

The Japanese Garden: LA 433/533...LA406/606

Ron Lovinger

Monday 6:00 to 8:50 P.M.

Room 231 Lawrence Hall, 2 to 4 credits

Spring 2013



This course intended for those students going to Kyoto the summer of 2013 and 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 we will visit during our study program. Variable credit is dependent on the depth and detail of these presentations. 2 hours of credit require a 20 minute presentation, 3 hours of credit require the presentation and paper of a minimum of 8 pages describing how the 12 principles of Japanese Garden Design influenced your case study, 4 hours of credit include all the above plus a watercolor rendering of your case study and individual tutorials in the preparation of this rendering. (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.

Recommended texts are listed below from which selected readings will be assigned.

Schedule:

- April 1: 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. Landscape of the Literati: Classical gardens of China, Suzcho. 12 principles of Japanese garden design.
- April 8: Language lesson and basic instructions regarding etiquette and specific customs governing our behavior in Japan. Essential garden types: Strolling, Meditation, Tea, Tsuboniwa, etc. Watercolor tutorials.
- April 15: **1st Presentation:** Ise Shrine: Shintoism and the Heian Period. Kyokusui and the floating tea and sake ceremony. Purity rituals and the principle of Kami, classical gardens of the Heian Period, Byodo-in (Phoenix Hall): the Shinden-Zukuri organizational structure: City, Neighborhood, Townhouse architectural patterns. Watercolor tutorials.
- April 22: **2nd Presentaion:** Myoshinji, Daitokuji and the emergence of the Zen Temple, karesansui dry garden:
- April 39: “Tampopo” and Toshi’s Ramen, informal gathering at 15th and Pearl. Watercolor tutorials.
- May 6: Watercolor and language tutorial
- May 13: Principles of Rakuchu, Rakugai, temples on the ecotone/gateway/threshold: Kiyomizudera, Kinkakuji, Ginkakuji, Ninnaji, Nansenji, Ryoanji, Tenryuji, Shisendo.etc. The garden as source of transcendence, serenity and tranquility. Watercolor tutorials.
- May 20: **3rd Presentation:** Imperial Villas

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

Shugakuin Imperial Garden: Agricultural structure of rice terrace as ordering pattern of landscape elements, sleeping dragon pond/unfolding living landscape scenery/Shakei.

Sento Goshou: Lush waterfalling..herons grazing in the moss: Wisteria bridge connecting the cobbled river bed/Cherry blossoms scattered: opposites juxtaposed in space...tea room in the middle.
- May 27: Memorial Day
- June 3: Introduction to design studio in Kyoto: Images of site and site analysis, presentation of research and study from Summer 2009 Students. Project definition and design studio orientation. Watercolors
- June 10: Watercolor presentation of garden renderings and review of individual projects.

Recommended Readings (on reserve for this class)

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

2/15/13