



PHOTOGRAPHY BY KEITH ROCKE

**“LANDSCAPING IS LIKE ART.
SURROUNDED BY BEAUTY,
CHILDREN WILL GROW UP
TO APPRECIATE BEAUTY.”**



JOHN WILLIAMS' PRIVATE GARDENS

John's vision of the acreage surrounding his private home could hardly be called simply "landscaping." It would be like referring to Ranger as just a boat. These are gardens unlike any other and they are seemingly in perpetual motion as they change and adapt to every season of the year.

His vision was to create a series of connecting gardens throughout his property that he and his family and friends could stroll through and enjoy the dozen of vignettes, ranging from formal to rustic, throughout the 10-acre expanse.

He put his longtime associate and landscape architect, Don Rutzen, and his team at Park Landscape Services to work designing and installing pools, waterfalls, streams, arbors, bridges and earth-friendly structures – all joined by a series of never ending pathways of natural colored stone which curve and wind throughout the landscape. It's a wonderland of nature comprised of superb collections of trees, shrubbery, annuals and perennials. Multi-colored koi swim in ponds connected by babbling brooks and waterfalls.



Notable features of this botanical paradise include hundreds of varieties of Japanese maples, a functional and prolific vegetable garden, and thousands of varieties of the most beautiful plantings garnered from the best horticultural sources. One of the greatest pleasures John gets from his masterpiece is sharing it with others, as he does during the Atlanta Botanical Garden's "Gardens for Connoisseurs Tour" and the American Hydrangea Society's garden tour. Many attending these cultural events have commented that John's garden is the "finest private garden that they have visited anywhere." In early May of 2008 the gardens will be included in the Sandy Springs Garden Tour.

HISTORY OF POST PROPERTIES

Atlanta builder developer John Williams first rose to prominence in the 1970s when his name became synonymous with Post Properties. He had a formula for lavish, upscale apartment homes that were unique for Atlanta during that era. Among Post's signature touches was its breathtaking

landscaping. (Williams was, at one time, the nation's largest importer of tulips from Holland, which found their way to the Post Apartment communities). In creating such a scenic space, he set the standard for the possibility that apartment living need not be in a cold concrete setting. The apartments cost a little more to rent than most, but the beauty of the property made it well worth the price. By the end of the 1980s, most Atlantans had either lived in a Post Apartment or had a family member who did. The picturesque communities, scattered around the city's most desirable neighborhoods, had become prime residential rental property. They also inspired gorgeous landscaping that was about to explode all over Atlanta.

THE FALL AND RISE

For John Williams, this was his great American dream come true. Post Properties was a corporation that had set the gold standard for residential apartment homes. The company was healthy and thriving. What happened next was like a bomb going off.