Images of Islamic Gardens

The interior of a pharmacy as represented in a manuscript of Treatise on Medicine by Dioscorides. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York).

The preparation of an aromatic wine to treat coughs; from an Arabic translation of Treatise on Medicine by Dioscorides. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York).

This miniature in an Arabic manuscript of the early 13th century depicts the preparation of drugs. A liquid remedy is being mixed over a fire in the open air, where flora and fauna symbolize the pharmaceutical bounty of nature. The bearded figure (right) holds out an ornate ceramic drug container. This manuscript was based on Galen’s treatise concerning electuaries.

This companion to the illustration on the left shows the preparation of theriax, a complex antidote that Galen’s recommendation helped to raise to the level of an internationally renowned panacea. Between and above the two central figures are various drug containers from which they are measuring the ingredients. Two assistants (extreme left and right) obtain supplies of crude drugs for the compounders. (Miniature from ms. in Austrian National Library, Vienna; reproduced from Zekert, O.: Chem. and Druggist 120:728, 1934).
Emperor Baber supervising Garden of Felicity. Source: Berrall p.36.

Persian carpet in garden design. Source: Gothein p. 143.


Generalife water banisters, Granada (1972).

Rockefeller Museum, Jerusalem.