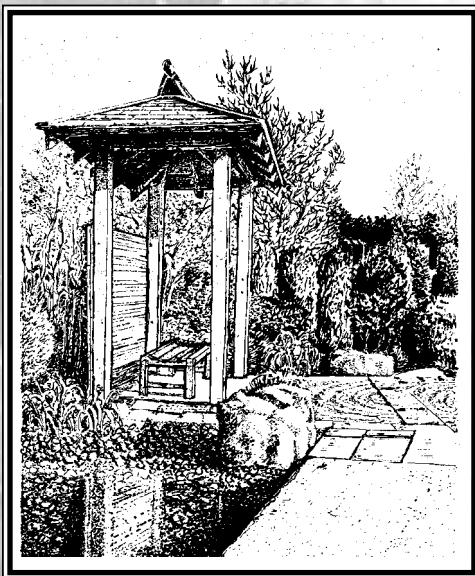


THE ARBORETUM



DAVID G. PORTER MEMORIAL JAPANESE GARDEN



The David G. Porter Memorial Japanese Garden is described by its designer, Landscape Architect Christopher Campbell, as "the Great within the Small". It certainly was an important step for The Garden project. For more information about The Garden, please see the back panel of this brochure.

THE HISTORY OF GARDENS IN JAPAN

In 607 A.D., the first official Japanese embassy visited China. This coincided with the construction of a huge Chinese landscape park, inspiring the Japanese to construct a landscaped lake garden in front of the Imperial Palace in Japan. Zen artists later made small temple gardens which encouraged enlightenment through the art of contemplation. Zen ideas of simplicity and natural aesthetics dominate Japanese gardens.

DAVID G. PORTER MEMORIAL JAPANESE GARDEN

This garden was dedicated in June, 1995 to the memory of Dr. David G. Porter by his wife, Mrs. Bobbie Porter. Dr. Porter was a professor at the Ontario Veterinary College here at the University of Guelph. Dr. and Mrs. Porter were enthralled with different Zen gardens during a trip to Japan in 1993.

A FEW REQUESTS:

Please stay on the flagstone and stepping stones - this allows the next visitor to see the raked gravel and stops the smooth rocks from sliding into the pool.

No pets - they do not understand about the stepping stones.

No excessive noise - as this is a contemplation garden.

Watch your children - they may have an uncontrollable urge to throw gravel into the pool or wade into it.

As you approach the garden, you come to the **salutation gateway** (see map on next page). This entrance greets visitors and provides a sense of passage into the garden. Notice the **Keninji-Gaki bamboo fence**. The fence, like all features in the garden, is simple in design. It provides a rhythmic balance of horizontal and vertical lines and helps to block out the world and its confusions.

After you enter the garden, you will walk onto a stone bridge that crosses a **reflecting pool**. Zen gardeners often try to recreate miniature landscapes in an artistic way. This pool landscape represents a simple lake with a rocky island. Confucius (551 - 479 B.C.) once noted that "the wise find pleasure in water," which may suggest why water is a part of many Japanese gardens. Just beyond the stone bridge is the small **tea house**.

TEA CEREMONY

Small buildings in tea gardens were designed to hold a tea ceremony called "**cha-no-yu**". Imagine that you are one of the guests invited to a tea ceremony by a host (the Tea Master).

As a guest, you should wait on the bench until the host summons you. As you sit, concentrate on the surrounding garden. In front of you is a **dry**

garden of gravel. The gravel represents a body of water with three islands. The pattern of raked gravel mirrors the rippling water in the pool surrounding the fountain rock island. The large spirit rocks throughout the garden may represent mountains or rocky outcroppings. They are placed in such a way to be visually appealing from different angles in the garden. The flat stepping stones through the garden allow a path to be artistic and practical, an idea that was not used until the 16th century.

The host would enter the tea house and make the tea in front of the guests. The host's movements would be slow, graceful, simple and direct. A Zen monk named Shuko (1423 - 1502), designed the tea ceremony to include four cardinal rules:

Urbanity - be elegant and refined
Courtesy - be polite and considerate
Imperturbability - be calm
Purity - be free from physical or moral pollution

The atmosphere should allow the guests to attain serenity and harmony of spirit. In this mood, the guests can try to better understand a certain topic that is connected to a focal point that the host has chosen. This could be a painting, flower arrangement or art object which may relate to an anniversary or a change in season. Cha-no-yu is still used in Japan today to practice self-control and to help escape the stress of a busy life. The garden on its own is used as a place to contemplate and reflect. Please use this garden to relax your mind and help you focus on basic ideas and principles.

During your visit, you may want to note the plantings that are used in this garden. Most Arboretum collections display the variety within a plant family. The woody and herbaceous plantings in the David G. Porter Memorial Japanese Garden, however, are applied to a specific theme. The planting design reflects what may be found in gardens of Japan. Because many plants that grow in Japan would not grow in our southern Ontario climate, this garden displays similar alternatives.

THE GARDEN

The Garden is a project designed to provide a "landscape link" between the Arboretum Centre and Arboretum plant collections. The Garden consists of the **Garden Path**, alongside the **David G. Porter Memorial Japanese Garden**, the **OAC '56 Park in The Garden, Edna & Frank C. Miller English Garden** and the new **Italian Garden**. The Japanese Garden has received partial funding and is almost complete. The Japanese, English and Italian Gardens are intended to show designs that have and continue to influence North American gardens. Plans for the Italian Garden are on display in the Arboretum Centre.

For more information about making a donation or dedication to The Garden, please contact Arboretum Director, Professor Alan Watson.

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