

Lecture 42
History of Gardens:
Naturalism and the Eastern Tradition



Naturalism is the attempt to live with, rather than to dominate, nature
Naturalism strives for the appearance of a "happy accident of nature"
Method to achieve this are as artificial as in "formalism"

China

Antithesis of Egyptian gardens
Chinese lovers of natural scenery abundant in China
Gardens developed into romantic, ideal landscapes
Natural Elements
Rocks, weathered wood, water
Deer parks
Pavilions (tent like buildings, from the word for butterfly)

Idealized Chinese Landscape, 16th century



Lien-Tschen

Chinese Philosophy Regarding Naturalism in Gardens

The art of laying gardens consists in an endeavor to combine cheerfulness of aspect, luxuriance of growth, shade, solitude and repose in such a manner that the senses may be deluded by an imitation of rural nature.

Diversity, which is the main advantage of natural landscape, must therefore be sought by a judicious choice of soil, an alternation of chains of hills and valleys, gorges, brooks and lakes covered with water plants.

Symmetry is wearisome, and ennui and disgust will soon be excited in a garden where every part betrays constraint and artificiality. (Wright 1934, p. 139)

Chinese Imperial Gardens

Originated 3000 years ago around palaces for worship, recreation, living, and administration.

Highest level in the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911)

Gardens located in Beijing and Chende

Gardens are considered magnificent, glorious, and mysterious.

“Better than Nature though from Nature”



The Forbidden City in central Beijing



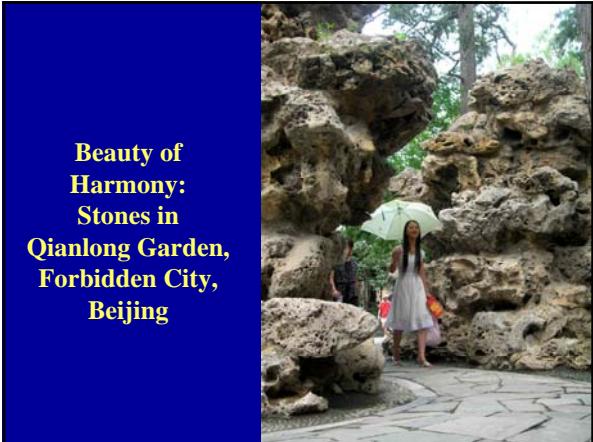
Water Pavilion in the summer resort, Chengde

Landscape Features in Imperial Gardens

- Beauty of Harmony
- Symbolic Meaning
- Poetic Feeling and Picturesque Composition
- Borrowed Landscape
- Framed Landscape
- Leaking Landscape
- Blocking Landscape
- Facing Landscape



**Beauty of Harmony:
Landscape of the Summer Resort in Beijing**



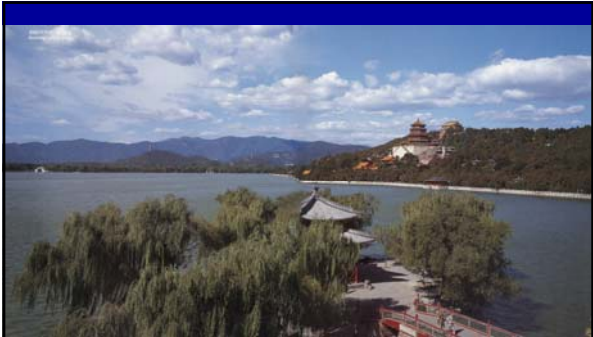
**Beauty of
Harmony:
Stones in
Qianlong Garden,
Forbidden City,
Beijing**



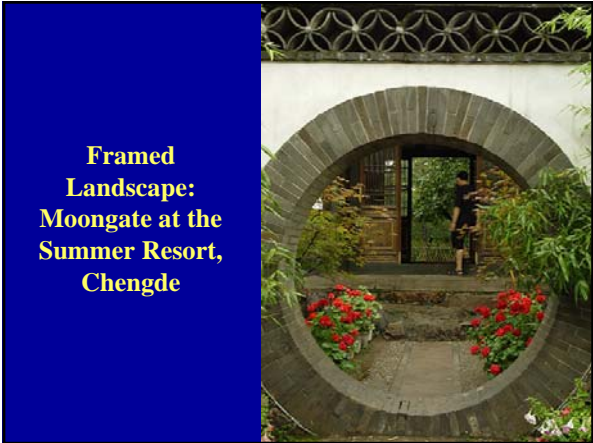
Symbolic Meaning: Five Dragon Pavilion, Beijing



**Poetic Feeling and Picturesque Composition:
Summer Palace, Chengde**



**Borrowed Landscape:
Summer Palace, Beijing**



**Framed
Landscape:
Moongate at the
Summer Resort,
Chengde**



**Leaking Landscape:
Summer Palace,
Beijing**



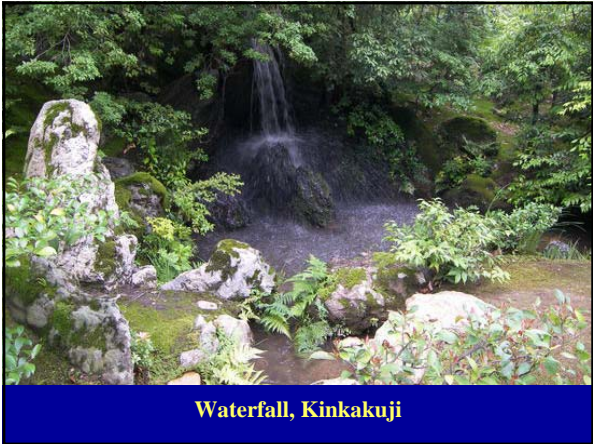


Japan

Japanese gardens arose from Chinese culture via Korea
Developed into an abstract art form
One of the fine arts of Japan
Traditional Chinese elements but organized in a new form emphasizing symbolism
In 10th century influenced by Zen, religious and philosophical movement
Great use of wood, stone, and sand (sand often raked into patterns)
Love of aged, deformed trees
Use of moss and native plants

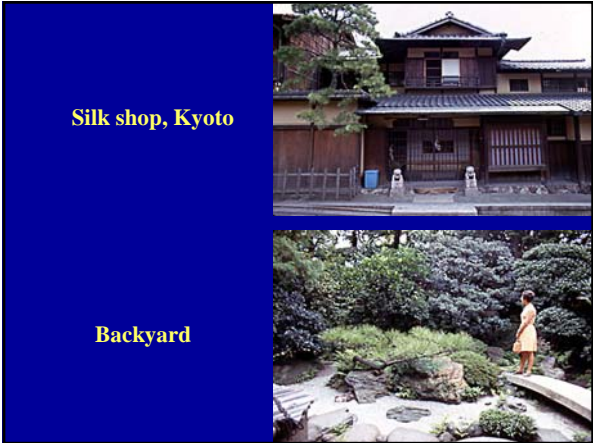






History of Horticulture: Lecture 42





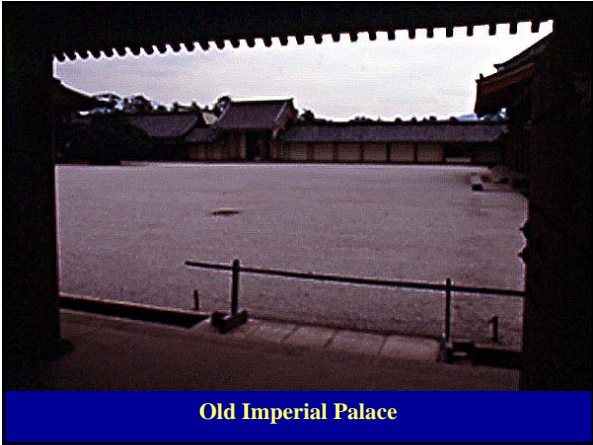


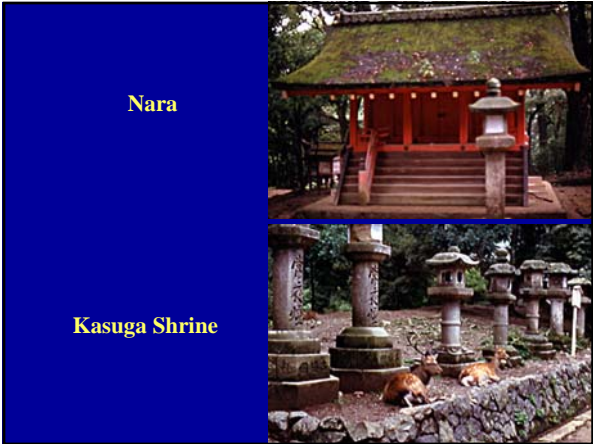












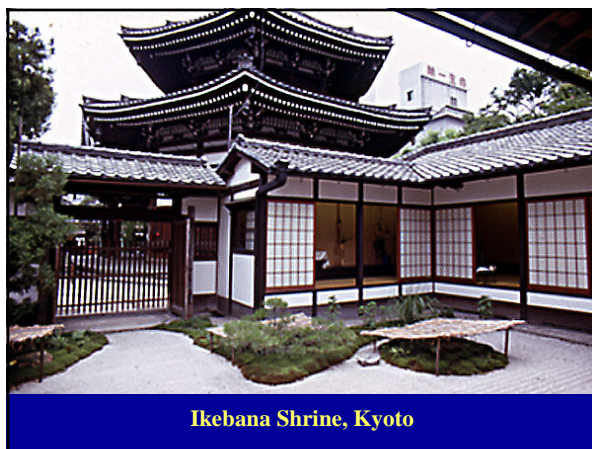


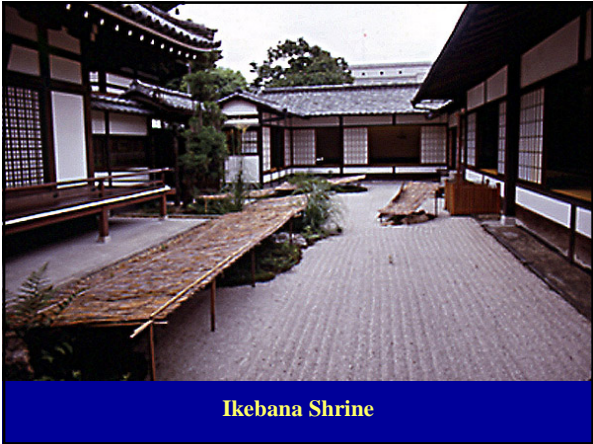
Japanese Horticultural Arts

Ikebana: Flower arrangement based on symbolic use of flowers

Bonsai: Miniature tree specimens

Sakai: Miniatures landscapes





Ikebana Shrine



Scroll of floral arrangement



Origin of Ikebana























English Gardens

Fusion of Formalism and Naturalism

Mild, marine climate permits great variety of plants

Long springs and mild winters despite northern location (>50°N)

Up to 1750s gardens laid out according to esthetics which saw beauty only in symmetry

Geometric patterns made by circular pools and intersecting straight lines of avenues, allées, terraces, hedges

History of Horticulture: Lecture 42

Lancelot Brown
(1716–1783)

Lancelot “Capability” Brown changed formalism into more natural landscape

Asymmetrical arrangements of sinuous curves

Trees planted in loosely scattered informal groups



Badminton House



Blenheim Palace Grand Bridge





Grounds at Compton Verney



Kew Gardens, England

Introduction of Romanticism and “Kitsch”

- Fake ruins
- Wishing wells
- Herbaceous borders
- Bridges
- Curved walks
- Artificial plants

Romanticism

Arkadia fake ruins,
Poland







Garden Kitsch

Modern Gardens

Artistic expression through combination
of many art forms
Meaningful design for living
Uses formal and natural concepts

Theme parks
Golf courses
Interiorscapes: use of plants within
environmentally controlled structures
such as malls and arcades
Green roofs





