Lecture 41
History of Gardens: Formalism and the Western Tradition

Garden: as old as civilization from Anglo-Saxon *grydon*, “to enclose”

Paradise: Persian word for garden

Gardens and Gardening

Garden of Eden, 19th century

Formalism in Landscape Architecture

Ancient Egypt

Egyptian gardens: Represent human domination over plants

Formalism originated in Egyptian gardens
Originated at edge of desert where natural vegetation sparse
No natural landscape to copy except natural oasis
Pools to supply “oasis feeling”
Plantings ordered in straight lines for irrigation
Irrigation canals common feature
Gardens enclosed on flat land
Fences and walls to protect plants
Plants treated architecturally:
Arbor, bower, pergola: lattice work
covered with vines for shade
Plants originally placed on random but
became ordered and symmetrical
Statuary and columns

Date garden, Sinai peninsula

Irrigating and harvest in Egyptian
vegetable garden
Harvesting pomegranates in formal planting interspersed with ornamental columns next to a T-shaped pool.

Garden planted with fig, olive trees and flowering plants containing a pavilion with steps leading down to the water, being irrigated by a row of shadufs.

Four workers transporting trees.
Randomly-placed trees within a square enclosure surrounding square pool

Formal Egyptian Garden

Around the lotus pool grow doum palms, date palms, acacias, and other trees and shrubs

Plan of the garden estate of a wealthy Egyptian official

The approach is from a long canal (at right), and the entrance to the grounds is through an imposing gateway in their surrounding walls.

Of particular interest are the two clearly indicated different types of palm trees growing around the garden.

The single-trunked tree is the date palm and the bifurcated tree the doum palm.
Hanging gardens of Babylon: one of the ancient wonders. Walled gardens predominate, irrigation from canals and wells, flowers enter. Gardens become synonymous with relaxation and pleasure.

Assyria and Persia: Pleasure Gardens

Hellenic Gardens and Utilitarianism

Planted courts associated with buildings Gymnasia: public areas used for sport and recreation Palestra—playing field Flowers used for decoration After Alexander fusion of Greek spirit of utilitarianism with Persian sense of pleasure

Plato Teaching Geometry

Roman mosaic, 1st century BCE
## Roman Gardens

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<th>Great advances in gardens</th>
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<td>Combination of order with great wealth</td>
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<td>Quincunx formation (persists in cemeteries)</td>
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### Villa Rustica: country estates

### Villa Urbana: urban estates

### Academies: grassy enclosures

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## Garden Elements in Roman Gardens

- **Porticos**: colonnaded or covered ambulatory walks
- **Groves of trees**: (plane & cypress predominate)
- **Grottos**: (artificial caves)
- **Water and water work, fountain**
- **Terraces**
- **Topiary**: (heavy pruned shrubs)
- **Sculpture**
- **Colonnades**

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**Getty Museum reconstruction of the Villa of the Papyri, large peristyle garden.**
Medieval and Renaissance Gardens
Medieval gardens originated in the monastery. Gardens were a combination of the villa rustica and the academy.
This miniature, in the *Roman de Renaud de Montauban* of c 1475, shows Maugis and La Belle Oriande seated in a garden of rather formal design.
First spading of the season 1495

15th century miniature with raised beds

Marbled pillared pergola 1499

Maze
Spring: Gardeners, Sheep Shearers and Peasants Merrymaking
Pieter Bruegel the Elder (1525–1569)

Italian Renaissance Gardens

Boboli Gardens, Florence

Boboli Gardens, Florence
Vizcaya Italianate Garden, Miami, Florida

Gardens of the Renaissance Villa La Gamberaia outside Florence

Box hedging, makes a pattern of enclosed beds set in gravel walkways
Accent on elegance, vistas, promenades, rushing waters and fountains

LeNotre, master gardener of Louis XIV
Gardens of Versailles, supreme achievements (1800 workman)
Grand Canal
The Chateau de Courances, in the forest of Fontainebleau south of Paris

Chateau du Pontrancart near Dieppe, four parterres are laid out

Modern Formal Gardens in Belgium

Jardin d’Ammevore
Jardin d’Amévore

Border, L’villa

Schonbrunn Castle Vienna, Austria

Palais Congres, Brussels
Knot Garden based on early 17th century plan
Barnsley House

La Mormaire, near Paris

Canada
Stratford, Ontario