

THE GARDEN EXTRAORDINAIRE

FALL 2025



AUTUMN'S ARTISTRY

In Houston, fall's arrival in the garden looks different than in other regions. Rather than being marked by a dramatic palette of changing leaves, Houston gardens display subtle signs defining the season. The quality of light shifts, creating longer shadows stretching across garden beds, while cooler mornings and evenings make outdoor time appealing again. Salvias, lantanas, and ornamental grasses introduce renewed vibrancy, adding texture and seasonal color to the garden's palette. These quiet shifts represent autumn's unique artistry in our climate, celebrating subtle seasonal beauty over dramatic transformation.

At McDugald Steele, our team remains committed to creating, constructing, and managing gardens honoring seasonal transitions while creating extraordinary spaces of joy and connection.

FALL COLOR & DISPLAYS

Starting this week, our Garden Management teams are filling their trucks with seasonal color and pumpkins, preparing to enhance gardens with thoughtful fall displays. Elegant arrangements of heirloom pumpkins, seasonal mums, and ornamental plantings are being placed with care to enrich entryways, accentuate planting beds, and introduce a refined sense of autumn to the garden. These displays are more than decoration; they are a way of bringing warmth, hospitality, and a touch of celebration into each garden. The thoughtful layering of colors, textures, and forms echoes the abundance of the season while seamlessly complementing the architecture and surrounding plantings. The result is a garden that not only reflects autumn's beauty but also creates a welcoming atmosphere, elevating the experience of arriving home and setting the stage for the holidays to come.



BULBS & PLANTS

The 83rd Annual Bulb & Plant Mart, hosted by the Garden Club of Houston, will take place October 9–11 at St. John's School. This beloved event is a fantastic opportunity to order collectible and novelty bulbs to enhance your garden. Our Garden Management team is already securing bulbs for late November and early December planting.

Bulbs to plant in late November to early December for holiday and spring color:

- Paperwhites (holiday blooms)
- Daffodils (spring blooms)
- Ranunculus (spring blooms)
- Tulips (spring blooms)



PAPERWHITES



DAFFODILS

SEASONAL SPOTLIGHT

A REFINED REFRESH

THE HUNTINGDON CONDOMINIUMS POOL GARDEN



McDugald Steele, in collaboration with Water Line Designs, recently completed an extensive renovation project at the Huntingdon Condominiums on Kirby Dr., reimagining the property's outdoor amenities into a more functional and elegant setting.

At the center of the renovation is a newly designed pool that reflects both sophistication and ease of use, offering residents a tranquil place for relaxation while enhancing the property's overall aesthetic. Surrounding the pool, the addition of a thoughtfully designed arbor creates a shaded retreat, encouraging year-round enjoyment and fostering a sense of community.

The project focused on transforming underutilized areas into inviting spaces to better serve the residents. By blending architectural precision with lush planting design, the outdoor environment now flows seamlessly to unite beauty, function, and comfort.

This collaborative effort demonstrates how intentional design and construction can reinvigorate a property, ensuring it remains a vibrant destination for residents and guests alike.



IN THE NEWS

The latest features and highlights of McDugald Steele's work.

DESIGN MEETS DESTINATION

THE DAPHNE HOTEL - HOUSTON'S NEWEST HOTEL

The Houston Chronicle recently featured the upcoming Hotel Daphne in Houston's Heights, a boutique property inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement. McDugald Steele was selected as the landscape architecture firm, shaping the hotel's courtyards, entrance, and outdoor gathering areas to create a setting that feels both refined and welcoming. The result will be gardens that strengthen the connection between architecture and place, offering guests a sense of retreat within a vibrant neighborhood.

Click to read the Houston Chronicle's full feature: [Hotel Daphne Preview](#).

FROM LEGACY TO LANDMARK

A RIVER OAK ESTATE'S JOURNEY

Last September, PaperCity Magazine highlighted 2110 River Oaks Boulevard as a distinguished example of architectural and garden harmony, where McDugald Steele's garden design honored and enhanced John F. Staub's Tudor and Jacobean vision. The estate has now entered a new chapter with its recent sale, yet the enduring elegance of its grounds, shaped by thoughtful and meticulous design, continues to serve as a defining hallmark of excellence. This River Oaks property illustrates the lasting value that intentional design contributes to Houston's most celebrated residences.

Read more in the latest features from PaperCity: [An Inside Look at 2110 River Oaks Blvd & River Oaks Mansion Sale](#).

FALL MULCH

In Houston, fall is the ideal time to refresh flower beds with mulch. A new layer insulates roots from fluctuating temperatures, conserves soil moisture, and suppresses weeds, all while giving the garden a clean, finished look that enhances seasonal plantings.