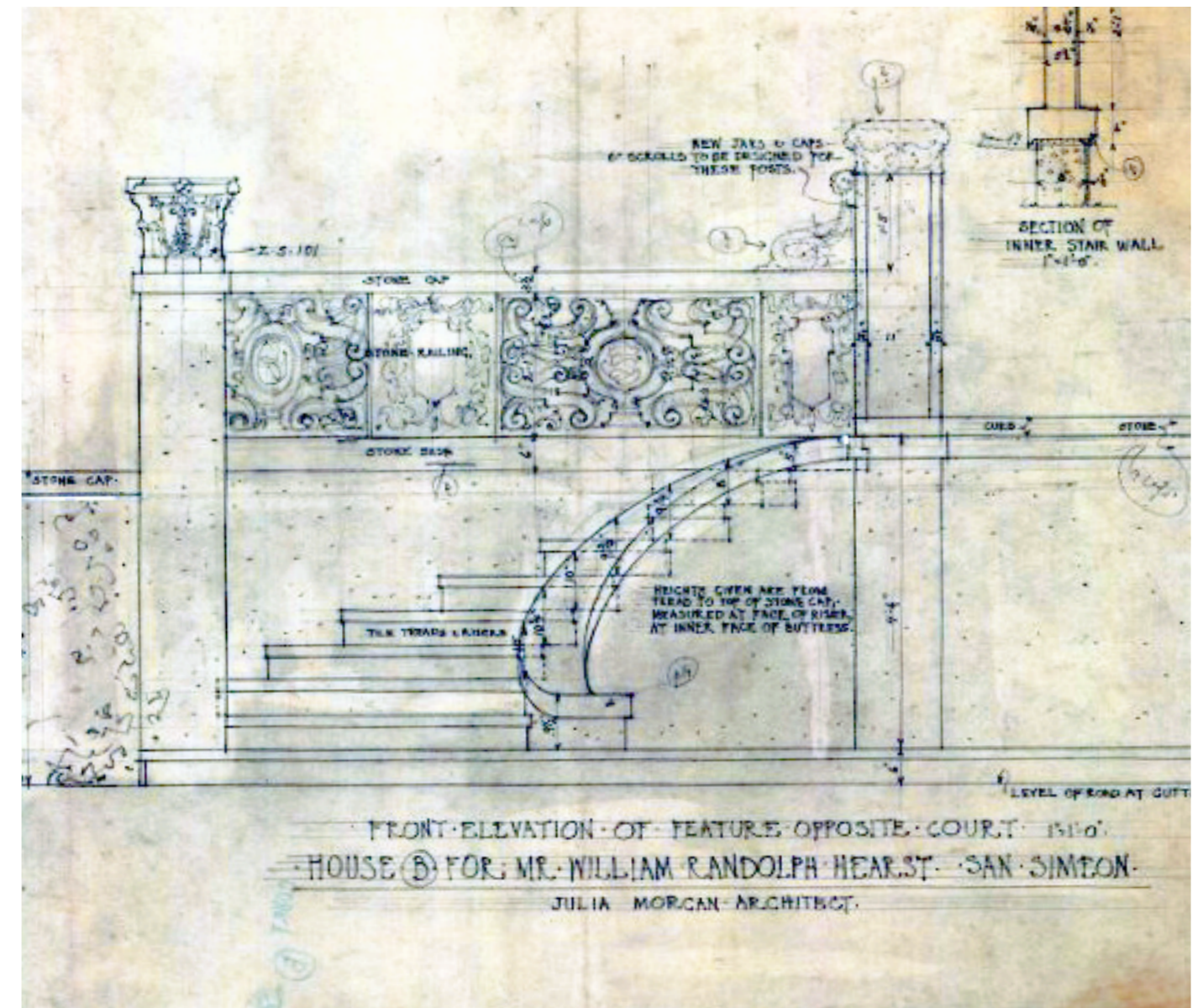
Hearst is said to have desired a profusion of blooms throughout the gardens and to this day over 1,500 annuals are planted yearly in the English formal garden beds. An on-site greenhouse in Hearst's time was used to grow annuals from seeds. Roses were another favorite of Hearst and roses are the most utilized plant on the site. Drought-resistant and Mediterranean plantings are used throughout the landscape, along with orchards. A pergola runs to the west of *Casa Grande*, comprising concrete columns covered in espaliered fruit trees. The pergola is especially tall so Hearst could fit under it while riding his horse.



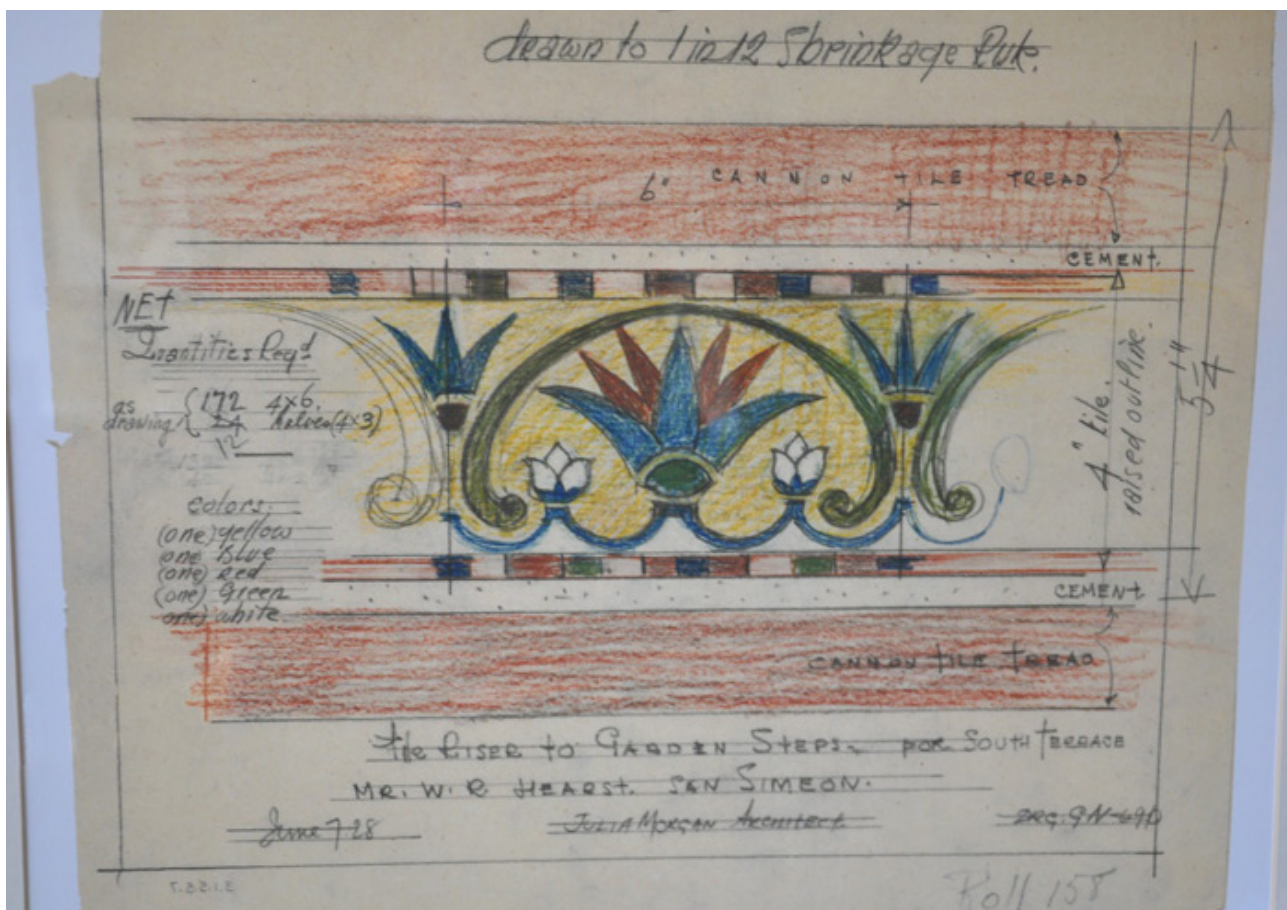
GUEST CASAS AND PLANTINGS



Majestic staircases are another main design element that can be seen throughout the property. Utilized both indoors and outdoors, stunning staircases mix form with function perfectly. The curving stairways mimic the rolling hills surrounding the property and were built with panoramic views in mind. Julia Morgan detailed the tile patterns herself and the sketch here depicts tiles that were to be installed in a stairwell.



ARCHITECTURAL DETAIL OF A CURVING STAIRWELL (TOP)
DETAIL OF A TILE IN A GARDEN RISER STEP (LEFT)





FAN PALMS THROUGHOUT THE LANDSCAPE



QUINTESSENTIAL CALIFORNIA

As was typical in California landscapes of the period, eucalyptus trees were planted on the site and continue to persist. Motifs including local elements were used in the ceiling designs of some of the rooms and eucalyptus leaves were included among the designs.

Majestic coastal live oaks and California bays are carefully integrated into the garden design. These and other large trees, such as Italian cypress and fan palms, help to integrate the scale of the towering main house, Casa Grande, with the smaller scale of the surrounding gardens and guesthouses.

The property continues to be managed as a California State Historical Monument and to maintain historical accuracy the gardens team follows the Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan for Hearst San Simeon State Historical Monument, created by the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation.

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