

Palace to get 'physic' garden

History: New attraction for Holyroodhouse

BY GRAEME MURRAY

A new public attraction is to be created at the Palace of Holyroodhouse inspired by a 17th-century herb garden.

The Royal Collection Trust has announced plans for the Edinburgh garden inspired by a "physic" or medicinal garden that was once based in the grounds.

It was then the first of its kind in Scotland and was originally created to teach students about the medicinal properties of plants and to provide pharmacists with fresh materials.

The new attraction will be created in the 2,500sq m area behind the Abbey Strand buildings and will have raised flower beds laid out in a geometric pattern, reflecting the design of early botanic gardens.

Royal Collection Trust di-

rector Jonathan Marsden said: "The return of scientific gardening to the place of its birth in Scotland will provide a new focus of interest for visitors to the palace, for the local community and especially, we hope, for young people."

The gardens have had a number of uses over the centuries. When Mary, Queen of Scots was resident in the 1560s, they included areas for jousting tournaments, hunting, hawking and archery.



SCIENTIFIC FOCUS: An artist's impression of the medicinal garden planned for the grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh



A view of the palace gardens in 1835



A 1647 map of the palace gardens