In any successful garden or work of art, there needs to be an affect on someone more than just a direct visual response. The composition of the space must inflict a deeper psychological and emotional feeling within the user of the space. This is a fundamental criteria in Japanese gardens, which is achieved through the use of symbols and various gardening techniques.

Derived from the early “picturesque” landscape in British culture, the English cottage garden started to introduce more intimate styles of gardening rather than the vast rolling landscapes typically seen before. These styles included gravel paths, arbors, garden beds surrounded by pruned shrubs, and most notably the return of flowers.

Inspired by classic ideals of order and beauty, the Italian garden is a place to contemplate, relax and escape. It comprises of many design elements, though a garden would not necessarily employ them all. This garden emphasizes balance through organized, geometric shapes and forms.

Practice of consistent pruning techniques is fundamental in maintaining desired plant shapes and forms (i.e. tama mono, s-shaped and pinching).

Asymmetrical arrangement not only attempts to make the landscape look natural, but also lead the eye along an imaginary diagonal axis.

The traditional method of Japanese wood preservation, emulated in the entrance fence. Typically cedar wood is charred to a charcoal-black.

Perennials are the most used of traditional cottage garden flowers. However, any plant with culinary or medicinal value are also welcomed.

Water is primarily the focal point of the gardens, with everything else connected around it. Elaborate fountains and features became a crucial element of Italian gardens.

The garden is an inspirational place designed to demonstrate horticultural technique, artistic expression and cultural diversity. The Park in the Garden contains three main gardens, interesting vistas and a communal space for celebrations and festive gatherings. As you travel from garden to garden you experience transitions in style, texture, colour and form. Look out for the following featured designs and plant species that embody the unique qualities of each individual garden.

The David G. Porter Memorial Japanese Garden

The OAC ‘56 Park in the Garden

The Edna and Frank C. Miller English Garden

The Italian Garden

Shou sugi ban

Dry Landscapes

Asymmetry

Informality

Flowers

Avenues

Pruning

Hedging

Shrubs

Water

A style of growing trees into geometric shapes. Typically in straight lines, branches are tied and pruned along a physical structure.

Balance is achieved by symmetrical plantings, geometrical flower beds and ornamental perennials. Consistent maintenance is essential.

An important quality in Italian renaissance. These represent the changing of seasons, sculpted in a classical elegant form.

Water is primarily the focal point of the gardens, with everything else connected around it. Elaborate fountains and features became a crucial element of Italian gardens.

The zen rock garden directly relates to symbolism. The elements used such as stones, gravel and shrubs represent landscapes with mountains, waves and islands.

Points of views connected through a series of pathways. Typically achieved through traditional stone dust pathways.

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