Landscape Design Series 8
Japanese Garden Design

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Japanese Gardens

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oast

- **oast**  _n._ A kiln for drying hops or malt or drying and curing tobacco.

- [Middle English ost, from Old English  st.]

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Japanese Gardens

– The Opening of Japan in 1868 Had a Far Reaching Effect on the Rest of the World and on Gardens in Other Countries
Japanese Gardens

– These Gardens Are Beautiful to Look at and Peaceful in Their Design
Japanese Gardens

- Understanding How and Why They Are Designed and Maintained Enhances Their Enjoyment
Japanese Gardens

- Their Significance Comes From Religious Beliefs and a Deep and Abiding Respect for Nature
Japanese Gardens

- Elements From Oriental Gardens Are In Many Contemporary Landscapes
Japanese Gardens

- Japanese Dry Gardens Offer an Exciting Alternative to Most Water-wise Designs
Japanese Gardens

- Japanese Gardens Date Back to at Least 592 AD and the Art Had Progressed Long Before
Japanese Gardens

- Early Gardens Contained Artificial Hills, Ornamental Pools and Many Other Features of Japanese Gardens Today
Japanese Gardens

The First Major Development in the History of Japanese Gardens Came in the Nara Period (646-794 AD)
Japanese Gardens

- When Trade With China Began in Earnest Many Changes Came to the Japanese Culture
Japanese Gardens

- The Japanese Elite Class Constructed More Elaborate Gardens in their Castles
Japanese Gardens

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

• As the Fascination With Other Cultures Began to Wear off in the Heian Period (794-1185 AD), Those Who Could Afford to Build Gardens Had a Renewed Interest in Traditional Japanese Styles and Customs
Japanese Gardens

- This Change Brought an Elegant Mix of Chinese Customs and Japanese Style to Gardens, Known As Shinden
Japanese 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
Japanese Garden

- Few Changes Were Made to the Shinden Style Until the Middle of the Katakura Period (1185-1392) When Zen Buddhist Priests Began Creating Gardens for Meditation Instead of Merely for Entertainment
Japanese Gardens

- The Decorative Was Played Down in Favor of Mediation; Gardens in This Era Includes Stones, Water and Evergreens and Remained Constant Through the Year
Japanese Gardens

- This Minimalist Theory Was Carried to Even Greater Extremes in the Muromachi and Higashiyama Periods (1392-1573) When Gardens Contained Only Stones
Oriental Gardens
Japanese Gardens

- Created in the Style of the Popular Monochrome Landscape Paintings, These Gardens Used Specially Picked Stones As Metaphors for Natural Objects. The Flat Garden, or Hira-niwa Also Developed During This Time
Japanese Gardens

• During the Momoyama Period, Royal Gardens Again Became Lush and Vibrant and Were Full of Hills, Waterfalls, and a Variety of Plants. Old Zen Traditions Continued in Tea Gardens
Japanese Gardens

- Walking Gardens Were Constructed to Be Pleasing to the Eye From Any Angle, and Paths were Woven Into the Structure of the Garden
Japanese Gardens

- Japanese Gardens Are Very Alive, Giving a Great Variety in Japanese Gardens
Japanese Flat Gardens

• Flat Gardens, or Hira-niwa, Are Constructed Without Hills or Water; the Flat Ground Level Symbolizes Water
Japanese Flat Gardens

- The Ground Is Usually Covered With Pebbles, Raked in Circles and Straight Lines to Give the Impression of Ripples
Japanese Flat Gardens

• These Gardens Contain Stones, Trees, Stone Lanterns and Wells and Are Representative of the Seaside or of Grand Lakes
Japanese Flat Gardens

- Carefully Selected and Placed Groups of Stones Symbolize Islands; Sometimes a Waterfall Is Suggested by Upright Oblong Stones
Japanese Flat Gardens

• The Garden Design Is Very Subtle; Stone Placement Oftentimes Suggests Far off Lands and Mystical Locales
Oriental Gardens
Japanese Flat Gardens

- Many Modern Flat Gardens Have Wells and Stone Lanterns
Oriental Gardens
Japanese Hill Gardens

• The Japanese Name for Hill Gardens, Tsukiyama-sansui, Means Hills and Water: the Foundations of a Classic Hill Garden. This Garden Is Like a Three-dimensional Picture
Japanese Hill Gardens

- Traditional Gardens Were Viewed From Only One Point, Modern Gardens Are Designed With Winding Paths to Fully Display the Garden. Paths Are Carefully Made of Selected Flat Stones
Japanese Hill Gardens

Water is important and nearly every garden contains a waterfall and a pond. Waterfalls are an essential to direct water down the hill and provide great symbolism.
Japanese Hill Gardens

- The Ike, or Pond Represent a Sea, Lake, or Pond in Nature. It Is Usually Rimmed With Stone-work and Always Contains an Island
Japanese Hill Gardens

- The Islands Have Are Rocks As Their Base and Dirt Piled Neatly on Top for Plants to Grow
Japanese Hill Gardens

– Sometimes a Garden Designer Includes a Bridge to an Island. If So, There Is Often a Stone Lantern or Other Worship Object
Japanese Hill Gardens

• This Type of Layout Is Designed to Give the Appearance of Great Distance and Expansiveness, As If the Whole World Were Contained in This Garden
Japanese Hill Gardens

Some suggest this is because there is so little space in Japan. A more philosophical view is that the creators of these gardens are presenting the essence of nature reduced to its essential components.
Japanese Tea Gardens

- The Japanese Tea Garden Plays an Integral Part in the Tea Ceremony, and As the Ceremony Has Grown More Elaborate Through the Years, So Have the Tea Gardens
Japanese Tea Gardens

- The Tea Garden Is Similar to a Hill Garden, but Is Different in Several Respects
Japanese Tea Gardens

- The Tea Garden Contains a Wash Basin, or Tsukubai that Is Surrounded by Yaku-ishi, or (Literally "Accompanying Stones")
Japanese Tea Gardens

- The Basin Itself Can Be Any Shape, As Long As It Can Be Easily Used. Broken Stone Lanterns Are Often Put to Use As New Wash Basins
Japanese Tea Gardens

- The Tea Garden Contains a Resting Place, for Breaks in the Tea Ceremony. The Resting Place's Principal Purpose, Is to Convey the Spirit of Wabi, or Quiet Solitude in Nature
Japanese Tea Gardens

The Outer Garden Contains Deciduous Plants and Trees and Is Open and Spacious while The Inner Garden Is Filled With Dense Evergreens, Symbolizing Its Everlasting Peace
Japanese Tea Gardens

- Stone Lanterns Light the Gravel or Flat Stones Pathways Between the Two Sections and Have Relatively Few Stones
Japanese Tea Gardens

- These use indigenous plants and materials from the countryside and flowering plants and extravagant designs are avoided.
Japanese Tea Gardens

- Garden Designers Seek the Essence of Nature, and Present It As a Contemplative Subject Making The Modern Tea Garden Well-known Around the World
Oriental Gardens
Japanese Bonsai Garden

- Bonsai was thought to have started in China and transferred to Japan during the middle of the Heian Period (794-1185)
Japanese Bonsai Gardens

• "Bonsai" Means "Cultivation in a Pot". Regional Gardens Influenced Bonsai in Japan, Distinguishing It From the Chinese Variety
Japanese Bonsai Gardens

- Bonsai Creates a Small Plant That Suggests a Larger Natural Scene. These use a Variety of Trees That Are Reshaped and Repotted to Keep Them Small.
Japanese Bonsai Gardens

• If Properly Cared For, Bonsai Trees Can Live Many Years with Some Examples Almost Five Hundred Years Old
Japanese Bonsai Gardens

- Bonsai is viewed according to a predetermined criteria of beauty including root spread. Bonsai roots do not spread until they are older.
Japanese Bonsai Gardens

• Another Quality Is the "Rise" of the Trunk or the Way the Tree Rises off Its Base and the Shape of the Base. The Last Important Quality Is the Arrangement of the Bonsai's Branches
Japanese Bonsai Gardens

- Bonsai has trunk styles. The most basic is the straight trunk. Other variations include the curved and triple-trunk.
Japanese Bonsai Gardens

- The Variety and Complexity of Bonsai Underscores This Unique Art Form Including the Windswept Style, the Raised Roots Style and Cascade Style (Where Bonsai Grows Outside and Below the Rim of the Pot)
Japanese Gardens

• Many of the Landscape Techniques We Use Today Come From Oriental Gardens
Japanese Gardens

- The Area Has Also Given Us a Multitude of Excellent Plants That We Cultivate in Our Gardens
Oriental Gardens
Japanese Gardens

• Some Botanists Consider the Western China Sino/Himalayan Area to Be One of the Last Great Undiscovered Plant Areas on Earth
Join Us Next Week for a Look at the Garden Revolution in the British Isles
The End