

## Style & Culture USA 2

Have you been to Thomas Jefferson Monticello garden?

If your interest is in History, Architecture, Planning, Horticulture, Sustainable Living, Garden, Efficiency and Engineering Design, then this is the place to visit on your next trip to USA. Here, you understand the mind and thinking of Thomas Jefferson in the planning, in the structures of daily function through the design of the interior space of his house, and his garden.

Thomas Jefferson designed and redesigned Monticello over the course of forty years. The focus of his intention is all about the details. For example, The Great Clock or The Seven-Day Clock [a must see], the Bedroom Portholes for storage space, the Plaster Eagle and Stars, the Revolving Serving Door, the Alcove Bed with a closet overhead, and the interior of the first floor has window shutters for the purpose for privacy and insulation. Thomas Jefferson loves innovation and by observing the furnishings, the decorative aspects, and details, it has shown his ability to modify the traditional to suit his needs. He invented the first swivel chair for office use in 1775.

Historically said, the Library held over 6,000 books at the time. In 1815, these books were sold to Congress. Today, a few hundred years apart, just a few books left, and all are copied versions. But, this Library still captures the educated and curious mind of Thomas Jefferson. Photos are not allowed to be taken the interior of the house, to meet the requirement of the preservation of the historical items and furnishings and all the furnishings there.



The octagon Tea Room is Jefferson's favourite architectural shapes, and it still holds the essence of the function of the space then. It points out, his capacity to take multi-disciplines at any time in his daily practice.

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We have known Thomas Jefferson has many talents such as architect, botanist, inventor, violinist and politician. His three achievements for posterity are the drafting the Declaration of Independence, the securing freedom of religion under the law, and the founding the University of Virginia. His passion for farming had resulted in unintended consequences. But he was a pioneer for sustainable agriculture. After all, he is one of the Great American Presidents that his head was carved into Mount Rushmore.

The Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants was established at Monticello in 1987, and it covers the wide history of plants grown in America through the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The vegetable garden is a 1,000 feet long garden. The purpose for this garden is the provision of a source of fresh food as well as an experimental laboratory. This has shown Thomas Jefferson is a scientist and a gardener. Below are some of the photos taken of this garden, and name tag of each kind of vegetable is written in a calligraphic form with ink as in 17<sup>th</sup> century. In addition, many artefacts had been found here today. These items are household broken pieces around the time when Thomas Jefferson presided here.

