



The First Ladies Water Garden

This fountain pays tribute to the First Ladies of our nation. With jobs that defy description, these women have each supported the Presidency and the nation in their own unique manner. They represent the national values of family, home, and hearth, and some, especially those since the late twentieth century, have focused on complex societal problems. By bringing effective leadership and national attention, First Ladies, both during and after their tenure in the White House, have been able to muster support and cooperation for their causes. Notable accomplishments by First Ladies include disaster relief and the Red Cross (Florence Harding); highway beautification and wildflower plantings (Lady Bird Johnson); mental health reform (Rosalynn Carter); projects addressing women's issues, peace, and poverty (Eleanor Roosevelt); slum housing reform (Ellen Wilson); health care charities (Bess Truman and Mamie Eisenhower); substance abuse (Nancy Reagan); women's and children's issues (Hillary Rodham Clinton); and literacy (Barbara Bush and Laura Bush).



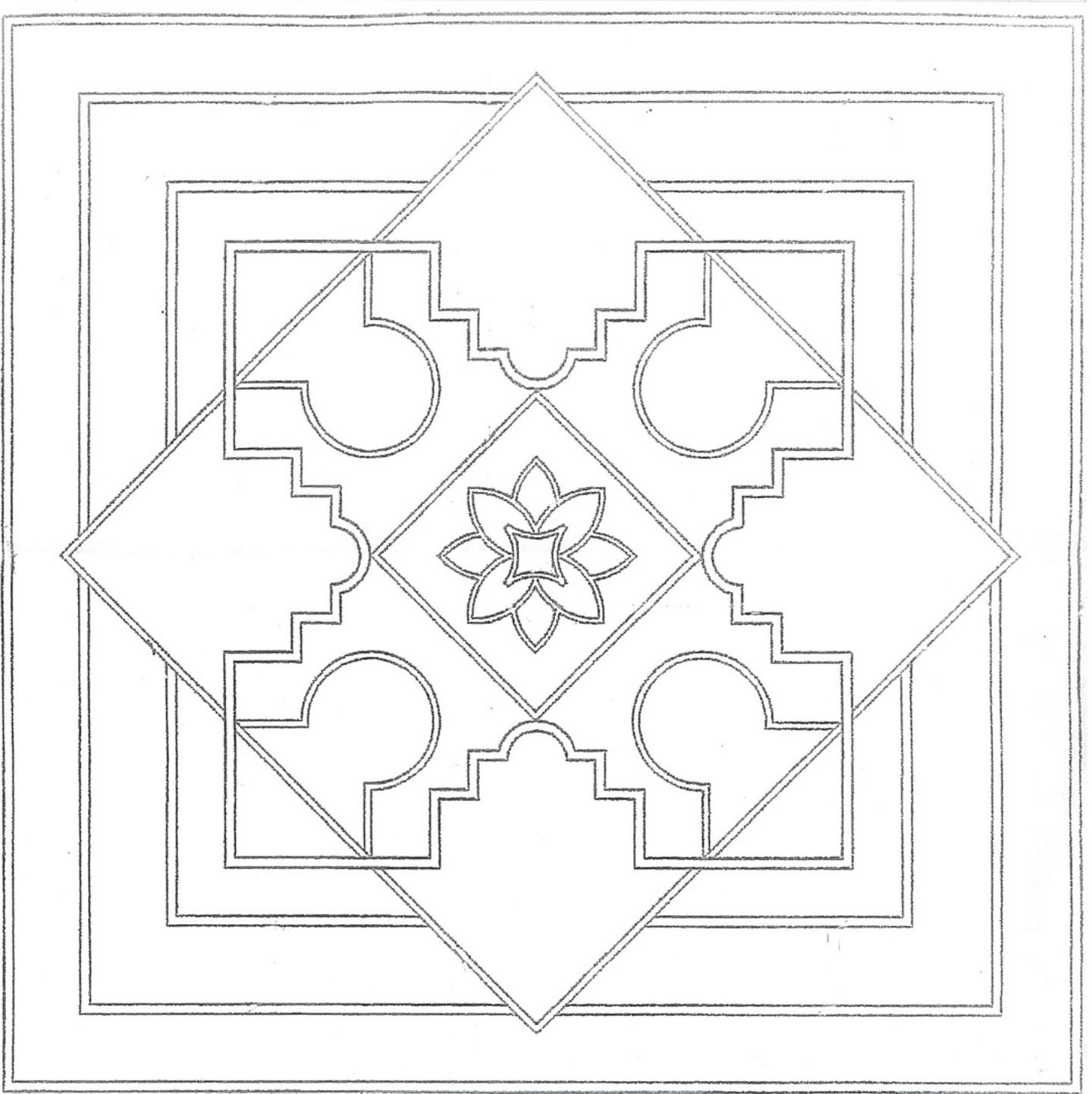
Martha Washington
Engraving, after painting by John Wollaston
Museum of the City of New York, Print Archives

The First Ladies Water Garden is based on a design by Baldev Lamba of New Jersey. Its intricate patterns are inspired by the Colonial-era quilt pattern known as “Martha Washington.” Constructed from native American granite and bluestone, its tranquil flow invites peaceful contemplation and highlights the place of water as the core requirement for human life and civilization. The fountain is created from five shades of Cold Spring granite and bluestone.

Caution: Do not enter! The fountain is very slippery and not safe for wading.

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How would you color the quilt pattern?



**UNITED STATES
BOTANIC GARDEN**

100 MARYLAND AVENUE SW, WASHINGTON DC 20001 202/225-8333 www.usbg.gov