



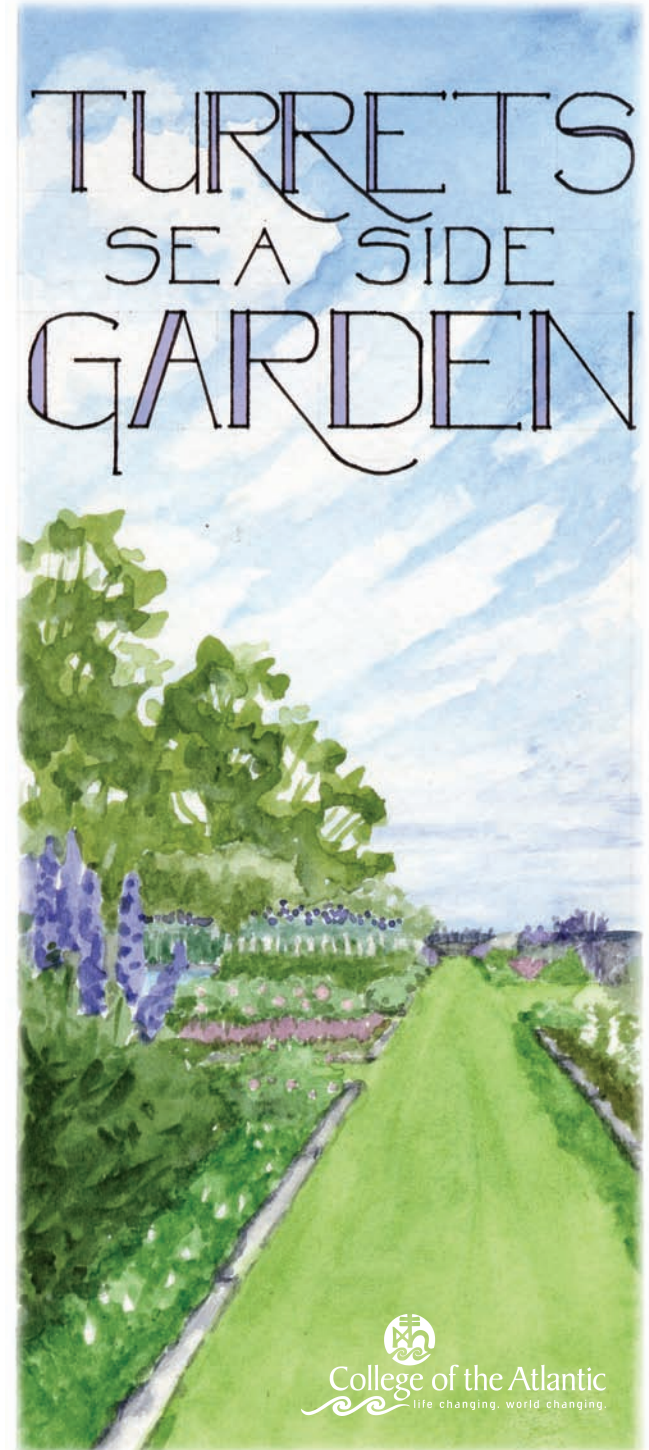
## The Garden

A large granite bench overlooks the Turrets Sea Side Garden at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. In the distance a string of islands stretch across Frenchman Bay to Schoodic Peninsula. Above the garden stands Turrets, a beautiful historic stone mansion. The campus extends uphill, but the garden, concealed behind Turrets, has a sunken, secluded atmosphere. Yet, built atop a stone terrace over the water, and covering more than 4,000 square feet, the garden feels lofty as well.

Inside the garden's walls, gray granite edges the beds and in the center sits a pool built from a ring of handcrafted granite slabs. These curved stones appear simultaneously graceful and weighty. From the pool, the garden's ten beds spread outward creating an elegant, formal layout.



*Sea Side Garden (aerial view)*





## The Project

Eamonn Hutton, a COA student, began planning the garden's renovation in the spring of 2004 as his senior project. Working with the COA community, as well as local designers, gardeners and contractors, Eamonn has designed and oversaw the installation of the garden (and painted the watercolors used here). The design incorporates historic elements while recognizing the garden's situation within a college campus. Restoring the garden to its original state is impractical given its present use, and, moreover, the insufficient historical documentation available. The renovation aimed to work within these constraints to create a space that is inspired by the original.



The design maintains a symmetrical, "bedded out" theme similar to the original. Historically, this type of layout gave the impression of a bold patchwork of colors, especially when viewed from above. Layers of texture and height have been added to the design to provide an intimate and engaging space for contemporary visitors who will walk through the garden rather than look down upon it. Gray foliage prevails; flower colors include blues, purples, whites and touches of pink, creating the mood of a cool and foggy coastal garden.

The Sea Side Garden is now an elegant public garden that enriches the physical and intellectual landscapes of the college and of Mount Desert Island. It provides an



aesthetic feature and a place for community-building and learning. It also stands as an example of what can be accomplished when COA students seek collaborations for community projects.

Jesse Tucker '95 had a passion for gardens and stonework. At COA he worked to restore key components of the Turrets Sea Side Garden, repointing and constructing a new base for the stone bench, excavating the fountain, and pruning back vines and shrubs. He also designed and built a stone stairway to the garden. Jesse's work in the Turrets Sea Side Garden made possible and inspired subsequent improvements. In his memory we have created the Jesse Tucker Memorial Fountain as the garden's centerpiece. It was installed on May 20, 2009.

Senior projects, a culmination of each student's academic pursuit at College of the Atlantic, demand intense, advanced and independent work. Eamonn Hutton's restoration of the Sea Side Garden demonstrates the commitment and focus that is common to these projects.

