

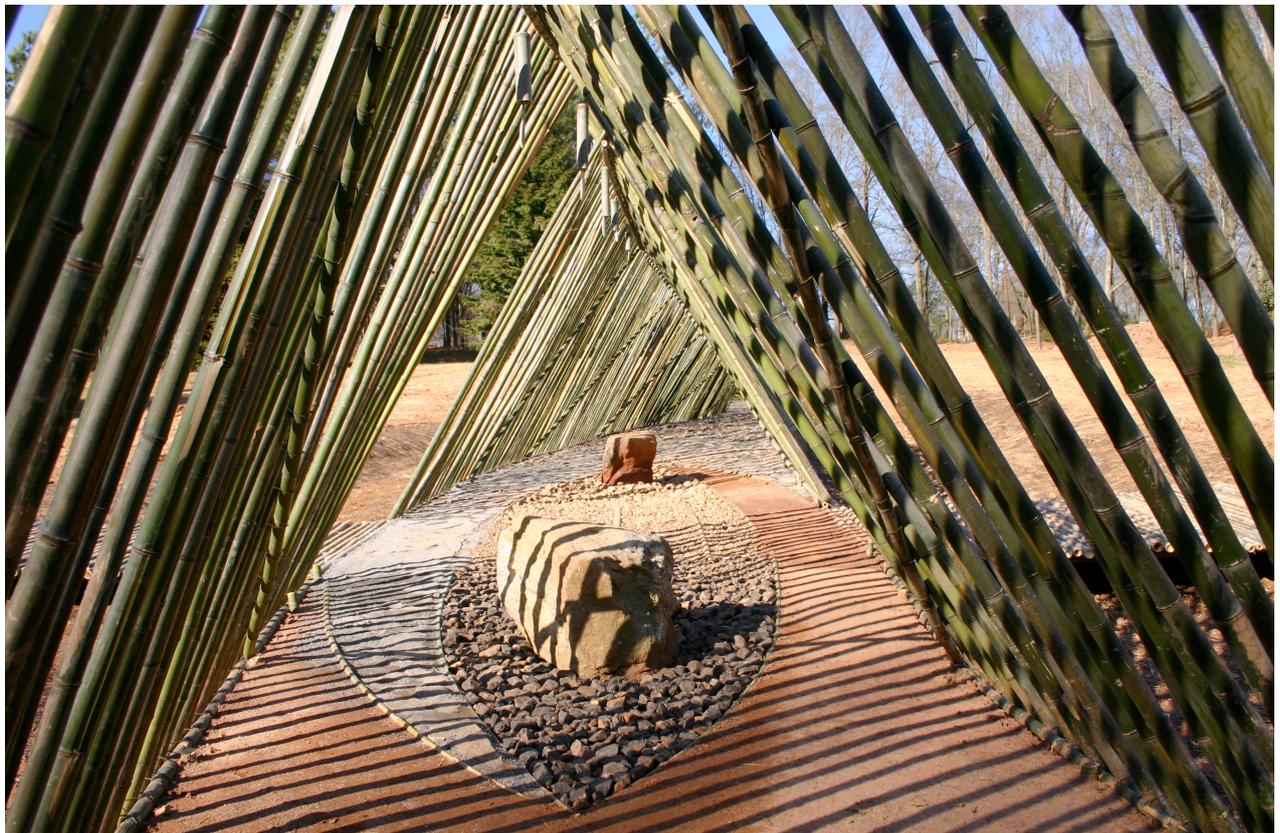


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**Welcome to the South Carolina Botanical Garden ...*"where nature and culture meet"***

## "A Chameleon Meadow ~ In Praise of Shadows"

The latest addition to the Nature-based Sculpture collection was dedicated on June 19, 2007. Artists, Yvette Dede of Charleston and Hiroko Inoue of Japan, spent the month on February 2007 creating this majestic work of art that Clemson University President James Barker remarked as resembling "a fossil rising up from the earth" in yesterday's key note address. The artists collaborated on the project to combine aesthetics with environmental function to solve a problem in the garden.



# Sculpture adds Asian touch to garden

*Clemson's 14th such artwork also has environmental function*

CLEMSON -- Tranquility floods the senses inside a new bamboo structure at the state Botanical Garden at Clemson University, especially when the wind moves the bamboo chimes that hang inside.

That's what the artists wanted, said Yvette Dede, one of two artists who created the newest addition to the collection of natural sculptures that dot the 295-acre garden off State 93.

A "grand opening" for the sculpture, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, was held Tuesday.

Japanese artist Hiroko Inoue and Dede, a Charleston artist of Asian descent, collaborated on the project that combines art, environmental function, and an intentional touch of the Orient.

Water -- runoff from the garden's greenhouse area -- flows alongside the long structure from an upper retention pond to a lower one, and plants that are part of the sculpture trap and absorb nitrates and phosphates, said Ernie Denny, program facilitator for the garden.

A total of 14 natural sculptures have been created in the garden by visiting artists, Denny said. Three are "extinct," returning to the earth, and two have been "revised" by artists who have returned to the garden.

Working together, with the help of participating Clemson students and faculty, "you feel emboldened by the interaction," Dede said. "You push yourself more. The outside support makes it special."

The garden's nature-based sculpture program is "internationally acclaimed," and is one of many drawing cards that bring an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 visitors to the garden annually, Denny said.

The garden is open to the public from dawn until dusk daily. Admission is free.

By Anna Simon  
CLEMSON BUREAU

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