Historic Landscape Cemeteries

Forest Hills Cemetery
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts

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Jack Goodnoe – Cemetery Planning and Design
Learning Objectives

1. Learn about the design principles of the Historic Landscape Cemetery and how they anticipated the development of landscape architecture in the US.

2. Learn how these landscapes and American cemeteries in general are adapting to reflect 21st Century values.

3. Discover creative ways to accommodate commemoration and burial in these landscapes that honor their historic character while supporting business goals.

4. Gain insight into the issues and approaches of sustainability, green burials, and ethnic traditions.
The Origins of the American Rural Cemetery

English Landscape Movement
(L.C. Brown & H. Repton)

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Urban Deterioration = Pere Lachaise
(Paris -1804)

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American Romanticism
(A.J. Downing – the *Horticulturalist*)

= 

American Rural Cemetery
(The Picturesque and the Beautiful)
Rural Garden Cemetery Design Principles

• Topography based road alignments and burial layouts
• Vertical and varied monumentation
• Open ground plane under a high deciduous canopy
• Changing, ‘Surprise’ vistas (with water)
• Burial lawns raised above road
Transitions in the Rural Garden Cemetery

The “Picturesque”  
Mount Auburn

- Replicate a natural “wildness”
- Rustic and dense / Focused vistas
- A sense of latent power
- A reminder of mortality, vulnerability, insignificance. Awe of nature

The “Beautiful”  
Spring Grove / Forest Hills

- Nature controlled and managed
- Open and flowing / Broad vistas
- High lawn maintenance
- ‘Man-Influenced’ landscape awe

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Classic Rural Garden Cemetery Landscapes

The Picturesque / Rural Cemetery

The Beautiful / Lawn Park Cemetery

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The Romantic Vision

• Contact with Nature
• Solitude
• Quiet
• Sanctuary
• Beauty
• Adornment
Garden Cemetery Landscape Character

- Visual openness
- Expressive variety of monumentation
- Verticality and a sense of ascension
- Classical styles and forms
- Uniformity of materials
- Organic landscape designs
- Human scale and intimacy
American Rural Garden Cemeteries

Mount Auburn
Cambridge, MA - 1831
Laurel Hill
Philadelphia, PA - 1836
Green-Wood
Brooklyn, NY - 1838
Mount Hope
Rochester, NY - 1838
Green Mount
Baltimore – 1838
Spring Grove
Cincinnati – 1844
Allegheny
Pittsburg, PA – 1844
Swan Point
Providence, RI – 1846

Forest Hill
Jamaica Plain, MA – 1848
Bellefontaine
St. Louis, MO- 1849
Oakland
Atlanta, GA- 1850
Mount Royal
Montreal, Quebec– 1852
Graceland
Chicago. IL – 1860
Woodlawn
Bronx, NY – 1863
Mountain View
Oakland, CA– 1863
Cypress Lawn
Colma, CA - 1892

(Magnificent 7)
London – 1832-1847
The 20th Century Cemetery Changes

- The Memorial Park
- Cemetery Conglomerates
  - Cremation
- Baby Boomer Values and Buying Practices
The Evolution of the American Cemetery

The Church, Country, and Urban Graveyard
The Rural and Victorian Cemetery
Non-ascending, Ornamented Monuments
Standardized Upright Monuments
The Memorial Park

The Cremation Garden
The Natural Cemetery
Designing for Change
Redefining the American Cemetery

- Protecting Historic Design Principles
- Accommodating New Values
- Offering Choices
Protecting Historic Design Principles

- Road Geometry
- Grading
- Landscape
- Monumentation

Fairmount Cemetery
Denver, Colorado

Lakeview Cemetery
Cleveland, Ohio

Allegheny Cemetery
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Accommodating New Values

- Increased rate of Cremation
- Desire for Choices / Options
- Cultural & Personal Expressions
- Desire for affordable quality
- Environmental responsibility
- Empty nest economics
- Environmental Regulations
Baby Boomer Values and Buying Practices

- Choices / Options
- Recognition
- Personal Expression
- Quality Materials
- ‘Natural’ Settings

“And that’s my tomb.”
New Values / New Choices

and

Redefining the American Cemetery

Cremation Gardens

Feng Shui based design

Natural or “Green” Cemeteries
Cremation and Choice
Historic / Natural Cemetery Setting

Mount Royal Cemetery
Montreal, Ontario

Forest Hills Cemetery
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
Feng Shui Design in Historic Cemeteries

Cypress Lawn Cemetery
Colma, California

Forest Hills Cemetery
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
Natural Burial Cemeteries

The Preserve at All Saints Cemetery
Waterford, Michigan

The Heartwood Conservancy Cemetery
Tampa, Florida

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Natural (‘Green’) Burial

- Landscape Character
- Memorialization Systems
- Operations and Maintenance
- Public and Agency Approvals
- Perpetual Care / Conservancies