

For Immediate Release
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A Guide to the *Holiday Train Show's* New Replicas of New York Landmarks

Friday, November 18, 2005 through Sunday, January 8, 2006

Along the train routes of the annual *Holiday Train Show* at The New York Botanical Garden are dozens of interpretive replicas of landmark buildings, towering skyscrapers, historic homes, and other famous structures of New York City and the Hudson Valley region. All have been meticulously handcrafted of leaves, twigs, bark, berries, pinecones, gourds, cinnamon sticks, and other botanical and natural materials, by Paul Busse and his team at Applied Imagination of Alexandria, Kentucky. Each replica takes many months to research, design, and craft, and each year the collection of structures grows.

In this guide to some of the new replicas, *italics* signal the plant parts and other natural materials used in their construction.

Yankee Stadium, built in 1923, is one of the most famous American ballparks. The home of one of the most winning franchises in sports history, the stadium has been the site of many legendary athletic achievements by the likes of Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Phil Rizzuto, Whitey Ford, Yogi Berra, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris, and more. The classic stadium, which underwent later redesigns and renovations, will soon be replaced by a modern arena nearby, but the lovingly detailed structure in the Botanical Garden's exhibition forever captures the original ballpark etched in the collective memories of New Yorkers and baseball fans throughout the world. Its outside wall is made of *horse chestnut bark*, its seats of *elm bark*, and its field walls of *cherry bark*. The pillars are *willow sticks*, the light towers are *willow twigs* and *acorn tops*, and the top detailing is a combination of *cinnamon sticks*, *burning bush twigs*, *acorn tops*, and *willow*.

Van Cortlandt Manor House (1748), at the confluence of the Croton and Hudson Rivers in Croton-on-Hudson, is a sandstone, granite, and brick house that was the center of the agricultural, milling, and shipping empire of the most prosperous branch of the Van Cortlandt family. The siding of the Train Show replica is made of *cedar bark*, the chimney details are fashioned out of *honeysuckle*, *willow*, and *acorn tops*, the stone is built out of *pine bark*, the shutters are designed with *red bud pods*, the porch posts and rails are molded out of *winged euonymous*, and the porch floor and stairs are crafted out of *cedar*.

Montgomery Place (1804–1805), a house museum set in a 434-acre estate in Annandale-on-Hudson, is part of an intact historical landscape with a strong connection to mid-nineteenth-century landscape history and to Andrew Jackson Downing, the famous horticulturalist, nurseryman, and landscape and architectural theorist. The open pavilion on the north side, with its high arcade articulated by engaged Corinthian columns and framing wide views of the river, is unique in American architecture. The Train Show reproduction consists of *screwpod* and *contorta branch* railings, *willow*, *cinnamon*, and *poppy pod* windows, and details of *birch bark*, *acorn tops*, and *pinecone scales*.

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Lyndhurst (1838–1865), in Tarrytown, is the quintessential American Gothic Revival house and one of the finest traditional estate landscapes in America. Despite its Gothic seriousness and its almost ecclesiastical quality, Lyndhurst was built as a weekend and summer house, a rural retreat for New Yorkers. The stonework of the Train Show structure is built with *elm bark*, the window casings are fabricated out of *bamboo* and *salt cedar branches*, and the bay window details are composed of *shelf fungus*, *cinnamon curls*, *beech seeds*, *gourd seeds*, and *juniper berries*.

Olana (1870–1891), in Columbia County, is a monument to the Aesthetic Movement, a massive limestone rubble building with three towers, designed by the great American landscape painter Frederic Edwin Church in collaboration with the architect Calvert Vaux. The view is among the most celebrated in North America. The Botanical Garden's rendition is comprised of a *eucalyptus leaf roof*, *horse chestnut bark siding*, and details of *pussywillow*, *alder cones*, *beech seeds and hulls*, *gourd seeds*, *burning bush twigs*, *lotus pods*, *star anise*, and *willow sticks*.

Kykuit (1906–1913), the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills in Westchester County, is set on the highest point of the property purchased by John D. Rockefeller, Sr., with sweeping views of the Hudson River and the Palisades, surrounded by magnificent gardens. The roof of the model in the Holiday Train Show is crafted out of *magnolia leaves*, the ironwork is composed of *eucalyptus leaves*, *stems*, and *seed pods*, *juniper berries*, *hickory nut shells*, and *beech seed pods*, the stonework is *pine bark*, the people are made of *pistachio shells*, *honeysuckle vines*, *wheat grains*, *tree lichen*, *yarrow*, and *dusty miller*, and the eagle is a mix of *willow leaves*, *ash seeds*, and *hickory nuts*.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road.

HOLIDAY HOURS: November 19–January 8, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Tuesday–Sunday and Monday holidays. The Botanical Garden is open on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. The Botanical Garden is closed on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, and closes at 3 p.m. on December 9 and December 24.

Off-Peak Pricing: Tuesday–Thursday through December 22: Adults \$13, Seniors/Students \$11, Children \$5.

Peak Pricing: Weekends Friday–Sunday through December 18 and every day Monday–Sunday December 23 through January 8: Adults \$16, Seniors/Students \$14, Children \$5.

To purchase tickets, order online at www.nybg.org or call 800.965.4827. For more information, visit our Web site or call 718.817.8700.

Contacts: Nick Leshi or Maria Izquierdo 718.817.8616

Photos available