

## COGdesign Nursery Garden

**Location:** Espousal Retreat and Conference Center, Waltham, Mass.

**Designers:** Pamela Burton, Chantal Eide, Patricia McGinnis, Cindy Mikles.

**Planning and Design Completed:** Spring 2010

### Description:

The idea of the Nursery Garden came from the master planning work of Landscape Institute student Patricia McGinnis whose thesis project was the Espousal Retreat and Conference Center in Waltham, Mass. The garden was located in a former swimming pool on the grounds and has become a source for hardy perennials for COG-design's community projects throughout greater Boston.

Originally a private estate, the Espousal Center is now a retirement home for clergy and offers meeting space to the wider community. The elevated garden site is very prominent on the estate with surrounding woods, paths, and mature specimen trees. Long views and a big sky all contribute to the appeal of this 1,800 sq. ft. garden.

Many designers, gardeners, and willing volunteers have been involved with the Nursery Garden since its inception in 2005. Most recently, landscape designers Pamela Burton and Chantal Eide finalized the design concept developed by Cindy Mikles by refining the circulation, adding trees to shade plants and garden volunteers, locating raised beds for gardeners in wheelchairs, and suggesting locations for seating and gathering.

