

FORT WORTH WATER GARDEN

Fort Worth, Texas

PHILIP JOHNSON • ALAN RITCHIE
A R C H I T E C T S



Philip Johnson created an urban landscape of mountains, forests, and lakes at the Fort Worth Water Garden. The architect began by examining the use of water in different states: soothing, spraying and finally, gushing. Johnson, who has long held a fascination for landscape has here employed sand-colored concrete, greenery and water to make a playful, yet elegant garden in the city.

The "mountains", steep hills made of concrete, form the edge of the water garden. Paths lead from the sidewalks down to the central plaza, which has cliffs of water cascading from all sides, rushing at different speeds over narrower and wider steps into the central pit. Close to the plaza is a "dancing pool." Banked flower beds, grassy mounds and a solid line of trees protect the visitor from the reality of the location - an adjacent highway.



Client: Amon Carter Foundation

Completion Date: 1975