

Jon Carloftis is an award-winning landscape designer, author, popular lecturer and one of the pioneers in the design of rooftop and small-space gardens in New York City. His career in gardening and landscape design spans more than 30 years.

In 1988, he launched his career in New York City, where his design skills and talents for creating gardens in small spaces captured the attention of noted celebrities, including Julianne Moore, Edward Norton and Mike Myers, as well as a number of renowned art collectors. In addition, Carloftis designed rooftop gardens for several corporate clients, including the headquarters of Google® in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.

Carloftis is owner of Jon [Carloftis Fine Gardens](#) and [Rockcastle River Trading Company](#), a unique retail shopping destination situated on 50 bucolic acres on the Carloftis family homestead in Lexington, Kentucky. The store offers luxury items and quality lines of products for the home, seasonal treasures and invites shoppers to explore the garden and landscaping vignettes that showcase garden tools, statuary, pottery, outdoor furniture, and garden supplies.

Carloftis has written a number of popular garden-industry books including "Beautiful Gardens of Kentucky," an introspective of 21 public gardens throughout the Bluegrass State, "Beyond the Windowsill: Add Style to Your Home with the Beauty of Indoor Plants," and "First a Garden," which he co-authored with Susan Smith-Durisek. In recent years, Carloftis, a 10th generation Kentuckian, returned to his roots in Lexington to purchase and restore "Botherum," one of the city's most historically and architecturally unique residences. Built in 1851, the complex, two-year project included the restoration of the home's interior and exterior, as well as the landscaping and gardens. Carloftis and partner Dale Fisher were recognized for their work at Botherum with a 2014 Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Award, Kentucky's most distinguished award for historic preservation excellence.

Carloftis crafted garden designs for institutions in Kentucky, including the Kentucky Governor's mansion in Frankfort; Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond; University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg; Corbin Middle School in Corbin; and in 2016, the Baptist Health Lexington Cancer Center Garden, which was dedicated in memory of his mother, Lucille Bowling Carloftis. Ongoing commercial and residential projects throughout the state include the Maker's Mark Distillery in Loretto and the Castle Key Distillery in Frankfort, as well as rooftop gardens in Louisville and Lexington.

A longtime supporter of the mission of National Garden Clubs Inc., Carloftis designed a custom pink ceramic birdhouse, as part of his collection for Louisville Stoneware, in support of NGC's "Plant It Pink," program, a national initiative that promotes breast cancer awareness. In 2019, he designed and implemented a plan for the refurbishment of the atrium garden at NGC headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

Carloftis holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, where he cites his classes in business communications as the impetus for his entrepreneurial spirit. In addition, to foster his love of horticulture, he completed intensive courses of study at the University of Kentucky's College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Jon Carloftis was nominated by The Garden Club of Kentucky. Inc.