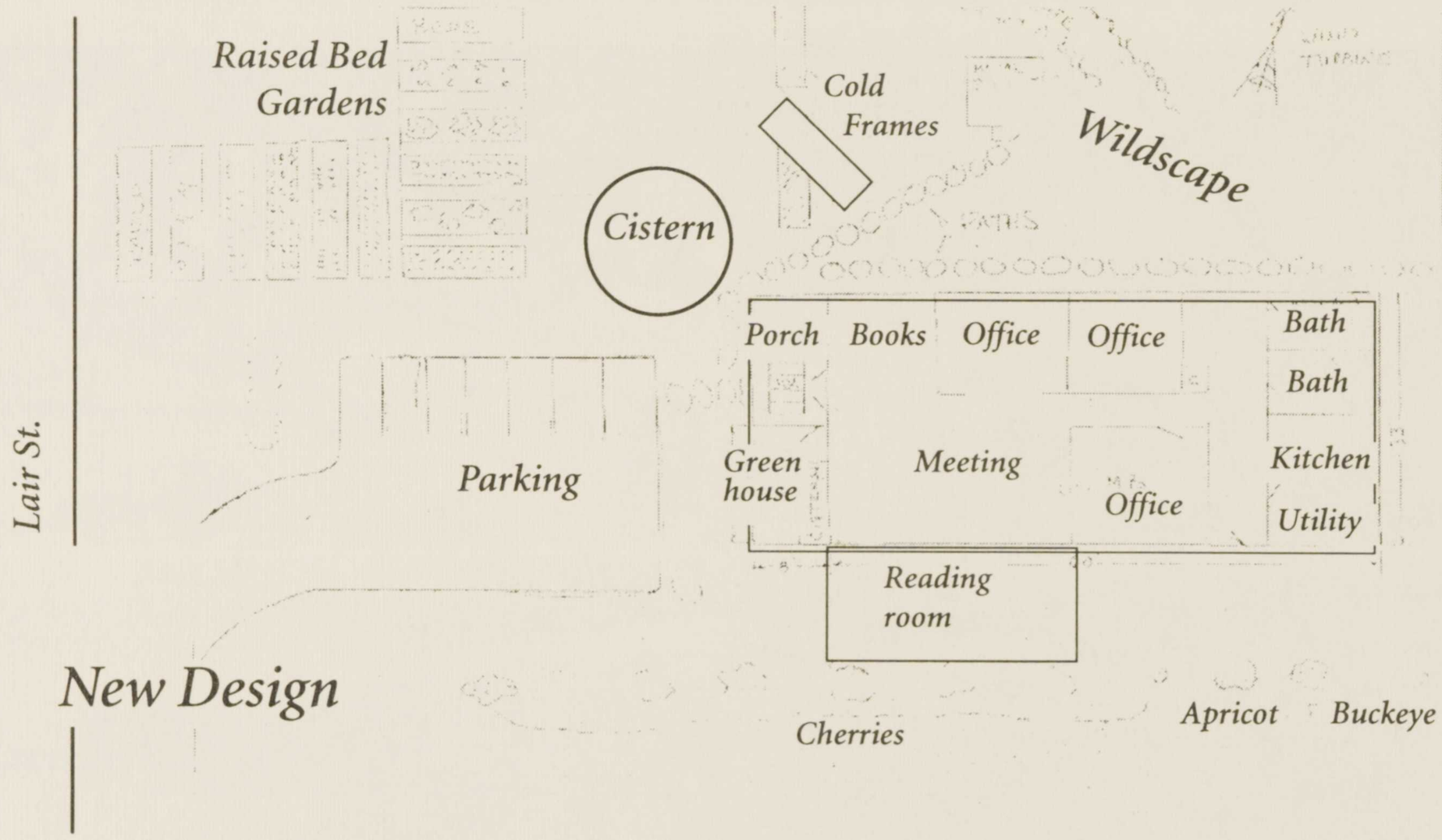
Yield The first year of the 15 raised beds along with a 16th in front of the solar greenhouse was very productive. We planted 31 types of vegetables and had yields of 1251 pounds of produce: tomatoes 675 lbs (mostly from our own seeds), kohlrabi 105 (from our own seed and plants), cabbage heads and leaves 60, mustard 50, Swiss chard 50, beet & beet greens 44, broccoli 35, peas 34, onions 33, corn 25, pole beans 24, radishes 20, green peppers 18, carrots 16, cucumbers 12, hot peppers 8, spinach 6, bush beans 6, pumpkins 6, lettuce 6, collards 5, endive 5, peanuts 5, celery 3, and less than one pound of kale, garlic, parsley, fennel, apple mint, lamb's quarters, and Jerusalem artichokes (unharvested). The beds were interplanted with a variety of marigolds to ward off pests. During the very rainy and unseasonably cool spring these beds prospered more than neighboring regular garden beds. We did, however, find it necessary to water the beds during the drier summer and fall months.



Edible Landscape & Wildscape

In the spring of 1996 ten Manchurian cherry and two apricots were planted on the east side border and in the fall of 1996 Notre Dame University volunteers assisted our grounds crew in planting five apple, five pear and one white walnut trees. Raspberry bushes were also added at this time. Grape vines and kiwis were planted in the autumn of 1997 so as to eventually form a trellis on the northeast entrance of the building. Also in the same autumn dirt was brought into the northwest portion of the property with the rock outcropping and sowed in order to form an ornamental wildscape in amongst the peach trees and raspberries.

Future Development

We intend to add the following to the grounds: a solar water heating system; greater variety of fruit trees; some shade trees on the southeast side; a new interior lighting system; and a solar sign in the front.

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