

The Japanese Garden: Spring 2016: LA 433/533

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Room 231 Lawrence Hall

This course serves as a preparatory ensemble of cultural insights, philosophical concepts and landscape architectural design principles intended to assist you in understanding the Japanese Garden. Our focus is to ensure your awareness of the subtleties of Japanese culture and the sophisticated sensibilities intrinsic to the art of Japanese garden and landscape design.

Requirements:

You are required to make a presentation of a specific garden, temple or landscape. Requirements include a 20 minute presentation, a minimum of a 12 page paper describing the garden of your choice and how the 12 principles of Japanese Garden Design influenced your case study. You are also required to prepare a watercolor rendering of your case study. Individual tutorials in the preparation of this rendering will be arranged. (Please see watercolor renderings outside Room 218 Lawrence Hall).

Slides, drawings, paintings, and text will assist us in our analysis and description of these case studies as I would appreciate your advice regarding the subject of your case study as soon as possible. I would be happy to advise you if, perchance, you are not explicitly in mind of a garden for your presentation.

March 28: Introduction: Walled City of Xian/Chang-An, KYOTO

Physical hierarchy and separation of secular/sacred space, Landscape as stage set. Spatial extensions of garden and building geometries, structural landscape patterning of vernacular building traditions...12 principles of Japanese Garden Design.

April 4: Landscapes of the Literati: Chinese Sung landscape paintings, the garden as poetic expression of idealized landscape: Suzcho: Chuo Cheng Yuan, Wang Shih Yuan and Liu Yuan; Sesshu, Tenryuji and Saihoji

April 11: Nara: Horyuji, Todaiji and the deer park. Kyokusui and the floating sake ceremony. Joruriji, Ganzenji and Byodoin. Amida Buddha paradise garden. Ise Shrine: Shintoism and the purity of landscape space.

April 18: Temple Gardens of the Kamakura/Muromachi period
Daitokuji and the subtemples of Daisenin, Kotoin and Ryogenin.
Myoshinji and the subtemples of Shunkoin (tea ceremony), Tokai/an, Taizoin and Daishenin (our home temple). Intimacy of landscape and architectural space, the juxtaposition of the geometry of grid and the sinuous serpentine.

April 25: Principles of Rakuchu, Rakugai, temples on the ecotone: Kiyomizudera, Kinkakuji, Ginkakuji, Ninnaji and Shisendo. The garden as source of transcendence: serenity and tranquility. Sacred sites as place of pilgrimage.

May 2: No class

May 9: Katsura Imperial Palace: Skia style as exquisitely refined wabi/sabi sensibility. Prince Gengi/Prince Toshihito and the literary allusion.

Shugakuin Imperial Garden: Agricultural structure of rice terrace as ordering pattern of landscape elements, sleeping dragon pond/unfolding living landscape scenery/Shake. Sento Goshō/wisteria bridge.

May 16: Ryoanji: landscape structure, stone arrangement and planting design. Layering of landscape elements in time and space. Zen garden insights and understandings, maintenance.

May 23: Tea ceremony, calligraphy, ikebana and the films of Akira Kurosawa

May 30: Memorial Day

Recommended Readings on reserve:

Keane, Marc; Japanese Garden Design

Kuitert, Wybe; Themes in the History of Japanese Garden Art

Kuck, Lorraine; The Japanese Garden

Nitschke, Gunter; Japanese Gardens

Slawson, David; Secret Teachings in the Art of Japanese Gardens

Yoshida, Tetsuro; The Japanese House and Garden