The Japanese Garden

The Japanese Garden was built as one of the exhibits at the Expo '70, to present the best Japanese landscaping techniques to visitors from all over the world, as well as to provide the relaxing space in the nature and green, in contrast with the futuristic space created by the modern buildings and the closely arranged pavilions.

The garden is built on an area of 26 hectares, and measures 1300 meters from east to west, and 200 meters from north to south. A water stream runs through the long narrow area, and its flow represents the theme of the Expo '70 “Progress and Harmony for Mankind” and symbolizes the changes over time. This garden is a unified garden designed based on the three major garden styles which represent the three periods, the ancient times (the Heian Period, 8th century -12th century) style garden, the medieval times (the Kamakura and the Muromachi Period, 12th century -16th century) style garden, and the early modern times (the Edo Period, 17th century -19th century) style garden, and in addition, the new style garden of the 1970’s, the modern style garden (after the Meiji Period, 20th century onwards). This garden is a noted garden built in the Showa period which functions as a “Garden Museum”, showing the style of Byodo-in in Uji, Kyoto (the Ancient Period), Daiten-in in Kyomizu (the Medieval Period), Korakuen in Okayama (the Early Modern Period), and Matsuo-Taisha in Kyoto (the Modern Period), all in the same place.

As you walk through the park, briskly in hand, you experience the history of gardens and the characteristics of each period such as the style of rock arrangement, and also discover and appreciate the natural beauty of Japan which changes its appearance according to the season and time.

How to drink Matcha green tea

1. Fm1, a sweet is served: Start eating it with a toothpick. The sweet taste sets off the taste of Matcha green tea to be served later.
2. A server dressed in a kimono puts a bowl of Matcha green tea on the table.
3. Pick up the bowl which is on the table using your right hand.
4. Put the bowl on the palm of your left hand, with your right hand holding the side of the bowl.
5. Use your left hand to lift the bowl slightly, keeping the right hand on the side of the bowl, and make a small bow.
6. Bring down the bowl to its original position, and turn the bowl a little in the clockwise direction using your right hand.
7. Drink the tea, keeping your right hand in the same position, and make a sucking sound with the last mouthful.
8. When you have finished drinking, hold the rim of the bowl where your lips touched with your right thumb and index finger, and wipe it under the sweet.
9. Wipe your finger on the edge of the paper with the last mouthful.
10. Turn the bowl a little in the counterclockwise direction using your right hand.
11. Put the bowl back on the table.
The Ancient Garden (The Heian Period) 8th century - 12th century

In the Heian Period, the dynamic culture blossomed, under the influence of Chinese culture. In this period, there appeared gardens focusing on rock arrangements served as a base for the formation of a natural or unique scene, giving an impression of the sea.

In the western end of the garden, several evergreen shrubs and maple trees are planted, to create a landscape with deep mountainous and dark valleys. So in this garden, guest houses were built to welcome 10% of foreign governments during the period of the Expo.

The guest house is constructed in the style of “Kare-sansui”, on the basis of the garden plan in the Ancient Garden. The streaming of the garden has its source in the spring and falls into the Ancient Garden and is distributed to two streams which flow north and south in the Medieval Garden. These two streams flow into the Shinji-ike pond in the Early Modern Garden and the Lotus Pond in the Modern Garden respectively.

Eastern representation of this period

* Your Royal Highness (Uji City, Kyoto), Nishimuraya (Kyoto City)

The Medieval Garden (The Kamakura and the Muromachi Period) 12th - 16th century

The Kamakura Garden was a transition period from the dynamic culture to the serene culture, and the Zen style garden was created under the influence of the Zen sect which came from China.

In the Muromachi Period, the garden mainly showed the beauty of rock arrangement, and rock gardens were created in the “Kare-sansui” style with stones of water represented using only stones, as well as tea gardens represented “waka”, “sado”, “sarah”, with simplicity and the poppiness of the tea ceremony.

The Medieval Garden area has several sub-gardens: “Hon-ai”, an extension of the abbot’s quarters in an old Zen temple, “Hakone” and “Bamboo”, authentic trademark of Hakone style building, which are newly formed in any tea school, in Otemae-ruko, Uno-ruko, etc. In the south valley, there is a rapid mountain stream which comes from the Chishima to the Ancient Garden area, with maple trees on both banks. In the north valley there is a bamboo thicket with a brook which flows quietly.

Between these two valleys there is a small mountain where Japanese black pine, boxwood, and azaleas (Mitsuba-tsutsuji) are planted to create a likeness of Sumiyoshi in the Hakone area, and it represents the harmony between tea, the spirit of Zen and nature.

Eastern representation of this period

* Spanky Garden (Kyoto City), Oomote in Tanigawa (Kyoto City)

The Early Modern Garden (The Edo Period) 17th century - 19th century

In the Edo period, various garden styles were developed, and many Daimyo gardens were built by the Daimyo as the feudal lord, who was the state driving force behind the gardens.

Several large gardens were created in the “Kare-sansui” style, which allowed the visitors to take a rest in the garden path around a big pond and enjoy the various views of the pond.

The Early Modern Garden area is the largest area of the Japanese garden, and it is built based on the style of the Edo period, with a large pond named (the shape of the pond “Shinji”). In the center, you can enjoy the composition of the traditional style, which was built between the 17th and 19th centuries.

The central axis line, you can see the design of the gallery of the Japanese garden with the Shinji pond, rock arrangements, and many evergreen trees, and garden karesansui called the “Shinji-ike” in front of the central bridge covered with natural greens.

You can also take a walk along the Shinji-ike pond and bear your feet on the moss of this pond during the changing landscape.

Eastern representation of this period

* Karaku (Yakusa City, Himeji), Kikugawa (Kyoto City) and Kurumakai (Kyoto City)

The Shintousojinbou (Araizaka Hill) 3rd century

The Shintousojinbou is a separate area originally designed as a temple garden, and it is considered to have been designed by Empress Go-Toba around the 11th century. The main composition of the garden is a large pond called the “Shintousojinbou” and the famous ‘500’-year-old eucalyptus tree.

The main composition is the expanse of the pond, and the two sides are lined with a row of pine trees, which are cut from the same tree as the one in the garden. It is a rest area which has taken in the essence of wind, sound, sight, and smell.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City) and Kurumakai (Kyoto City)

The Shintou-jiko Pond 9th century

This is the largest pond in the Japanese garden with practical use as a storage pond for the changes of the time, in addition to the pond where the Shinji-ike pond is located. This pond is the central area which is used in the summer season and it is divided during the year.

The pond is surrounded by hills and is lined with Katsura trees in the north, and azaleas in the south, which are the same as those of the Shinji-ike pond. It also has a stone terraced area which is formed into a spiral shape and is lined with azaleas and the same stones which are used in the pond. The pond and the garden are connected by a staircase in the north.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The Shintou-jizo (Stone-viewing lantern) 3rd century

This is a stone lantern which was placed at the entrance to the pond, and it is used to light the way.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The Waterfalls

There are a total of 130 meters of the waterfalls in the garden, and the waterfalls were created at the time of the Expo. The waterfalls are formed by a series of waterfalls, with the waterfalls at the central area being the most prominent and the ones on the right side of the pond being the smallest. The waterfalls are formed in collaboration with the Bruno and Solis, who are famous for their use of waterfalls in their garden designs.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The Bamboo Thicket

This is the only path in this garden, built in 1991, to view the plum grove and tea flower grove.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The Bamboo Thicket

This area represents a garden with a bright cubist design which symbolizes the future.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The modern garden

Since about 1940, gardens incorporating elements of abstract art began to be created.

One of the features is to give outdoor gardens a bright cubic design which symbolizes the future.

Another feature is to give the Japanese garden with natural forms and man-made forms in the same pond, Japanese times in the sea, and a variety of flowers in the inner garden, built in the style of the modern sea in the future, which becomes every moment.

The second feature is that this was a trial in a new country to be exported by the universities and universities, for example, modern gardens are featured in the modern garden, and not set out of the bright color of the golden carp.

This idea, the object of the modern Japanese garden “to set out the boxed modern landscape of Japan”.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The Lotus Pond

In the spring of 1970, plans were made to open the pond, but the plans were canceled.

The pond is located at the center of the garden, surrounded by water, and it represents the future.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The Old Garden

This is the garden where the traditional Japanese garden is open from early in the morning.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)

The field of Japanese Iris

150,000 plants of 22 varieties of the Japanese Iris are planted and are on full display in the garden during the early summer.

The field of Japanese Iris is a garden where the Japanese Iris is open from early in the morning.

Eastern representation of this period

* Kamakura (Kanagawa), Hanakawa-cho (Kyoto City)