

**Louisiana Garden Design—Early French Influence:
People—Plans—Plants—Embellishments**

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This presentation will briefly review key elements of early French landscape design and their influence on Louisiana garden design. Among the most frequently referenced elements—and the imagery we most often associate with French design—are a dominance of pattern, allées, bosquets, and primary and secondary axes. We will attempt to remove the veil of romanticism and focus on a comparison of the people, the plans, the plants, and the embellishments in both French and southern gardens. Can the success of these gardens be attributed, in part, to an understanding of what it means to have pleasing proportions and comfortable scale? We will explore how fundamental principles, which so strongly influenced formal French garden design, were apparent in early Louisiana garden design and carry through to our contemporary landscapes.