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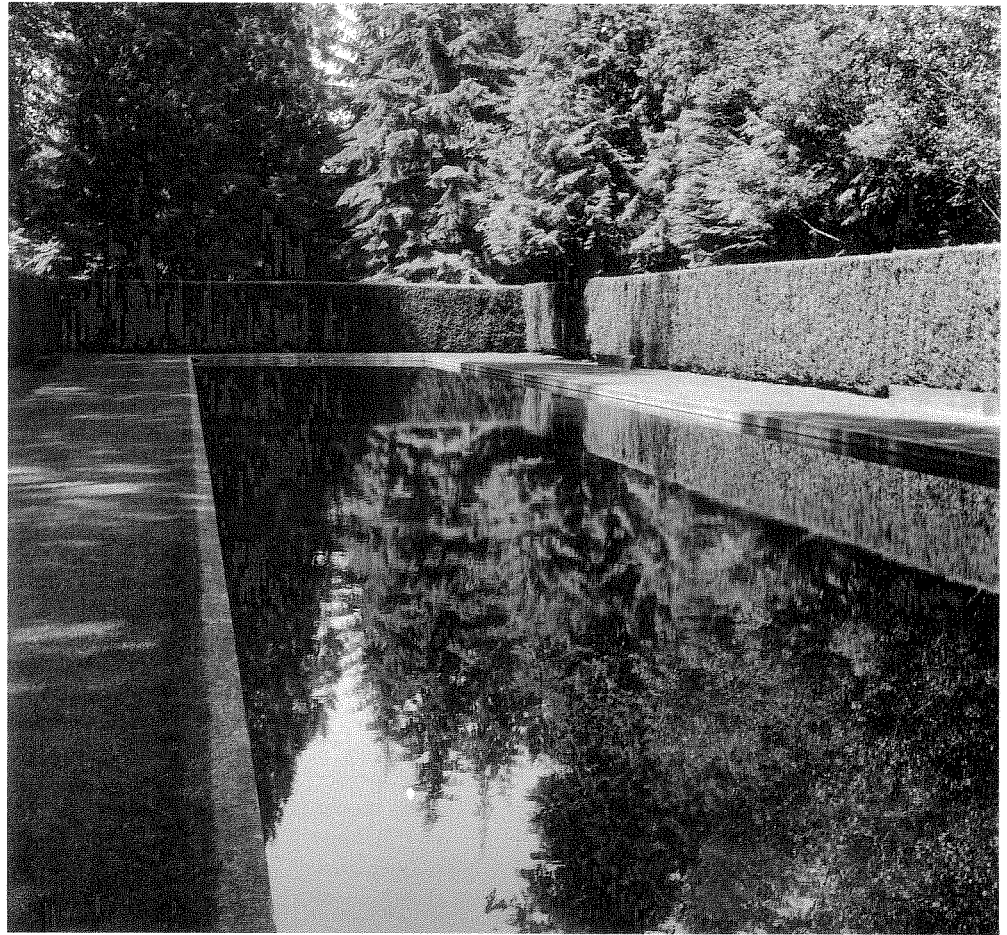
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Peer reviewed

Bloedel Reserve

Jury Comments

The Garden of Planes juxtaposes two sharp-edged gravel pyramids with a series of sculpted mounds, a geometry that symbolizes a wide range of human attitudes to nature. The contrast may be perceived as a Buddhist statement of unenlightened humanity's alienation from nature. The next major space, the "Anteroom," is essentially a preserved bog. Here underbrush was cleared and mosses and ferns planted, but massive stumps remain, ghosts of trees that would be 600 to 700 years old. Amid the dim light and odor of decay, Haag says, "you can almost get raptures of the deep." In the Reflection Garden, Haag reverts to a serene orthogonal geometry, with a rectilinear reflecting pool of ground water 200 feet long. The pool is framed by closely mowed turf, that in turn is bounded by crisply planar 10-foot-high yew hedges. The calm may bespeak *nirvana*, the peace that comes from snuffing out attachment to the transient world. The fourth and final room, a "natural" bird sanctuary, paradoxically is primarily a work of Haag's artifice. Here he created a series of ponds as habitats for waterfowl and migratory birds, celebrating the cycle of nature and humanity's ability to create life-sustaining environments. In Buddhist terms, the duality of man and nature is overcome here through life lived from the depths of enlightenment.



A

Architect's Statement

The purpose of the Reserve is that it be a place where people become aware of and learn from their emotional and aesthetic experience with nature; that it be an expression of man's several, varying relationships with nature. Mr. Haag won a limited competition and was selected as the prime consultant. Between 1979 and 1984 he worked extensively at the Reserve, a

140-acre site, planning site improvements, developing a policy on circulation, locating trails and reconstructing roads. During this time he also conceived and designed four gardens. This sequence of gardens, Garden of Planes/Anteroom/Reflection Garden/Bird Sanctuary, received the American Society of Landscape Architects' President's Award for Design Excellence in 1986.

A Bloedel Reserve, Reflection Garden

B Bloedel Reserve, site plan

C Bloedel Reserve, Bird Sanctuary

D Bloedel Reserve, Anteroom
Photographs by Richard Haag

