Cole Nielsen

LA 1201

Homework 4

TA: Rachel Kerber

One place that I have visited that I think would have an interesting context in the view of Gertrude Jekyll is the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. One aspect I think Jekyll would like about the Arboretum is the fact that it essentially is a massive garden with large plant diversity and the usage of principles the principles she envisioned (like local plants) in the gardens. I actually found online that they offer a class about Gertrude Jekyll at the arboretum that shows her principles in the gardens there, so I think she would really like that. One thing I think she would dislike is that fact that many of the garden use essentially foreign plants and things that didn’t come from Minnesota, so that kind of goes against her principle of using local things. For instance, there is a Japanese garden at the Arboretum that isn’t really “Minnesota”-ish, so I think she would disapprove. I also think she would dislike the agricultural features of the Arboretum (such as the Horticultural Research Center), as today agriculture is a very commercial thing which goes against her arts and crafts movement type ideals. One last thing I thing I think that Jekyll would dislike is that the buildings at the arboretum are not ones that are built from local materials, rather they are made from standard modern construction materials, which would also go against her idea of only using things that come from local places.