

# NYBG

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***From Cornice to Cupola: The Architecture of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory*  
Examines the History, Design, and Restoration of The New York Botanical Garden's  
Iconic Victorian-era Glasshouse**

New Exhibition about the Botanical Garden's 118-year-old Centerpiece Is on View  
January 11–March 8, 2020, in NYBG's LuEsther T. Mertz Library Art Gallery



Panorama of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory at The New York Botanical Garden, ca. 1910  
LuEsther T. Mertz Library, The New York Botanical Garden

**Bronx, NY**—A new exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) reveals the history and artistry of its 118-year-old, glass-and-steel Enid A. Haupt Conservatory—considered one of the most superb glasshouses of its time and in the world. On view in the Botanical Garden's LuEsther T. Mertz Library Art Gallery from January 11 through March 8, 2020, *From Cornice to Cupola: The Architecture of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory* features an array of visually compelling material drawn primarily from the collections of the Mertz Library, including drawings and plans, historic photographs, and objects from the archives of Lord & Burnham Company, which designed the iconic Victorian-era glasshouse.

The Haupt Conservatory—an acre under glass showcasing the Garden's permanent living plant collections and breathtaking horticultural displays through the seasons—was completed in 1902. It was designated a New York City Landmark in 1973.

The Conservatory has undergone restoration at intervals throughout its history, including a full restoration that was completed in 1997 under the direction of Beyer Blinder Belle. The central dome atop the Conservatory's celebrated Palms of the World Gallery is currently being restored by Jan Hird Pokorny Associates and Robert Silman Associates Structural Engineers in accordance with routine maintenance and operations of the Garden's facilities. The project

is scheduled to be completed by May 31, 2020. For more information about the palm dome restoration, visit <https://www.nybg.org/about/plantlove/palm-dome-restoration/>

Joanna Groarke, Director of Public Engagement and Library Exhibitions Curator at The New York Botanical Garden, said, “As we prepare to reopen the Palms of the World Gallery, this exhibition provides our visitors with historical context for the Conservatory as a magnificent feat of design and engineering. *From Cornice to Cupola* examines the history of this jewel of a building through selections drawn primarily from the extensive collections of our LuEsther T. Mertz Library.”

*From Cornice to Cupola* will also showcase ornamental features of the Conservatory from earlier periods of its history, as well as a reassembled window bay removed from the palm dome drum during this restoration.

### **About The New York Botanical Garden**

Founded in 1891, The New York Botanical Garden is the most comprehensive botanical garden in the world and an integral part of the cultural fabric of New York City, anchored in the Bronx. More than one million people visit the Garden each year to connect with nature for joy, beauty, and respite, and for renowned plant-based exhibitions, music and dance, and poetry and lectures. Innovative children’s education programs promote environmental sustainability and nutrition awareness, graduate programs educate the next generation of botanists, while engaging classes inspire adults to remain lifelong learners. The 250-acre verdant landscape—which includes a 50-acre, old-growth forest—and the landmark Enid A. Haupt Conservatory support living collections of more than one million plants. Unparalleled resources are also held in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, the world’s most important botanical and horticultural library with 11 million archival items spanning ten centuries, and William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest in the Western Hemisphere with 7.8 million plant and fungal specimens. Committed to protecting the planet’s biodiversity and natural resources, Garden scientists work on-site in cutting-edge molecular labs and in areas worldwide where biodiversity is most at risk.

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*Exhibitions in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library  
are made possible by the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust.*

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PALM DOME RESTORATION DONORS

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**The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. NYBG is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)**

**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.**

**Contact:** Stevenson Swanson: 718.817.8512; [sswanson@nybg.org](mailto:sswanson@nybg.org)  
Melinda Manning: 718.817.8659; [mmanning@nybg.org](mailto:mmanning@nybg.org)  
Bow Bridge Communications, LLC: 347.460.5566; [info@bow-bridge.com](mailto:info@bow-bridge.com)