

## FAQ's

### 1. Briefly Explain the concept of borrowed landscape in Japanese gardens.

It is a gardening technique in which scenery outside the garden is utilized not just merely as background but as one of the essential elements of the structure of the garden itself. The term

Japanese term “Shakkei” means Borrowed scenery, i.e., mountains, trees, and other landscape elements that are not actually part of a garden, but can be seen from the garden and form a backdrop to it.

Illusion of space and landscape continuity is created. Thus, garden flows out visually into the surrounding landscape and conversely draws natural features from a distance into the garden's composition.

### 2. Write a short note on ‘KareSanSui’.

The Japanese term ‘KareSanSui’ “ means " dry landscape or dry garden”. This term is used to describe dry gardens in which water is suggested by rocks and gravel. It makes symbolic representations of natural landscapes using stone arrangements, white sand, moss and pruned trees. In Sakuteiki of the Heian period, the term indicated a stone arrangement in a part of the garden without water.

### 3. Describe the stone arrangement in Japanese gardens.

A striking characteristics of Japanese garden is the importance attached to the use of natural stones, rocks, and boulders. Stones arranged in groups are the most distinctive features of the Japanese garden .In all styles of Japanese gardens, careful attention is given to the shapes and proportions of the stones.

There are 5 radical shapes for stones : (Refer to the ppt slides for the images)

Statue Stone - a tall vertical stone bulging out towards the middle and finishing conically at the top called statue stone. The form Resembles the form of the human body.

Low Vertical Stone – a shorter vertical stone . rounded slightly at the base. At the top irregular blunted cone

Flat Stone – is horizontal in character with a flat top. It is higher than the stepping stone. a low broad stone of irregular shape.

Arching Stone – stone of medium height , broad flat top. Bent over to one side in an arched manner

Recumbent Ox Stone – horizontal in character. It resembles a recumbent animal – lying curved and bent. One end is higher than the other.

The sizes of the principle rocks give scale for the trees, shrubs, fences, lanterns and other elements placed near them, the principle boulders in the landscape garden suggest the mountains and hills of natural scenery. Some garden teachers of garden design maintain that the stones constitutes the skeleton of the garden.

**Stone Arrangement:** (Refer to the ppt slides for the images)

Stones arranged in groups are the most distinctive features of the Japanese garden. Stones are arranged according to certain formula

The main stone is laid to the left of the central axis .To the left of this is the supporting stone. These together form the main stone group. Diagonally right from this main stone a further stone is laid high.

Characteristic is in contrast with the main stone, i.e., if the main stone is vertical and then a flat low stone is used as contrast. These three stones dominate the arrangement.

Small stones known as complementary stone can be added in the background or foreground . The secret of the art of arranging stones in artificial landscape is to make them appear as if natural forces had placed them in position.

#### **4. What are the different types of Japanese gardens?**

Gardens have been built throughout history usually by the leading classes - aristocrats, monks, warriors, politicians and industrialists - for various purposes, such as recreational enjoyment or religious fulfillment. The evolution of gardens can be roughly aligned with Japan's historical periods whose contemporary cultural and religious characteristics are reflected in the various garden types.

Three main types of Japanese gardens are: i) The Landscape Garden with hill and lake; ii) The Level Garden and iii) The Tea Garden. Other types, namely, Strolling gardens and courtyard gardens were developed during and after 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **5. Sketch and list the components of 'Ryonji' temple garden.**

Ryoanji is the most famous and celebrated garden in Japan. It is a small, enclosed, inward looking garden and is part of a Zen temple. It serves as a subtle yet effective example of the dry garden type. It consists of fifteen moss fringed stones placed in a bed of white quartz gravel evenly scored with the long continuous marks of a rake. It is approached at viewed from a wooden verandah of the temple building. The important components listed below. (Refer to the ppt slides for the images)

Enclosure measures 70 feet X 30 feet

Contains 15 stones in 5 uneven groups . There are from left to right, five, then two, next three, again two, and finally three stones. Sitting at any point in the veranda, the viewer will always find one stone is hidden from view.

The enclosing wall – clay with tile roof is 7' high. The surrounding forest can be seen beyond

The rectangle contains 15 stones in 5 uneven groups  
coarse sand is raked in patterns

The composition is framed by a border of stones

The only vegetation within the enclosure is some moss around the stones

The compositional balance of this garden can be grasped only intuitively, not analyzed logically