

# Chinese Gardens

**Landscape Design  
Series 7**

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A circular window with a dark frame looks out onto a lush garden. A large, dark tree trunk is on the left, with its branches and green leaves filling much of the view. In the foreground, two large, dark, rounded pots sit on a low wall. The ground is covered in green grass and small plants. The background shows more trees and a glimpse of a building. The text is overlaid on the scene in bright yellow.

# **Chinese Gardens**

**Larry Sagers**

**Utah State University Extension  
Service**

**Horticulture Specialist**

# **Chinese Gardens**

- **Chinese**
  - **There Are Three Categories:**
    - **Monastery Gardens**
    - **Imperial Parks and Gardens**
    - **Private Gardens, Often Known As "Scholar" Gardens**

# Chinese Gardens

## Chinese Monastery Gardens



**Oriental Gardens**

# Chinese Gardens

## Chinese Imperial Parks and Gardens

**Oriental Gardens**



# Chinese Gardens

**Chinese Private  
Gardens, Often  
Known As  
"Scholar"  
Gardens**



**Oriental Gardens**

# **Chinese Gardens**

**The Development of the Gardens  
Is Best Viewed in a Historical  
Context That Included Periods of  
Peace and Prosperity (The Main  
Development Periods) and  
Periods of Factions and Wars**



# Chinese Gardens

**Summer Palaces Were Built Away From the Main Imperial Palace for the Emperor to Escape the Summer Heat. Imperial Gardens Are A Fascinating and Varied Blend of Controlled Design and Subdued Planting**

# Chinese Gardens

**The Origin of  
Imperial  
Gardens Can  
Be Traced  
Back 3000  
Years to the  
Hunting  
Grounds**



# Chinese Gardens



**Confucianism  
and Taoism  
Influenced  
Garden  
Design in  
China, But  
Most Major  
Monasteries  
Are Based in  
Buddhism**

# Chinese Gardens

**Many Tales Sent Home to Europe  
From the Far East Had Their  
Influence but the Western Mind  
Was Slow to Grasp the Garden  
Ideas of the East. It Was the First  
Time an Entirely New Style  
Appeared With Nothing  
Foreshadowing It**

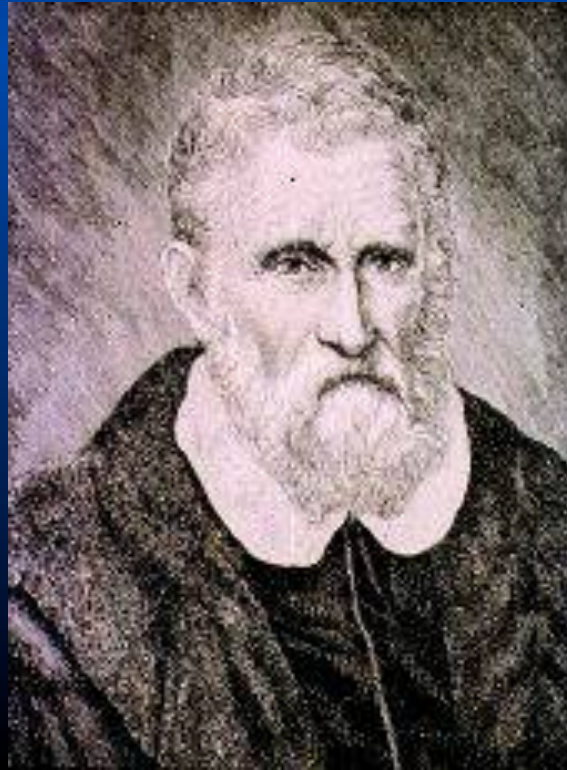
# Chinese Gardens



**The Style of the Picturesque, Opposed in Fundamental Principles to the Garden Art That the Western World Had Adopted**

# Chinese Gardens

- **The First Ample Accounts of the Gardens of China Are Given in the History of His Travels by Marco Polo the Venetian, Undertaken in the Years 1272—93**



# Chinese Gardens

- **Chinese**

- **When Marco Arrived at the Court of Kublai Khan, the Great Mongol Emperor, He Saw the Deer-park at the Summer Residence at Xanadu**



# Chinese Gardens

**He Also Saw the Palace of the Great Khan at Cambalu (Kambalu), and Described Its Double Row of Encircling Walls, Between the Animal Parks**





# Chinese Gardens

- **To China**

**Grapes, Wine, Alfalfa, Cucumbers,  
Figs, Pomegranates, Sesame,  
Chives, Coriander, Safflower,  
Domesticated Horses, Bactrian  
Camels, Astronomy, Medicine**

# Chinese Gardens

- **From China**
- **Silk, Roses, Azaleas, Chrysanthemums, Peonies, Camellias, Oranges, Peaches, Pears, Gunpowder, Paper, Printing**

# Chinese Gardens

**China Has A Long  
Tradition of  
Garden Design  
Linked to the  
Needs and the  
Wealth of Those  
Who Built Them**



# **Chinese Gardens**

**The Grand Imperial Palaces and Their  
Gardens Were Built During Times of Peace  
and Prosperity in the Centers of Political  
Power**

# Chinese Gardens

- **In the Garden Proper Marco Polo Especially Admired an Artificial Mound, Fully a Hundred Feet High, Standing on a Base of “About a Mile” (Perhaps a Thousand Feet?)**



# Chinese Gardens

**This Mound Was Made of Soil Dug  
Out for the Lake and On It There  
Were Evergreen Trees. When the  
Emperor Heard of A Beautiful  
Tree Anywhere He It  
Transplanted and Conveyed to  
This Mound by Elephants**

# Chinese Gardens

**He Acquired the Finest Collection of Trees in the World. He Had the Mound Covered With Green Earth. The Trees and Hill Where They Stood Were Green So It Was the Green Hill.**

# Chinese Gardens

**Rocks Are Widely  
Used in Chinese  
Gardens and  
Their Use in  
Imperial Parks Is  
on A Grand Scale**





# **Chinese Gardens**

**Private Gardens Were First  
Recorded in China in the 4th  
Century A.D. By the 7th Century  
More Than 2000 Private Gardens Were  
Recorded in Cities of Chang'an and  
Luoyang**

# **Chinese Gardens**

**Private Gardens Design Was  
Touched by Daoist Principles of  
Wanting to Be Alone, Humility and  
Eradication of Desire**

# **Chinese Gardens**

**A Common Design Theme for  
Private Gardens Was Personal  
Scholarship for Spiritual, Moral  
or Intellectual Development**

# **Chinese Gardens**

**Wounded Pride Was Also A Theme. Frequently The Reason for Building A Garden Was That the Owner Had Fallen From Imperial Favor And Intended to Pursue A More Private Life**

# Chinese Gardens

**Perhaps No  
Other Gardens  
Make Such Rich  
Use of  
Symbolism and  
Nature As Do  
These Gardens**



# **Chinese Gardens**

**These Decidedly Asymmetrical Gardens Are Meticulously Laid Out and Each of the Plants, Stones and Building Add an Important Aspect to the Landscape**



# Chinese Gardens

**These Gardens Utilize Impeccable Plants**



**Oriental Gardens**



# **Chinese Gardens**

**These Gardens Included Animals,  
Birds and Fish to Provide  
Movement, and Were Used As  
Sites for Feasts and Parties  
Given by Noblemen**

# Chinese Gardens

**The Layout of These Gardens Was Dictated by Myth and Legend; For Example, Streams Had to Run From East to West Because in Ancient Chinese Lore, the East Was the Source of Purity and the West Was the Outlet of Impurities**

# **Chinese Gardens**

**Love of Learning Makes These  
Gardens an Important Concept  
And Plants That Are Native to  
China Are Often Found In Our  
Gardens**



# **Chinese Gardens**

**Classical Private Gardens Were  
Cultural Rather Than Scenic**



# **Chinese Gardens**

**These Private Gardens Were  
Designed By Artists And Poets And  
Were "Three-dimensional  
Landscape Painting And Solid  
Landscape Poetry"**





# Chinese Gardens

**Chinese Classical Painting  
Was Unique Because  
Poems Were Written  
On Paintings**



# Chinese Gardens

**This Made Painting A Combination Of Landscape And Poetic Calligraphical Strokes And Was Called "Poetic Landscape Painting". Chinese Classical Gardens Were Created In The Same Way**

# Chinese Gardens

**Combination Of  
Landscape And  
Paintings  
Together With  
Poems  
This Was The  
"Poetic Garden"**



# **Chinese Gardens**

**The Design Concept Of Chinese Private Gardens Was To Provide A "Spiritual Utopia" For People To Come Back To Nature, To Come Back To One's Inner Heart And To Come Back To Ancient Idealism**

# **Chinese Gardens**

**Chinese Private Gardens Were  
Spiritual Shelter For Men Of  
Letters For A Place Closer To  
Nature, To Be Close To One's Own  
Heart And Closer To The Ancient,  
While Far-away From Their Real  
Social Lives**

# **Chinese Gardens**

**They Were Often Frustrated And  
Disappointed At The Long-lasting  
Monarchic Feudal Social System In  
China. Private Gardens Were A  
Kind Of Non-spoken Language**

# **Chinese Gardens**

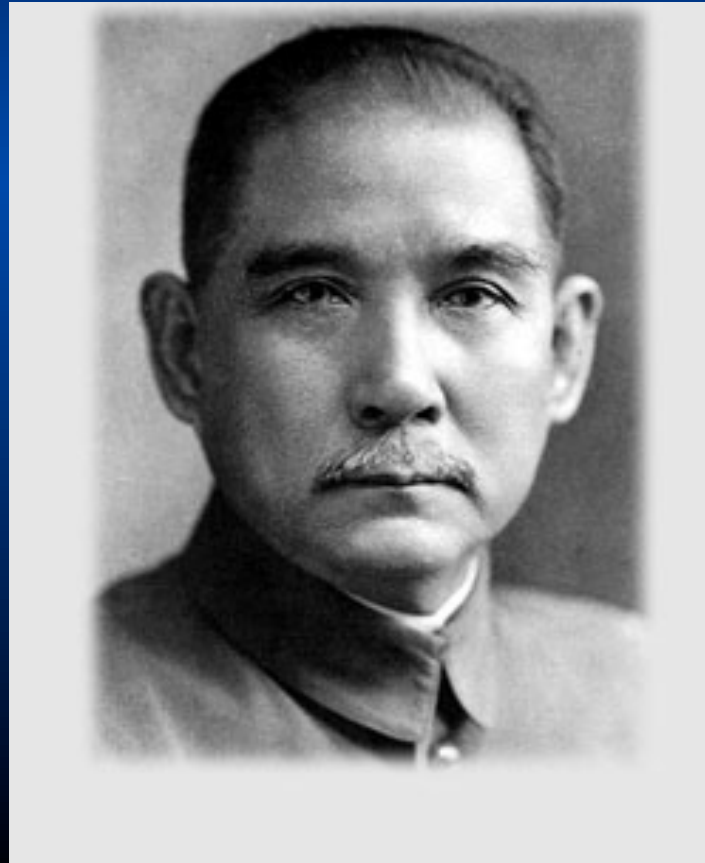
**Men Of Letters Spoke To Nature, To  
Themselves And To Ancient  
Idealists In A Way That They  
Could Not Speak Out Normally**





# Chinese Gardens

**Dr. Sun Yat Sen**



**Oriental Gardens**

# Chinese Gardens

## Map of the Sun Yat Sen Garden



**Oriental Gardens**

# **Chinese Gardens**

- **The Chinese Garden Style Had a Profound Effect On the Japanese Gardens That Followed**