

Merle Thorpe Architects

presents

MYRTLE GROVE

Honoring the Past Through a
Careful Restoration and Renovation

Myrtle Grove
and a number of our other projects
can be seen on our website:
MerleThorpeArchitects.com

Merle Thorpe brings over 25 years' experience as a practicing architect to his diverse projects. Recognized for excellence in custom residential design, his work has received numerous awards for distinctive residential architecture, including an Award for Excellence from the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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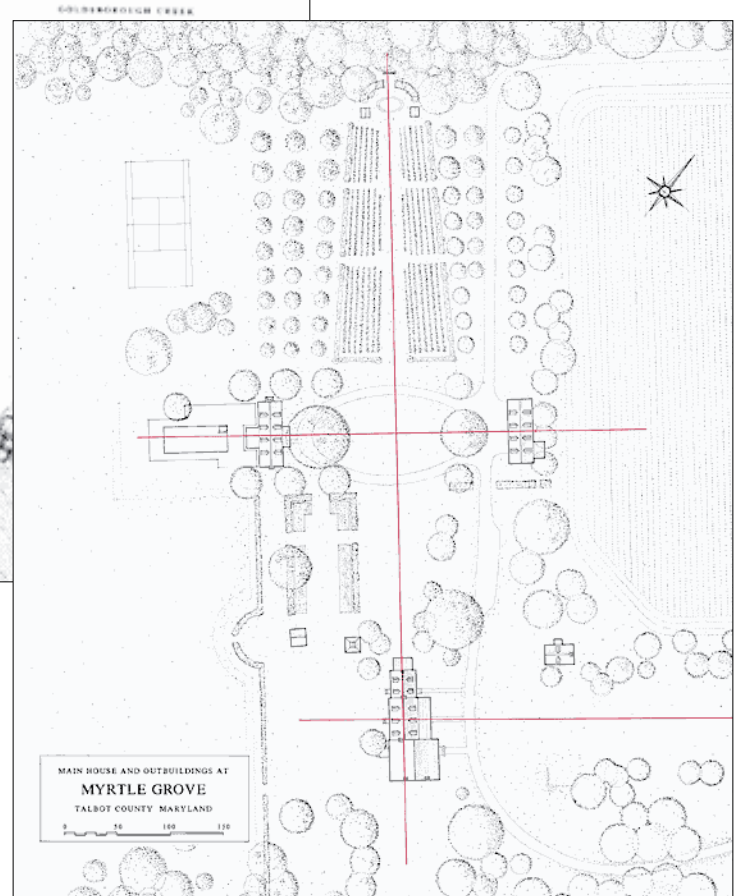
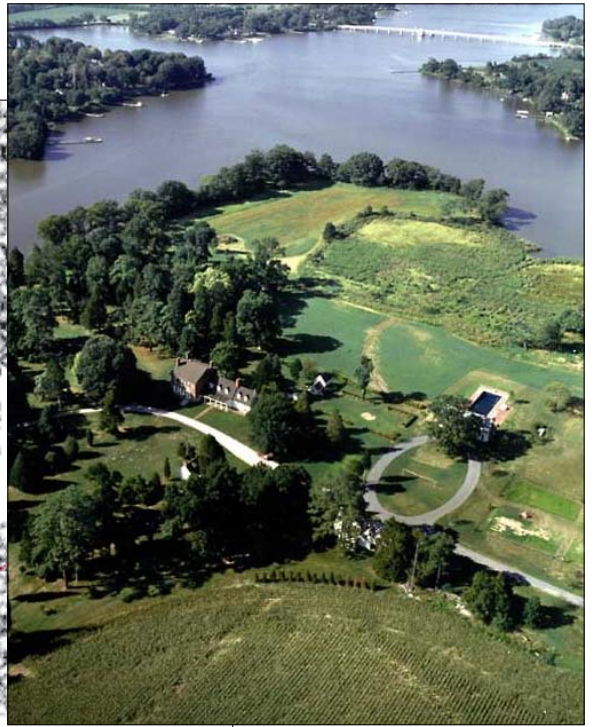
MYRTLE GROVE

Honoring the Past Through a Careful Restoration and Renovation

Myrtle Grove is an historic waterfront property on Maryland's Eastern Shore. We restored and renovated the property with sensitivity to a rich and complex historic and legal arrangement that protects the property's landscape and exterior appearance. Our work earned a number of architectural design awards, including the coveted Award of Excellence from the National Capital Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The carefully restored main house testifies to the tradition of periodic additions and rebuilding of homes, resulting in a telescoping style of architecture. The original structure (circa 1734) stands roughly in the middle, to the right of the federal-era brick addition. The kitchen is at the far right. The reconstructed kitchen was enlarged by a glazed porch addition under a shed roof, which terminates the telescope.

The new owners' program for a pool and poolhouse and sufficient accommodations for weekend guests could have burdened the historical value of the original structure; hence, we developed a separate axis of family life to the northwest of the Main House. The new structures include the pool and poolhouse and a guesthouse.



THE SITE PLAN SHOWS THE ARRIVAL DRIVE ON AN APPROACH AXIS PERPENDICULAR TO LENGTH OF THE HOUSE. A NEW FORMAL AXIS PROJECTS NORTHWEST FROM THE HOUSE'S KITCHEN WING TO A FORMAL PERSPECTIVE TERMINATING AT A GROVE OF FRUIT AND NUT TREES. OFF THIS AXIS IS THE AXIS GENERATED BY THE NEW POOLHOUSE AND GUEST HOUSE WITH AN OAK TREE AS A FOCAL POINT AT ONE END OF AN OVAL DRIVE COURT.



MAIN HOUSE WITH KITCHEN WING



KITCHEN WING WITH GLAZED PORCH ADDITION

THE PROJECT REPRESENTS AN EFFORT TO HONOR THE PROPERTY'S DIGNIFIED PAST THROUGH CAREFUL RESTORATION AND RENOVATION OF ITS COLONIAL- AND FEDERAL-ERA BUILDINGS, WHILE ADDING STRUCTURES THAT MAKE THE PROPERTY USEFUL FOR THE MODERN LIFE OF A BUSY FAMILY.



KITCHEN INTERIOR



MAIN HOUSE FROM SOUTHEAST

NORTHWEST ELEVATION, MAIN HOUSE



MAIN HOUSE



MAIN HOUSE — ENTRY HALL



EXAMPLE OF CUSTOM CASEWORK





THROUGHOUT, IN THE MAIN BUILDINGS AND IN THE DIVERSE BUT HARMONIOUS OUTBUILDINGS, THE OWNERS AND THEIR GUESTS FIND PLEASURES AND DETAILS OF HISTORY AND CARING CRAFTSMANSHIP, DETAILS REVEALED THROUGH THE DAY'S CHANGING LIGHT. AS WITH ALL THE NEW CONSTRUCTION, MATERIALS AND HANDWORK ARE FAITHFUL TO THE HERITAGE OF THIS HISTORIC PROPERTY.



POOLHOUSE AND OAK TREE

LEFT TO RIGHT: POOLHOUSE, SERVICE BUILDINGS AND MAINHOUSE AS SEEN FROM THE WATER.





THE GUEST COTTAGE SITS IN A SECLUDED CLEARING NEAR A TRIBUTARY CREEK, OFFERING PRIVACY AND A NATURAL RESPITE FOR ITS VISITORS.

