

I Genealogy of the Japanese Garden Outside of Japan

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Introduction

Japanese Gardens in Foreign Lands

In the formation of the Japanese garden style the influence of imported culture- particularly from China-played an important role. Japanese gardens of the Nara Period¹ were greatly influenced by Chinese theories of design and geomancy. With the turn trend toward Japanese vernacular culture during the Heian Period², however, gardens evolved a more sophisticated and more indigenous style. By the time the cultural initiative shifted from the Kuge (court nobility) of the Heian Period to the Samurai (warriors) of the Kamakura³ and Muromachi Periods, the character of the Japanese garden was already well established.

It was the late 16th century (the Muromachi Period) when missionary priests visited Japan and noted the characteristics of Japanese gardens in comparison with their gardens in Europe, while expressing admiration for the gardens they found there. While this enabled information on Japanese gardens to reach Europe, due to the national seclusion policy (*sakoku*)-which ensued from the 17th century and lasted throughout the Edo Period⁴-informative exchange was subsequently limited to the collecting and cataloging of unique plants by Dutch traders such as Kampfer, Seybold et.al.

As a result of this self-imposed isolation, no authentic Japanese garden was created outside Japan until the Meiji period⁶, when exchanges with foreign lands and cultures were restarted. It was on the occasion of the Vienna Expo of 1873 that the first authentic Japanese garden was constructed for exhibition abroad by Japanese Government.



Photo-1: Japanese Garden at the Vienna Expo

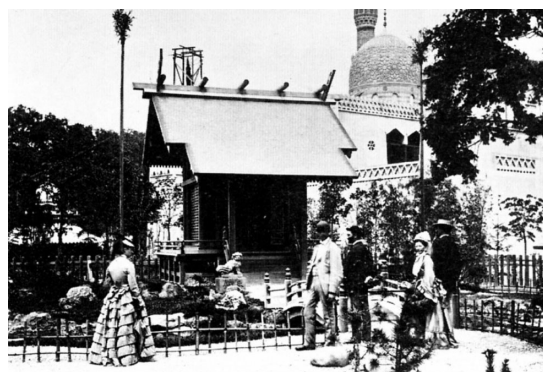


Photo-2: Japanese Garden at the Vienna Expo

1. Japanese Gardens and the Influence of World Expositions

The late 19th century was characterized by the advent of the World Exposition. The Japanese garden in the Vienna Expo was constructed in the *Shin-en* style, characterized by the use of a shrine and temple as central features. The garden materials used in this garden have been preserved and reused

¹ Nara Period: 710-794

² Heian Period: 794-1192

³ Kamakura Period: 1192-1333

⁴ Muromachi Period: 1338-1573

⁵ Edo Period: 1603-1867

⁶ Meiji Period: 1868-1912

in the existing garden of the Alexander Palace in Britain. In the many Expos to follow-Philadelphia (1876), Paris (1878), Paris (1889), Chicago (1893) and Paris (1900), Japan displayed gardens along with various arts and crafts. This led to the fashion of *Japonisme* in Europe in the late 19th century.

Inspired by the influx of Japanese culture, the number of foreigners inspired to visit Japan increased. They also began to import houses, furniture and garden materials, as well as to employ Japanese carpenters and gardeners in order to construct Japanese environments of their own. In the case of “Midori-no-sato” (completed in 1885 and enlarged at a later date), the Frenchman Hugues Krafft built a house and garden in the Japanese style. For the maintenance of this property, he employed a full-time Japanese gardener, Hata Wasuke.

Similarly, in the United States, “Japanese Fever” had already begun around the time of the Chicago and San Francisco Expos (1893 and 1894 respectively). Although a number of Japanese gardens were privately constructed across the country, the garden in San Francisco was the first large-scale Japanese garden open to the public. This garden still exists today in a corner of Golden Gate Park, as part of the “Japanese Tea Garden,” and is considered the oldest Japanese Garden in the United States.

Japan’s exhibition facilities in the Expos of the early 20th century displayed Japanese gardens on a large and influential stage. But the outbreak of World War II in the late 1930s resulted in the condemnation of things Japanese and a hiatus in World Expos until the late 20th century. The following chapter “International Expositions and Japanese Gardens” provides further details on the genealogy of Japanese gardens in International Expositions of this period.



Photo-3: The San Francisco Expo



Figure-1: Japanese Tea Garden

2. Japanese Gardens as Amusement Parks and Commercial Facilities

In the United States, Japanese gardens were often constructed for their exotic atmosphere as “Japanese Tea Gardens” in the corner of amusement parks, or as a part of authentic Japanese-style restaurants. Most of these gardens were produced by Japanese entrepreneurs for their business operations. The Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco is a typical example. It was enlarged, repaired and maintained under Japanese-American Hagiwara Makoto’s management since 1895, and is currently managed by the city of San Francisco. It currently occupies an area 5 larger than when it was originally constructed back in 1891. At that time, it was a part of a resort facility in Blair Park in Piedmont (adjacent to Oakland and Berkeley), California. Presumably because of its successful operation, a Japanese tea garden of a much larger scale was opened in neighboring Piedmont Park in 1900.

At the same time (1896), in the resort town Atlantic City on the East Coast of America, a large scale Japanese Tea Garden was constructed under the management of Arai Saburo and Kushibiki Yumindo. When this garden was closed in 1900, some of its materials were removed and reused for the construction of a Japanese garden on the roof of the Madison Square Garden in New York. Similarly, Japanese Tea Gardens were constructed around the same time in the following places: Pacific Point near Monterey, California (1904), Gogar Park in British Columbia, Canada (1907), and Breckenridge Park in San Antonio (1918)

Here, I would like to add some additional notes of explanation about Japanese tea gardens and Japanese gardens constructed as so-called pleasure gardens. Japanese houses and gardens constructed overseas, usually combined furniture, plant display (such as bonsai), tea service and souvenir shops, to create a characteristic atmosphere of Japanese hospitality, as dispensed by kimono-clad Japanese women. Such stage set houses and gardens were a direct spin-off of Japanese gardens as developed in the Expos, where tea services and sales of Japanese commodities were an integral part of the “introduction to Japan.” For example, one of two exhibition booths in the Philadelphia Expo (1876) was called “Japanese Bazaar and Garden.” This was in large measure a temporary commercial facility, set up to sell Japanese tea—the second largest Japanese export commodity in those days. This atmosphere of “cultural commercialism” can still be seen in the present day Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco.

As with current World Expos, where such commercial-oriented exhibitions are common, the Expos of those days were important opportunities for worldwide promotion of domestic commodities. Japan’s promotional efforts in these Expos directly led to the outbreak of “*Japonisme*” or “Japan Fever” from the late 19th century. They also led to the construction of Japanese tea gardens across the United States as commercial facilities independent from the Expos.

In the Japan of the 1880s (the mid-Meiji Period), privately operated public gardens were built throughout the country, incorporating the Japanese garden style as the basic design. These “pleasure gardens,” such as the Asakusa Hanayashiki, Mukojima Hyakaen Gardens and Komatsushimaen in Mukojima, with teahouses and displays of rare flowers animals, were popular among the public. Gardens attached to Japanese restaurants, such as Musashiya in Mukojima and *Satake-no-Niwa* (beer garden) were also popular. When such facilities (pleasure gardens) and traditional restaurants were exported to the United States, Japanese gardens played an important role.

The genealogy of Japanese gardens as pleasure gardens can still be seen today in such places as the Japanese Village in Seaworld San Diego (built in 1965), and the Japan Pavilion and Gardens in the Epcot Center of Walt Disney World Resort in Florida (built in 1982)

There are also several early examples of Japanese gardens to restaurants, which retain some of their original appearance. Such gardens as the Japanese garden in the guest facilities of the Bon Marche department store in Paris (built in 1897, and partially preserved as the Garden of the Pagoda Cinema), and the Yamashiro Restaurant in Hollywood (built in 1914), fall into this category.

Although it no longer exists, the Japanese garden created on the main floor of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in New York can be considered the pioneer of Japanese gardens built in hotels and restaurants worldwide.



Photo-4: Japanese Tea Garden



Photo-5: The Epcot Center of Walt Disney World Resort

3. Public and Private Gardens with a Japanese Style

From the late 19th to the early 20th century, Westerners who visited Japan and those inspired by imported Japanese commodities built houses and gardens that incorporated elements of Japanese

taste. The previously mentioned Midori-no-sato was inspired by Hugues Krafft's visit to Japan. Another example of the same period, the garden of the baroness de Versigny (built around 1885) was based on her experience of residing in Japan, and for which she collected Japanese native plants and assigned Japanese carpenters to build structures. The following are similar examples from the 19th century that displayed Japanese native plants, arts and crafts and are still in existence:

- Garden incorporating Japanese style in the house of the former British Ambassador to Japan, at Mitford, Great Britain (built in the 1890 s)
- The garden of the house of Clingendael, former residence of the Countess of Van Brienon (built in 1890-1895)

The following are similar examples from the 20th century that are still in existence:

- The Japanese Gardens at Tully in Ireland, the former residence of Colonel William Hall-Walker, whose concept for his garden was based on his life experience in Japan (built in 1906-1910).
- Hakone Garden, the former residence of Mr and Mrs Stine, on the outskirts of San Francisco (built in 1915-1918).

There are also a number of gardens created by owners with no experience in Japan:

- A garden incorporating Japanese taste by Claude Monet, still in existing in Giverny, France (built in 1893).
- Maulevrier's Oriental Park, the former residence of French architect Alexandre Marcel (built in 1899-1913).

In addition, the basis for the Butchart Garden (built in 1904), a world famous garden in Vancouver, was the construction of a Japanese style garden by Mr and Mrs Butchart, who devoted themselves to Japanese culture.

Apart from these gardens, which were subsequently opened to the public, innumerable private Japanese gardens were constructed between the late 19th century and the 1930 s by those whose interest in Japanese culture developed into a desire to have a Japanese garden of their own. Japanese gardeners and the development of information on Japanese gardens and garden materials supported this movement.

In the United States of the 1890 s, Japanese individuals were already traveling there for work or immigrating and working on the construction of Japanese gardens. The Japanese Nursery, Yokohama Ueki, inaugurated branches in San Francisco in 1890, a New York in 1898, and a London in 1907. Antique dealer Yamanaka Shokai also founded branches in New York (1894) and London (1900).

Meanwhile, in the late 19th century, people in various countries started making Japanese gardens of their own design, with the help of publications on Japanese gardens by such well-known authorities as Edward Morse or Josiah Conder. Magazines related to landscape and horticulture, published in Western countries in those days, often featured Japanese gardens and plants. More than 200 on Japanese gardens foreign publications from that have been discovered. Such an abundance of materials ensured the construction of innumerable numbers of Japanese gardens worldwide. Several



Photo-6: The Hakone Gardens, the Former Residence of Stein Family



Photo-7: Private Japanese Garden in California

old and large-scale examples of private Japanese gardens, include the landscape around a Japanese Pagoda in the Royal Garden at Laeken, Belgium (built in 1901), and the garden in the former government house in Taiwan, presently the Taipei Guest House (built in 1901). A more recent example is the private garden of Lawrence Ellison, the president of Oracle, in Woodside, San Jose (built between 1995 and 2004).

4. Japanese Gardens as a Collection of Garden Styles (Theme Park Style Garden)

The boom in the construction of Japanese gardens between the 19th and 20th centuries, which resulted from attention to the novelty of Japanese gardens and plants, also influenced the construction of Japanese garden areas within existing gardens, and the incorporation of Japanese gardens into park-style gardens that bring together various garden styles in one place. Examples of the first type include the Palace and Gardens of Schonbrunn in Vienna (built in 1913) and the Castle of Courances in France (built in the 1930 s). Examples of the second type include the Albert Kahn House in the suburb of Paris (built between 1894 and 1910), the Villa of Ephrussi de Rothschild in the suburb of Nice (built between 1905 and 1912), and the Huntington Botanical Gardens (formerly the residence of Mr. Huntington), in the suburb of Los Angeles (built in 1912-1913).

In particular, the Huntington Botanical Gardens are comprised of various garden areas and featuring unique plant collections from various countries and regions. Originally a private garden it recently came under the control of a trust, which opened the garden to the public. This trend to incorporate Japanese gardens into public botanical gardens, along with strengthening plant collections, is a phenomenon of the early 20th century.

In the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, 80 prunus species were imported through Yokohama Ueki Nursery in 1903-1904. The Japanese garden in New York City's Brooklyn Botanic Gardens constructed in 1915 was a pioneering example of authentic Japanese gardens in botanical gardens. Although there were several plans to construct Japanese gardens in municipal botanical parks and university-affiliated botanical gardens in the United States, most of them were materialized only after World War II. Especially in the 1970 s, Japanese garden zones were incorporated into a number of botanical gardens such as the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens (1970), the Chicago Botanic Garden (1972), the Missouri Botanical Garden (1977), and the Denver Botanic Gardens (1979).

Except for Fort Worth, designed by a local Japanese-American, the above gardens were all designed by one very active Japanese landscape architect, Kawana Koichi (1930-1990), who was based in Los Angeles. These gardens were probably realized due to his successful promotional activities. Other gardens similarly incorporating Japanese gardens into their botanical garden's overall layout are the University of Washington Botanic Gardens-also known as the Seattle Japanese Garden, (built in 1960), and the San Antonio Botanic Gardens-also known as Kumamoto En, (built in 1989). Similar gardens in other countries include the Botanical Garden in Hamburg University,



Figure-2: Japanese Garden in the Huntington Botanical Gardens



Photo-8: The Chicago Botanic Garden

Germany, (built in 1978), the Botanical Gardens of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, (built in 1987), the *Planten un Blomen*, Germany, (built in 1985), and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Wales, (built in 2001).

In addition, some Japanese gardens were constructed as new additions to the exhibition collections of museums. These include the Museum for East Asian Art, Cologne, (built in 1977), Tenshin-en Japanese Garden in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, well-known for its collection of east Asian art, (built in 1988), the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, a center for Japanese arts and culture in Florida, (built in 2001), and the Japanese garden in the annex to the Guimet Museum, Paris, famous for its collection of Oriental art in, (built in 1992 with a teahouse added in 2001).

5. Japanese Gardens of Japanese Immigrant Communities

For Japanese immigrants living outside Japan, Japanese architecture and gardens serve as a kind of cultural anchor and spiritual support. The history of Japanese immigrants, primarily in North and South America, spans more than 100 years. In the early stages of Japanese garden construction overseas, quite a few Japanese people traveled abroad independently to work in various capacities. In the late 20th century a second generation already in place, was added to with a new influx of postwar immigration. Partly as a result, Japanese gardens were constructed on a much larger scale than previously. Examples of these postwar gardens are the Japanese Friendship Garden in Kelley Park, San Jose (built in 1965), the Japanese garden in JACCC, Los Angeles (built in 1980), the Japanese garden donated by Japanese Society of Argentina, in Palermo Park, Buenos Aires (built in 1967), and the Japanese garden of La Paz, Bolivia (built in 1972). Liliuokalani Japanese Gardens, in Hawaii, was constructed as early as the beginning of the 20th century, however extensive reconstruction after twice being damaged by Tsunami, has altered the original appearance.



Photo-9: The Japanese Garden in JACCC, Los Angeles

In addition to such large-scale Japanese gardens, many Japanese gardens of various sizes were constructed in Japanese-American communities or Japanese villages. Many Japanese gardens have been constructed as meeting places for Japanese-Americans or Japanese residents seeking emotional support.

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6. Japanese Gardens Overseas with a New Role to Play in the Late 20th Century

After the end of World War II in 1945, Japanese gardens were constructed for new purposes. One such purpose was as War Memorials. Such gardens include the Japanese Peace Memorial, Saipan Island (built in 1975), the Japanese garden for War Memorial, Philippines, (built in 1976), the Japanese War Memorial of the Labuan Islands, Northern Borneo, (built in 1976), and the Cowra Japanese Garden, Australia (built in 1977). Please note that all their completion dates concentrate on the middle of 1970 s.

Meanwhile, since the 1960 s, an increasing number of Japanese gardens have been constructed for the purpose of cultural exchange with Japan. Typically, gardens such as the Japan Cultural Institute in Rome, (built in 1961), and the East-West Center of Hawaii University, (built in 1963), are

incorporated in embassies and Japanese cultural halls.

Furthermore, a number of Japanese gardens have been constructed in combination with buildings that function as cultural centers for the purpose of promoting cultural, religious and business exchanges between governments, municipalities and non-governmental organizations. Examples include centers built for the purpose of promoting sister-city affiliations, those created by companies with overseas operations, and those created by private cultural institutions, like Urasenke International, which promotes the study and practice of the tea ceremony.



Photo-10: The Cowra Japanese Garden, Australia

Since the 1960s, a number of Japanese gardens have been constructed in overseas diplomatic facilities. These too play a role in the direct transmission of Japanese culture to other countries. Japanese gardens have been built in the following embassies:

- Embassy of Japan in the United States (1960)
- Embassy of Japan in Australia (1961)
- Embassy of Japan in India (1967)
- Embassy of Japan in Thailand (1967)
- Embassy of Japan in Cambodia (1970, renovated in 2002)
- Embassy of Japan in South Korea (1971)
- Japanese ambassador's residence in the United States (1974)
- Japanese ambassador's residence in Singapore (1990)
- Embassy of Japan in Vietnam (1999)
- Embassy of Japan in Lebanon (2001)
- Embassy of Japan in Israel (2002)

Gardens in which the Japanese government was not directly involved, include the UNESCO Garden in UNESCO headquarter, Paris, created by Isamu Noguchi and SANO Toemon, (built in 1958), and the Peace Bell Garden in UN Headquarters, New York (Completed in 2000, this is one of the last gardens completed in the 20th century)

In the late 20th century, since the end of the war, the chief motivation for constructing Japanese gardens outside of Japan has been sister-city affiliations initiated by municipalities. There are more than 100 gardens of this type. These garden projects provide an opportunity for human exchange at the stage of discussion and design, and encourage cultural interaction between Japan and partner countries by promoting various event programs. Moreover, the dispatch of staff or voluntary workers sent from municipalities for renovation and maintenance work also contribute to international exchange through the medium of Japanese gardens. Donations of Japanese gardens, based on sister city relationships, is still on the rise, especially in Australia, New Zealand and China. This phenomenon is discussed in further detail in the chapter named "The Partnership Of Cities and the Japanese Garden".

Conclusion

In the late 19th century, Japan's exhibition of Japanese gardens together with Japanese arts and crafts, for the purposes of cultural introduction and commercial promotion, in the plethora of International Expositions held around the world, resulted in the popularization of "*Japonisme*" in Europe and the United States. Japan's participation became indispensable to the Expos and major exhibitions of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and a number of Japanese gardens, crafts and products were exhibited by the government and private companies.

An increasing number of fans of all things Japanese visited Japan and began importing garden

materials and employing Japanese carpenters and gardeners to create Japanese gardens back in their home countries. Along with the growing boom in creating private Japanese gardens, those exhibited in the Expos were preserved in public parks converted from the former Expo sites, or incorporated into commercial and amusement facilities such as Japanese Tea Gardens. This made Japanese gardens accessible and familiar to increasing numbers of ordinary citizens. With the advent of World War II, however, this boom came to a temporary halt.

After the war, life experiences of over 1 million US troops stationed in Japan, helped revive interest in Japanese culture. This was the Japan's first experience to have such amount of foreign laymen staying for long time. From the period of postwar recovery to the period of high economic growth, a number of Japanese people launched themselves into overseas business ventures. This added to the construction boom of Japanese gardens from the late 1950 s. Japanese gardens were also created by private and public organizations, worldwide, in public parks, botanical gardens, diplomatic facilities and cultural centers, as a stage to display unique indigenous plants or cultural exchange with Japan.

The period of ongoing peaceful relations between Japan and most of the countries in the world since the 1960 s, created the opportunity for progressive cultural exchanges-not only between nations, but also between local municipalities in the form of sister city affiliations. Particularly during the economic boom of, there was an increasing number of donations of Japanese gardens to sister cities in foreign lands. This trend was further encouraged by the normalization of ties between Japan and China, the opening up of Eastern Europe, and increasing ties with Oceania countries. Especially in recent times, citizens of sister cities have participated in constructing Japanese gardens and developing relations through maintenance work or the staging of events, on a voluntary basis.

From the late 20th century to the 21st century, the popularity of Japanese foods and culture has revived the boom in Japanese garden construction. Ease of international travel and increased business contacts present new opportunities for foreign nationals to experience all aspects of Japanese culture, including gardens. This adds to the motivation to build Japanese gardens in their homes and native towns.

There are a now a number of private organizations that maintain and manage Japanese gardens overseas. Both staff and volunteers are active in maintaining public Japanese gardens as their own. In the United States and the United Kingdom, nationwide associations of Japanese garden enthusiasts have been formed. The 4th biennial International Symposium of Japanese Gardens, held in Seattle in 2004, will be followed by the 5th symposium to be held in Japan in the fall of 2007, indicating ongoing interest in Japanese gardens and international friendship.

The 20th century was the era when Japanese gardens and the culture of gardens in Japan crossed the sea. Now, in the 21st century, in order to pass on these Japanese gardens to future generations, global establishment of a methodology to properly maintain and manage these gardens according to the Japanese traditions, and within the contexts of individual countries and regions, is essential.