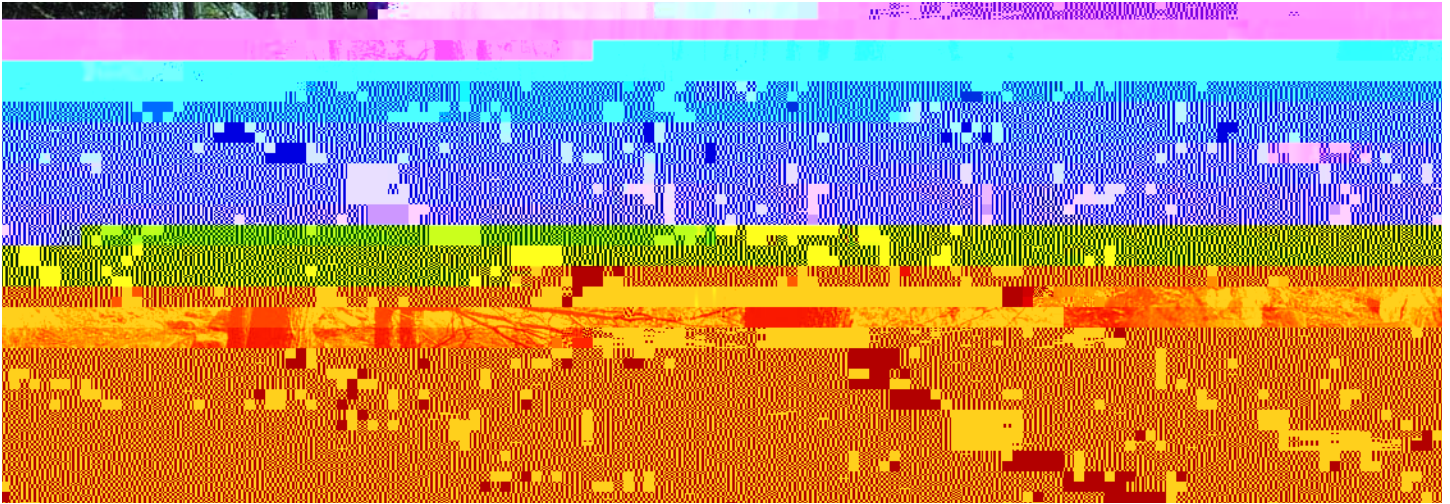


GARRISON, NEW YORK



of the Hudson River near the hamlet of Garrison, New York. Wright approached the forest as a sculptor, slowly revealing its character and bringing out its most subtle and beautiful features. Present threats to the property (now run by Manitoga/The Russel Wright Design Center) come from the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) that infest the hemlocks and from the deer that are browsing upon stressed hemlocks' few seedlings. Issues of increased storm water flow and vegetation management also threaten Wright's careful landscape design. In addition to basic preservation planning, interim protection and stabilization efforts must be undertaken to treat the hemlocks, manage the deer population and control the on-site erosion. Ultimately, donations and/or grants are needed to support these - and other - essential historic landscape restoration activities.

HISTORY

"American Modern" line of dinnerware, introduced in 1939. The sheer variety of Wright's designs reveals his desire to reinvent

the American home: because of his success in doing so, he is now widely considered a cultural icon of the mid-century era.



In 1942, the Wrights purchased 79 acres of steeply sloping land on South Mountain, which rises to an elevation over 700 feet. The property, which they called Manitoga, had once been logged and occupied by a quarry, which had long been abandoned. When the Wrights purchased it, the site was thickly covered with second growth woodland, scarred by quarry pits, and generally unappealing. Wright's design and management of the site began almost immediately and significantly before construction of his modern home and studio, known collectively as "Dragon Rock". He later explained that he and his wife had begun the process by compiling a list of all their wishes, including such things as a place to swim (for her) and a view of the river (for him). Wright's approach to landscape design was based on the delicate manipulation of natural elements. A keen observer, Wright studied the land and its character intensively: he climbed rocks to discover the most dramatic views, identified the water sources, familiarized himself with the landform, contemplated the light, observed the native vegetation and marked seasonal variations. He achieved these and other goals by a process of careful "editing" of the landscape over many years. Although he undertook some major changes, such as clearing, blasting, and/or earthmoving, his actions generally were as simple as pruning a single limb to reveal a view.

Manitoga's fern meadow exemplifies Wright's restrained exploitation of nature, as he created it by removing all of the vegetation that might otherwise keep the ferns from multiplying or obscure the view of them. Other focal points along the paths,



THE THREAT

The primary threats to the site relate to 1) vegetation management and maintenance, and 2) the preservation of the Manitoga's paths and related landscape character and features. As was noted above, hemlock woolly adelgid is killing its eastern hemlock, and deer are browsing whatever few seedlings the stressed hemlocks manage to produce (in fact, the deer browse all tree seedlings except black birch [*Betula lenta*]). Several of Russel

n oRdeer brl