



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

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8th Annual Orchid Show Features Thousands of Colorful Orchids and the Intrigue of Old Havana and the Cuban Countryside

**Celebrated Landscape Architecture Firm Sánchez & Maddux
Brings Beauty of Cuba to The New York Botanical Garden**

The Orchid Show: Cuba in Flower
February 27 – April 11, 2010



From late February through mid-April, *The Orchid Show: Cuba in Flower* will feature iconic sites of Old Havana and the Cuban countryside, reimagined to evoke the history of the island while engulfing visitors in radiant flowers. With the popular show acclaimed as a “tour de force that leaves most visitors gasping with amazement and delight” and an “irresistible event” for the whole family, The New York Botanical Garden’s 8th annual exhibition will present a new theme, design, and experience, all the work of a new designer. Cuban-reared landscape architect Jorge Sánchez, of the Palm Beach firm Sánchez & Maddux, will set the stage for this season’s not-to-be missed showcase for garden lovers, orchid fans, history buffs, and those in need of a one-day tropical retreat from winter.

Orchids, Tropical Plants, and Architecture Present Cuban Culture in the Warmth of the Conservatory

The Orchid Show: Cuba in Flower in the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory will feature thousands of brilliantly colored orchids set among architectural vignettes from Havana and the surrounding countryside. Welcoming visitors into the exhibition and to the Conservatory’s *Palms of the Americas Gallery*, which under its 90-foot dome houses the largest collection of New World palm trees under glass, will stand a handsome replica of the iconic tower and statue *La Giraldilla*. The statue, one of the most representative symbols of the city of Havana, embodies history, art, and a legend of love. The statue and tower sit atop the *Castillo de la Real Fuerza* (Castle of the Royal Force), a defensive structure built quickly after an attack on the city by French pirates in 1538 and the oldest stone fortress in the Americas. Species and hybrid *Oncidium* orchids, commonly known as Dancing Lady, in purple, yellow, and white will surround *La Giraldilla* and pervade the Palms Gallery reflecting pool.

Upon entering the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries* where the show’s most concentrated displays of orchids are traditionally encountered, visitors will walk beneath overarching fronds of booted sabal palms planted in a tunnel alleé leading to a sugar mill ruin. Sugar mills processed cane sugar, an economic mainstay of 18th- through mid-20th-century Cuba. By the 20th century, local sugar mills gave way to large mills, causing the old mills to fall into ruin to be reclaimed by natural overgrowth, as depicted in this vignette. Encompassing the ruin and imbuing the scene with a purplish haze will be *Dendrobium* (cane orchids), *Paphiopedilum* (slipper orchids), and *Oncidium* orchids in purple and pink, with accents of yellow.

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Upon venturing farther into the *Seasonal Exhibition Galleries*, visitors will happen upon an evocation of the Soroa Orchidarium, including its charming Cuban vernacular architecture. This botanical garden is dedicated to education and the cultivation and conservation of Cuban orchids. A veranda, surrounded by a multitude of orchids representing the hundreds of species living in the actual Cuban orchidarium, will be flanked on both sides by groves of Cuban royal palms symbolizing the growing habitat. *The Orchid Show's* interpretation of the Soroa Orchidarium will offer visitors an opportunity to sense the lushness and biodiversity of Cuba, home to more than 300 species of orchids alone. Nestled in the hills of the Sierra del Rosario, in the village of Soroa, a World Heritage site and a biosphere reserve of over 65,000 acres, the Soroa Orchidarium features more than 6,000 species of tropical plants and flowers from around the world, including many orchid species no longer found in the wild.

Designer Jorge Sánchez

The Orchid Show: Cuba in Flower is designed by the award-winning, Palm Beach-based landscape architecture firm Sánchez & Maddux. Jorge Sánchez, Principal, drew on his years growing up in Cuba and South Florida, and his decades of design work across the region to bring the Cuban history, landscape, and iconic architecture to life in the Botanical Garden's glasshouse. "In a blending of architecture, design, landscape, and color, we wanted to create an experience for the visitor that was dramatic, vibrant, and colorful while introducing elements of the Cuban experience that evoke the feel and look of the landscape and the country that I knew as a child," says Jorge Sánchez. Thomas Noel of Event Design Incorporated will fabricate the structural elements of the Sánchez & Maddux plan, where plants and design are in partnership.

Says renowned New York architect Hugh Hardy of H³ HARDY COLLABORATION ARCHITECTURE LLC in anticipation of the 2010 exhibition and Sánchez's design, "*The Orchid Show* at The New York Botanical Garden deserves its worldwide reputation for botanical and visual spectacle. Nowhere else will you see floral displays this dazzling and informative."

The Exhibition Continues Throughout the Garden

In venues throughout its 250 acres, *The Orchid Show: Cuba in Flower* offers visitors opportunities to learn about the Garden's historic and ongoing orchid research, purchase orchids in the Shop in the Garden, receive care information from experts, take orchid-related courses ranging from a few hours to several days, and participate in family activities where children discover the orchid origins of vanilla. Check the Garden's Web site at www.nybg.org beginning in February for complete exhibition details.

*Founding Sponsor, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation
Additional support has been provided by the Karen Katen Foundation.*

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. During *The Orchid Show* the Garden is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden during *The Orchid Show* is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is available: \$6 for adults, \$5 for adult Bronx Residents; \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students with ID, \$1 for children ages 2–12, children under 2 are free. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more. Contact Group Tours, 718.817.8687. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.nybg.org Read the Botanical Garden's popular blog, *Plant Talk: Inside The New York Botanical Garden* at www.nybg.org/wordpress

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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