

Client: Philosophy Foundation
Waltham

Designer: Ellen Forrester

Design
Completed: Spring 2004



The members of the Philosophy Foundation contacted COGdesign for help to develop a master plan for their three-acre property surrounding a circa 1850 house, a center for meditation and spiritual inquiry. Since 1970, thousands of participants have explored how to live more consciously and joyously in the midst of life's complexities and challenges.

Designer Ellen Forrester's design planning was influenced by Ralph Waldo Emerson's philosophies of unity and self-reliance along with Frederick Law Olmsted's influences of style and spaciousness. In order to meld philosophy and practical reality, these ideas are implemented in the master plan by improving access and clarifying the diverse regions within the landscape.



The designer created a plan that reconfigures paths and parking, improves access and circulation throughout the landscape, and develops discreet locations. The plan enhances views, defines borders, and recommends historically accurate plantings fitting for the mid-19th century house and for the era of Emerson and Olmsted.

A memorial garden for meditation was installed along the property's stream shortly after the design was completed.

