

WINTER 2017

The Madoo Conservancy
618 Sagg Main Street
Sagaponack, NY 11962
www.madoo.org

MADOO

The Chat

MADOO IN MANHATTAN Fourth Annual Robert Dash Garden Design Lecture

Jinny Blom, Changing Nature: Towards a New Landscape



We are honored to welcome award-winning British garden designer **Jinny Blom** to speak at the fourth annual **Madoo in Manhattan: Robert Dash Garden Design**

Lecture. Blom's lush and contemporary gardens for private clients, public institutions, and H.R.H the Prince of Wales and H.R.H. Prince Harry run the gamut from therapeutic gardens to lavish estates in Europe, Africa, and the United States. Blom is the author of the forthcoming *Thoughtful Gardener: An Intelligent Approach to Garden Design*. Piet Oudolf has hailed Blom as "the most romantic, creative person in garden design." Aware of our fragile ecosystem, Blom uses her creativity to push the garden design canon forward with a thorough knowledge of British gardening design and keen plantsmanship.

Benefactors Lunch



Top left: **Douglas Baxter, Amy Sullivan, Leslie Rose Close, Tom Grunfeld**; Top right: **Annie Curtin, Tom Brandenburger**; Middle left: **Meagan Ouder Kirk, Cristina Vandermass**; Middle right: **Brian Hastings, Blythe Danner**; Bottom: **Barbara Slifka, Alejandro Saralegui**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY INGE HOWE

As we prepare for the next snow of the winter it's amusing think back to the landscape full of flowers and friends at our **fifth annual Benefactors Lunch** on Labor

Day weekend. A great group of Madoo donors—as well as some new friends—gathered for a tour of the gardens and a delicious luncheon in the Magnolia Bosque prepared by **Janet O'Brien Caterers + Events**. It's our thank you to those who helped make the summer of 2016 one of our best yet. 🌿



PHOTOGRAPHS BY N. JOUAN; ANDREW MONTGOMERY



PHOTOGRAPH BY DURELL GODFREY

Dear Friends

People may think that wintertime equals quiet time for me and the garden. This year in particular that couldn't be further from the truth. We're busy here planning our winter lectures, Madoo in Manhattan featuring British garden designer **Jinny Blom**, shoveling snow and starting to order seeds for early spring planting. Oh, yes...and we've started a top-to-bottom restoration of the summer house and studio. Read more about this \$1.1 million project on the opposite page.

We are continuing to move full steam ahead. This past season we've seen remarkable growth at Madoo and we are capitalizing on our newfound popularity. Our children's programs have continued successfully for another summer season.

In August, actress **Blythe Danner** dropped by the garden to read to the kids with Josh from the Hampton Library. And, with the unseasonably warm weather, Monday Mornings at Madoo storytelling hour continued into the fall. We'll continue with new secret storytellers from time to time helping out—and it'll always be a surprise.

We finished the renovation of the sunken terrace in the spring, with a perimeter hedge of Osmanthus planted and donated by **Landscape Details**. We re-laid the paving and planters and painted the fences bright red and charcoal grey. This is the kind of change that's occurring throughout the garden. Over seven Saturday evenings, the newly refreshed garden was the site of a series of intimate cocktail parties hosted by **Sotheby's**—revealing to scores of new visitors the beauty of Madoo.

Thanks to a very generous grant from the **Ala and Ralph Isham Family Foundation**, we've almost completed the renovation of the pond gardens. The ponds were drained and the quarter century-old liners were removed in preparation for the redesign. With new plumbing, the ponds will share a single recirculating system, and we're adding a recharge garden where the pond water will be naturally filtered through aquatic plants. Water, we are learning, is one of our most precious resources and one that is most at risk—even here on the

East End of Long Island. This new water garden will be a showpiece of the garden and a wonderful illustration for our visitors of how a natural water system functions.

Many more projects—small and large—are in the works. As we continue to reimagine Madoo for future generations, we find ourselves celebrating the special genius of this place. Bob's creativity, found indoors and outdoors at Madoo, will find new expression in revitalized gardens and innovative programs in the near future. This is especially crucial as more and more of our guests appreciate how Madoo is an environment for promoting creative thinking in a myriad of fields.

As we begin 2017, I'm particularly thankful for your generosity and kindness in supporting Madoo. It's crucial to protect, preserve and enhance this place where children and adults alike can escape the real world and enjoy the beauty of nature.

My best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful winter season

Stay green,

Alejandro Saralegui DIRECTOR



Bookshelf

Here's what we've been digging.

Luciano Giubbilei:

The Art of Making Gardens

Luciano Giubbilei, Photography by Andrew Montgomery (Merrell, 2016).

Welcome to the mind of Luciano Giubbilei, oftentimes misidentified as a minimalist designer. He has spent several days a month for the past few years in the garden of Great Dixter, the epitome of the exuberant English garden. There, Giubbilei tends to a plot of flowers mixing colors and textures at will and learning from the surprising juxtapositions. This experience, along with that of working with craftsmen and artists, has greatly expanded his oeuvre while still retaining the purity of the Renaissance gardens he grew up with.

Louis Benech: Twelve French Gardens

Eric Jansen, Photography by Eric Sander (Gourcuff Gradenigo, 2013).

To gardening or to modify—that is the question. For Benech, a plantsman par excellence, the goal is to make it seem as

if he was never there—but, of course, he was. His immense talent makes him sought-after the world over—not to give a “Benech look,” but rather to bring out the best in a property. He'll suggest that a property owner trims some trees so the Mediterranean can be seen, adds another apple orchard (to mirror the existing one), or plants a parterre linking a pair of buildings. These are simple directives that make all the difference.

Wild By Design

Margie Ruddick (Island Press, 2016).

The urge to make a garden beautiful may seem obvious to the hobby gardener. However, in academia—where the author, a Harvard-trained landscape architect teaches—aesthetic goals are not so obvious. Ruddick champions an ecologically sensitive environment centered on the human experience. Her own small garden in Philadelphia (cited at one point for being overly weed-y) is now studied as an example of cutting-edge wild gardening. Ruddick will be speaking at Madoo on March 26.

Madoo Talks

FEBRUARY 26

Joanna Groarke

Redouté to Warhol:

Bunny Mellon's Botanical Art

With her farm at Upperville, VA, Rachel Lambert "Bunny" Mellon created an environment where gardens and house flowed easily from one to the other. Her botanical art collection ranged from rare watercolors by renowned botanical artists such as Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues and Pierre-Joseph Redouté to 20th-century paintings by Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. This collection was the subject of an exhibition this fall/winter at the New York Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library Art Gallery. Joanna Groarke, Director of Public Engagement and Library Exhibitions Curator at the The New York Botanical Garden, will be speaking on the exhibition and Mrs. Mellon's love of gardens.

MARCH 19

Marshall Watson

The Art of Elegance

Throughout his 30-year career interior designer Marshall Watson has been known for crafting luxurious yet livable spaces for his clients. Less well known is his own passion for gardening. His new book *The Art of Elegance* is notable for the inclusion of so many garden environments flowing from his interiors. With projects across the US and Sweden, Mexico and the Bahamas Watson's creative vision exemplifies the notion of home as a complete unit combining house and garden.

MARCH 26

Margie Ruddick

Wild By Design:

Strategies for Creating Life-Enhancing Landscapes

Award-winning landscape architect Margie Ruddick urges designers to look beyond the rules often imposed by both landscaping convention and sustainability checklists. Instead, she offers a set of principles for a more creative and intuitive approach that challenges the entrenched belief that natural processes cannot complement high-level landscape design. While well-known for her public commissions her residential projects urge homeowners to go in a new direction.

Tickets \$20 members, \$25 non-members. All lectures in the winter house studio at 12pm with a reception to follow. Tickets are available at: madoo.org/programs/lectures/ or info@madoo.org or call 631 537-0082.



Restoration Drama

Summer Studio & House Renovation Project Update

In the second half of October, we began a major historic restoration of the ca. 1740 Summer Studio & House.

The multi-faceted project will bring the building up to 21st century standards, while still retaining the creative spirit that Robert Dash established there.

The \$1.1 million project will cap the Madoo Conservancy's celebration of the 50th anniversary of Dash's 1966 purchase of 1.91 acres of fallow Sagaponack farmland.

Bridgheampton-based Kathryn McCoy AIA is the restoration's project architect. McCoy's respectful design was approved unanimously by the Southampton Town Landmarks and Historic Districts board. The biggest change to the buildings will be the construction under the barn of a full basement for mechanicals and storage. The exterior of the studio and the adjacent house will remain the same—with new windows, doors, cedar shake siding and roofs.

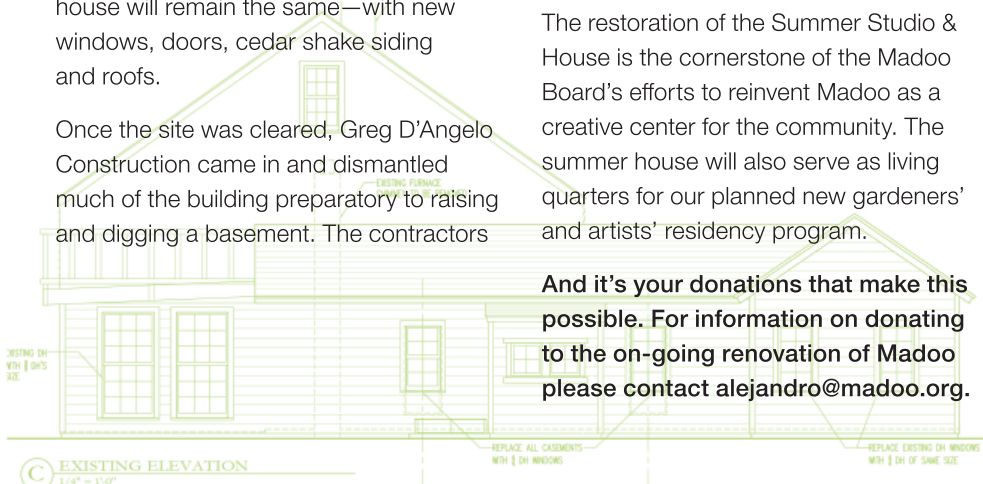
Once the site was cleared, Greg D'Angelo Construction came in and dismantled much of the building preparatory to raising and digging a basement. The contractors



carefully preserved any usable materials found including 19th century barn wood that had been used as sheathing in an earlier renovation and even some locust wood posts form the original barn.

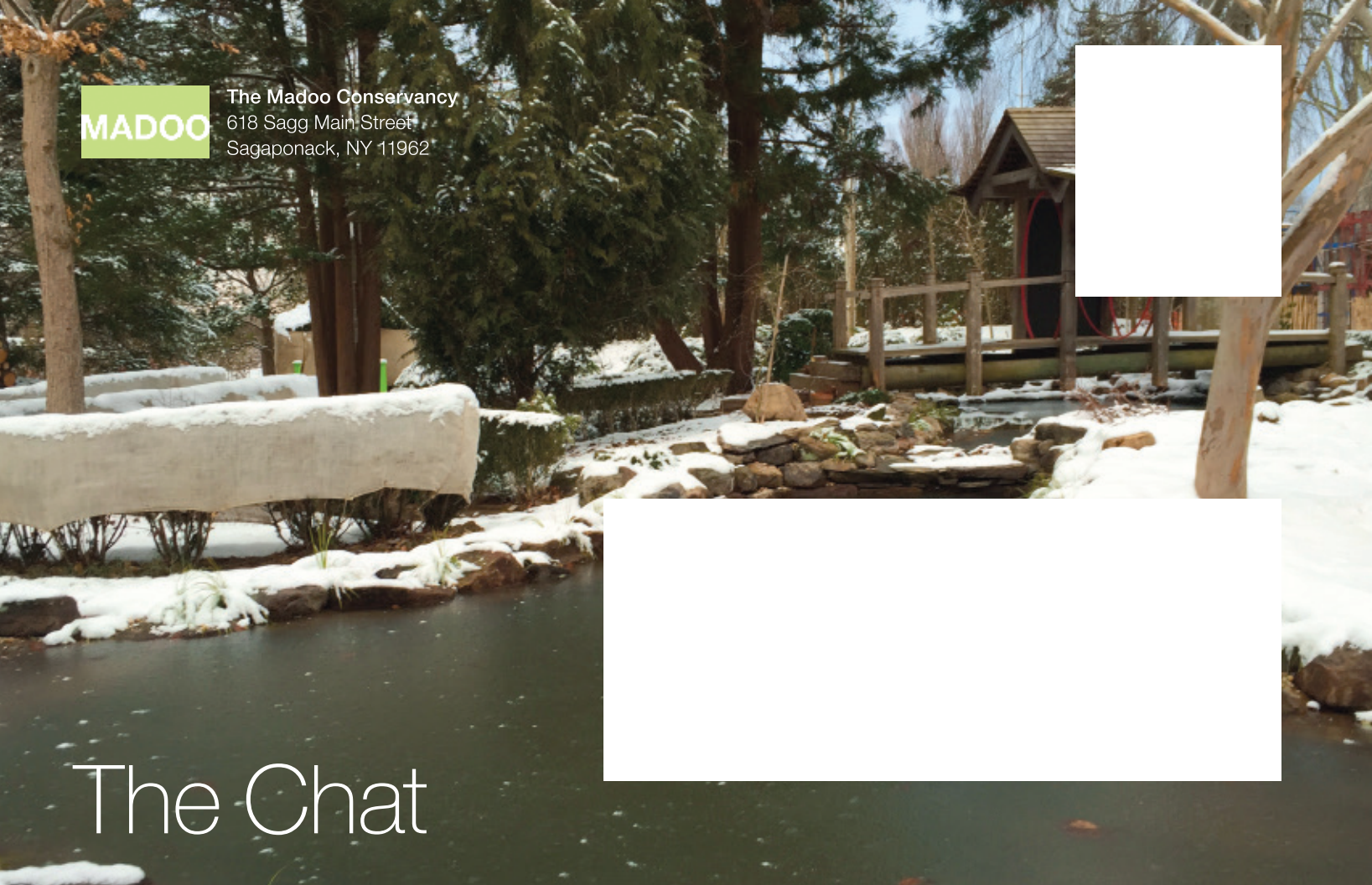
The restoration of the Summer Studio & House is the cornerstone of the Madoo Board's efforts to reinvent Madoo as a creative center for the community. The summer house will also serve as living quarters for our planned new gardeners' and artists' residency program.

And it's your donations that make this possible. For information on donating to the on-going renovation of Madoo please contact alejandromadoo.org.



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The Chat

Where in the World is Madoo?

Right here in Sagaponack of course! But our new tote travels the world and has inspired an Instagram campaign. Get yours as a gift with a membership of \$250 or over and take a shot of it in your favorite locations. Tag with #totes_madoo and we'll publish them in The Chat.



Hilton Head, South Carolina
@kelly.velocci



Doubles Club, New York City
@magdaleneigrigorian

Calendar

FEBRUARY 8 Madoo in Manhattan

Jinny Blom
*Changing Nature:
Towards A New Landscape*

FEBRUARY 26 Madoo Talks

Joanna Groarke
*Redouté to Warhol:
Bunny Mellon's Botanical Art*

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Margie Reddick,
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APRIL 17
Monday Mornings at Madoo
Free children's storytelling hour in the

garden. In case of inclement weather, please check with the Hampton Library in Bridgehampton at 631-537-0015

MAY 12
Season Opening
The garden opens for the season
Fridays and Saturdays noon to 4:00 p. m.

National Public Gardens Day
Free entry and tours of the garden
Please contact the Peconic Land Trust for further information