Spanish Garden Design

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SPANISH GARDENS

• The Iberian Peninsula Is Another Site Of A Significant Garden Design Concept
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• The Area Has Been Important Horticulturally For Thousands Of Years
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• After The Decline Of The Roman Empire, Islamic Spain Became The Center Of European Civilization
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- Gardens Show The Influence Of Political, Religious And Ethnic Diversity
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- This Diversity Has Helped Create A Unique Garden Style
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- The Oldest Surviving Continuously Maintained Gardens Are The Patios And Courtyards Of Cordoba, Seville And Granada In Andalusia.
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- These Gardens Endure As Representatives Of Garden Designs Of A Former Time And Place.
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- Roman And Moorish Civilizations Contributed Much To The Design Of Spanish Gardens
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- Romans Occupied Spain For Seven Centuries From 205 B. C. To 500 A.D.
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• They Built Towns, Roads, Bridges, And Aqueducts Throughout Spain
• Many Of These Are Still In Use Today
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• The Roman Atrium Was The Model For The Spanish Patio
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- The Patio Became The Central Feature Of Spanish Garden Design
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- In 711 A.D. The Moors Brought Significant Advances In Agriculture And Horticulture And In The Arts And Sciences When They Conquered The Peninsula
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• They Built Elaborate Mosques And Palaces With Courtyards And Terraces That Incorporated The Essential Elements Of Shade, Water, And Plants
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- Elaborate Irrigation Systems Were Constructed To Water To Fields And Gardens
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- The Forecourt Of The Magnificent Mosque Of Cordoba, Planted With Rows Of Orange Trees Along The Irrigation Channels Is Thought To Be The Oldest, Continuously Maintained Garden In The World.
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• It Represents The Concepts Of Gardens That Produced Food And Were Decorative
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• Moorish Gardens Were Private Retreats To Contemplate And Enjoy
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- The Islamic Influence On Horticulture Has Been Significant In The Iberian Peninsula And Important In The Horticulture Of Latin America
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• No Statues Are Seen In Spanish Gardens Of That Era As They Are Prohibited By The Koran
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• The Islamic Influence Included Tools And Technology From China:
  – Gunpowder
  – Paper Making
  – The Compass
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• These Developments Created An Appetite For More Riches From The East
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• This Led To The Great Explorations That Resulted In The Discovery (From The European/western Perspective) And The Transfer Of Thousands Of Plants
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• This Spanish Mission in New Mexico Had Gardens That Were Typical Spanish Design
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Because of the warm climate, gardens were designed to be enjoyed in all seasons.
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- They Also Were Designed As Multi-sensory Gardens
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• They Had The Sound Of Water And Bird Song
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• They Had The Fragrance Of Oranges, Roses, And Jasmine
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• The Generalife Palace Shows The Importance Of Water As A Garden Element.
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• During The 15th Century, Christian Reconquest Of Spain, Culminated In 1492 With The Conquest Of Granada
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- There Was An Assimilation Of Islamic Learning And Design
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• Christians Incorporated Islamic Elements In Architecture And Garden Design, Using Moorish Craftsmen To Create Mudejar Designs
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- The Elaborate Palace And Patios Of Seville Are Excellent Examples Of Mudejar (Hispano-Islamic) Design
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• The Medieval Cloister Garden Continued The Courtyard Tradition In Cathedrals And Monasteries Where Monks Often Grew Medicinal Herbs And Flowers
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• The Renaissance Also Influenced Garden Design In Spain
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- Classical Statues Were Added To Gardens Along Topiary Hedges Which Were First Introduced By The Romans.
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- In the 16th century, botanists began to collect plants in the New World. They brought many species to Europe.
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- Plants From The Americas And Africa Were Used Enthusiastically In Gardens Along With Plants From The Mediterranean Region
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• The Structure Of Gardens Is Often Defined By Walls Or By Clipped Hedges Planted In Geometric Patterns, Perhaps Inspired By Islamic Designs.
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- Privacy is achieved by enclosures that separate the garden from the outside world or by dividing the space into a series of terraces or garden rooms.
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• Shade is an essential element of gardens in a Mediterranean climate.
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- Vine-covered Arbors And Covered Terraces Provide Shade And Shelter.
The Changing Patterns Of Sun And Shade In Patios Offer Visual Interest, While The Coverings Themselves Offer Protection From Summer Heat And Provide Warmth In Winter.
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- A Spanish Garden Emphasizes The Integration Of House And Garden Where Outdoor Living Is As Natural As Living Indoors
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• Patios And Terraces Are Outdoor Rooms That Extend The Architecture And Materials From The Interior To The Exterior For A Harmonious Effect.
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• Cultivated Areas Are Clearly Defined And Often Limited By Paved Areas That Reduce The Space For Planting So Plants Must Be Selected With Care.
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- Paving Materials Include Local Stone, Pebbles Or Tiles And Bricks Arranged In Decorative Patterns
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- Foliage, Fruits, And Fragrant Ornamentals Are Combined For Practicality And Pleasure.
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- Low Maintenance Gardens Are Achieved By Using Native And Drought-tolerant Plants With Colorful Accents Planted In Containers And Flowering Vines Climbing Over Walls And Balconies.
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- A Shaded Place With A Water Feature In The Form Of A Pool, Fountain, Or Simple Basin Refreshes The Spirit In A Warm Climate
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• These Become A Cool Oasis A Garden Designed For Privacy And Socializing
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- Spanish Gardens Are Inspirational And Offer Endless Possibilities For Mediterranean Climates
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- A Stroll Through The Narrow Streets Of The Old City Affords Glimpses Of Charming Patios Through Ornamental Iron Gates.
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- A Well Or Water Basin Typically Supplies Water For The Household And Cools The Patio In Warm Weather.
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• Taste From Citrus, Grapes And Dates
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- Symmetrical Beauty From The Hardscapes And The Plants
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- Textures From Stones, Plants And Other Materials
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The End
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• These Exquisite Patios And Palaces Were Designed For The Reign Of A Single Ruler, But Fortunately, They Were Preserved And Have Endured For Centuries As Examples Of Timeless Beauty
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• These Gardens And Palaces Are Integrated By Their Architecture, Decorative elements, And By Water Flowing Continuously From Interior Rooms Into Adjoining Courtyards And Terraces
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• The Alhambra Palace Is World Famous For The Delicate Carved Arches
The Same Moorish Influence That Culminated In The Alhambra Palace Also Developed A Distinct Garden Style
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