

Landscape and Ecology

Lecture 5

Historical Development

Japanese Gardens were developed throughout different periods of time. So the different Garden types roughly calling with the different historical period Heian period, kamakura period, mariachi period, momoyama period, Edo period. So we will look at this development now. Prayer to the 6th century a.D. Shinto was the indigenous faith of Japan. During that time the concept of Garden was not present. Whole Mountain or forest was worshipped. As part of Shintoism a straw rope was tied around a rock or tree as a mark of respect for the spirit habit in those elements. Castor decorated rock or tree became a place of worship. And often the place around these elements were cleaned and gravel was filled to define the sacred space. The Japanese word for Garden niva was first used to denote such sanctified space in nature. So in effect, nature itself was object of worship and space of worship became Gardens. The second half of the 6th century the art of Garden reached to from China through courier to Japan also Buddhism reached at the same time. So in the Heian period rich aristocrats built themselves a garden with lakes and Island in their in their palaces. As this painting denotes different kinds of Recreational activities took place in the garden such as boating. We can also see pavilions projecting into the water bodies. Such gardens are filled with plum and cherry trees, pine and willows. The garden was polychrome and colorful and during this time the book of gardening technique was returned. The book was known as "the sakuteiki". None of the gardens were created during the Heian period since today. But based on the literary descriptions and painting certain contactus reconstruction is done. So in this particular sketch we can see the palace the elements such as Palace and subsidiary buildings and pavilions and these are linked with covered water surface. Pavilions some of them are placed near the water bodies and some project into the water body. There is a used water body and you can see the source of water stream here. Gardens have elements such as islands. And islands are linked to the main land through bridges. These are the important elements during the Haien period garden. As I said before none of the Haien period garden exist before and right now. These these are some of the remains of the garden of that time. Between 13th to 16th century that is during the Kamakura period and the muromachi period. New form of Buddhism that is Zen Buddhism gained importance and along with this. The art of ink and wash painting so gained importance. The symbolism of such paintings had a direct influence on garden design. So this period witnessed the transition from presidential lake garden of nobility to Zen minimalism so during this period the reductive aesthetics guided the garden design. Stone arrangement gained significance during this. As an extreme form of minimalism drawing landscape Garden known as karesansui were developed. As you can see here in dry landscape Garden, stone arrangement, Morse and sand gravels have been arranged. During this period then Zen priest became garden designers. So in dry landscape Gardens symbolic representation of natural landscape. So in such Garden, stone, white sand, moss and pruned trees were used. And this was used to symbolically represent nature. For example the sand, grate here you can see the patterns are used along with the stone and are used to represent Ocean, lake, islands. So in this. Continued to become smaller simpler and more minimalist.

Mostly gardens were attached to Temple buildings to help monks in meditation and religious advancements. Towards the end of 16th century it gained importance as a result tea Gardens were given importance. Tea Gardens reached to the height of their development during this time that is towards the end of 16th century. In the 17th century during the EDO period Garden design departed from the minimalism many of the early Garden concepts were reexamined and they were brought again into the garden. As a result large Strolling Gardens with ponds islands and hills were developed. So these Gardens that is kaiyu- strolling garden suggest that landscape in which the observer is in movement. This is in total contrast to earlier dry landscape Garden where it is supposed to help in meditate where is in contrast here the landscape is designed in which the observer is in movement. So we can see in this Gardens different Pathways and along the Pathways nature of spaces changes. As a result series of different views are open to the observer. Another concept that is used is shakkei which means borrowed landscape. The main goal here is to create an Illusion of space and landscape continuity. So in this kind of gardens the distant elements such as mountain or distant trees is brought into the garden design. They became part of the garden composition. So particularly in this types of gardens, the senses was hidden to give a sense of boundless space. In the 19th Century Rapid westernization transformed Japanese Gardens. As a result western Garden elements such as flower beds and open lawns were introduced in Japanese garden. So when we looked at the historical development we came across different kinds of gardens. For example initially there were landscapes gardens with lakes and hills. Later with the introduction of Zen Buddhism the minimalist approach, dry Gardens that is karesansui developed and later with the prominence of tea ceremony and tea Gardens. And again in contrast to the minimalism landscape Gardens that is strong Gardens were developed.

Different Types of Garden

Now we will look at the different types of gardens. There are different classification again for the different types of gardens for Japanese Gardens. There are up to 7 or 8 types of gardens and a lot overlaps. So we will discuss about the basic Three Types of gardens. The landscape garden with hill and lake the level Garden, and the tea garden. We will start with the landscape Garden with hill and lake. In this type of gardens if the lake is very large, then an Island is placed in the middle and then it is connected to the mainland with a bridge. Generally such lakes were irregular in shape and part of the edges were hidden as part of the design element. Sometimes a stream serves as the important features of the landscape. Thus such landscape Garden forms basis of Japanese Gardens. II type of Garden is the level Garden, the symbolic level Garden. So they appear as the Gardens of the Zen Temple. This type of Garden reproduces nature in symbolic and abstract way. So this was designed as an aid to meditation. This kind of gardens closed within the walls and the relationship of that you were to the garden was fixed. Rocks or small heaps of sand represent mountain tops. Water was represented around these using white sand or gravel. The third type of Garden is the tea garden. Tea garden became an important element of Japanese Gardens because tea ceremony became important the end of 16th century. So Japanese who was interested in tea ceremony well built himself tea room in the house or a separate tea pavilion in the garden. So tea Gardens are highly functional Gardens and they have functional elements such as stone water basin, stepping stones and stone lanterns. You can see the images here, the stone water basin and stone lanterns. This have highly functional elements.

Stepping stone protect the mass covered surface at the garden. The stone water basin provide water to the visitor so that they can rinse their hands before starting the tea ceremony. Tea gardens were initially single undivided gardens .There were tea pavilions and stepping stones, stone water basin arrangement. But later as this tea ceremony got stabilized. They were separated into inner and Outer Garden. This is the tea pavilion there is inner garden and an outer Garden. Two Gardens was separated by a fence or edge with a gate so this is the outer Garden... General the outer garden at a gateway or gate and there were waiting Lodges, waiting benches in the outside Gardens. Then there were stepping stones that lead guest into the inner Garden. You can see the stepping stones and the fence and the gate here. So this is the view of another typical tea garden where we can see the inner Garden separated with an edge and Gate. We can also see the stepping stone leading to the inner Garden from the outer Garden .once the guest come to the in the garden they see a stone water basin arrangement. Your there is a stone water arrangement and a stone lantern and these are all functional element. So before entering the garden they rinse their hands. In the inner Garden again we have a waiting lodge or awaiting bench. So here is the view of the waiting lodge and the tea pavilion. So the beginning of the tea ceremony is marked by the sound of the bell. At that point the priest comes out and receives the guest from the waiting bench. You are is another view where we can see the close up of the stone lantern, stepping stones and tea pavilion. Those are the three types of gardens.

Different Garden Elements

Next we will discuss about the different Garden elements in the Japanese garden. They are arrangement of stones, stepping stones and step stone, stone water basin, stone lantern, fences vegetation, water and garden bridges. Garden stones are important for the stones in Japanese garden. Stones arranged in groups are the most distinctive features of the Japanese garden. As you can see here in this view they are the most important features in the Japanese garden. Few Garden designer go to the extent of saying that arrangement is like skeleton of a Japanese garden. There are specific rules related to the selection of stones importance was given to the proportion scale of the stones. There are 5 radical shapes. They are statue stone. As the name implies. This kind of Stones resembles Human figure .It is a tall vertical stone and bulges in the middle. And then it ends conically on the top. Another basic shape is no vertical stone. This is rounded at the base and then it is conical on the top. III shape is a flat stone .this is much higher than a stepping stone. But it is flat on top .4th type is the arching stone. Hear it has a flat top but it bends towards one side and forms an arch. V basic shape is recumbent or Ox stone. It got its name because resembles a resting animal so this is higher on one side. It's curved and lower on the other side. So the flat stone and the recumbent ox stone are considered as horizontal flat stone whereas the other three considered as vertical step stones. All the stones are placed in the Gardens with specific rules related to it .for example in a typical stone arrangement 1st A Main stone is placed to the left of the central axis. And in front of it another subsidiary stone is placed. It is diagonally opposite to it another opposing stone is placed. Two stones this these two stones that is the main stone and the opposing stone they always have contrasting character characteristics. This is the basic arrangement with this two or more complementary stones can be added. In the foreground and in the background. The mirror image of similar arrangement can also be used. The main Idea behind this stone arrangement is to make them appear as if natural

forces have placed them in this position. Another element that we find in all Japanese gardens is the stepping stones. Stepping stones have both functional and artistic significance. This was mainly derived from the tea ceremony to preserve the moss-covered surface of the gardens. Generally flat natural stones are used. Though the arrangement appears accidental and unplanned. In reality there are definite rules that governed the placement of these stepping stones. The basic number was 6 as you can see here. There were basic number of 6 that were later and to this 4 further once could be added. These are the possible stepping stone arrangements. Where the path divides a large natural stone is placed. Here are some examples. Show the junction of the path was marked by a large natural stone. And when the path is too long to prevent the monotony rectangular stones are added as part of the stepping stones. We also find step stones in the gardens. They lead to the stepping stones. They are placed a large haiken stone, natural stone is placed next to the veranda so a person coming from the garden places to shoe on this garden... Next to it 2 smaller stones are also placed, they are known as second or 3rd step stones. Mainly they form the transition to the stepping stone path from the veranda as we can see here. Step stones secondary stones and there is a main stepping stone pathway here. Another important element that we find in Japanese garden is stone water basin. There are two kinds of stone water basin one is low stone water basin and the other one is a high stone water basin. Generally a large stepping stone is provided at the rear so the water can be replenished in this basin sometimes water is carried through bamboo pipes. We can also see bamboo scoops that helps in using the water. Stone water basins are made up of natural or likely worked stones. We can see different kinds of stone water basin here. Next Japanese garden element is the stone lantern. A typical stone lantern is made up of 5 components that is the base, the pedestal, the capital, light holder and the head piece. Step stone is generally placed behind the lantern. So that it helps in lighting the lantern. Stone lanterns are generally placed near stone water basin where two paths cross or on the banks of the lake. Or in the middle of the shrubbery. But all the stone lanterns do not have the five basic components. Stone lantern design evolved. You can see different kinds of stone lantern here. In some cases base is missing or the pedestal is missing and in same case it is modified into a different form. Here we can see a different design of stone lantern. Garden fences became an important element after the introduction of the tea ceremony. There are three kinds of garden fences. One is the short fence the other is inner fence and last is outer fence. This shows both short fence and inner fence. This is short fence and it is generally 3 by 5 feet in dimension. Short fence is like a small outer wall extending directly from the house into the garden. They are made with bamboo large rushes or the slender branches of sweet clover or similar plants. They have both artistic importance and practical purposes. They form a background to the water basin layout. Practically they screen the view into the house. The second type of fence is the inner fence. This encloses an inner yeharden. Here what we see here in this case fence is made of bamboo. Outdoor fence different characteristics in different types of gardens for example in a landscape garden the aim is to make the garden scene boundless. So in such cases outer fence is hidden by plants and the garden extent to appear without any limit. Whereas in case of level gardens, this outer fence forms a background to the garden elements in the garden. Vegetation is again another important element. Till the 10th and 12th century gardens were very colorful. We saw the garden paintings during the haiken period. They contain ornamental flowering shrub, cherry and plum trees. But with the introduction of Zen Buddhism

flowering trees were considered as a sign of revoluty and as a result evergreen trees were used or planted in the Gardens .we can find trees such as Pine trees the Japanese garden during that time. So evergreen trees represent eternity. Later towards the end of 17th century flowering trees were introduced but trees with light colored blossom where preferred such as plum trees. Also find flowering trees and shrubs with evergreen leaves such as camellia and azalea. There are also flowering grasses in the garden. Moss is an important part of the Japanese garden. As the images show here, you can see the moss and ferns are also another important plant type Used in the Japanese Gardens. The next important element is water. We can say that this is indispensable feature of Japanese Garden. We can find water in the form of lakes, streams or cascades in the Japanese garden. In case of lakes the complete outline is not visible. It is purposely hidden to indicate and undefined extent but the source of water such as a stream or a waterfall is made prominent in the design. Even when the water is not used in the garden the idea of water scenery is expressed by the arrangement of stones sand and plants. This is dry landscape Garden. We have already looked at the concept. So in this case I send but certain stones are used to represent the lake or sea, islands or rocks jutting out. Here we see a meandering bed spread with pebbles or sand. So they convey an impression of stream. And this is strengthened by using small bridges as we can see here. And water related plants and around river boulders along the banks. Since water is an important element garden Bridge has also become an important element in Japanese garden. Garden bridges for constructed with different materials. Wecan find stone bridges earth bridges and wooden bridges in Japanese Gardens. We can find birth flat and arch bridges in Japanese Gardens. Earth Bridges are basically wooden bridges but then they are covered with earth. For aesthetic purpose generally at the end the bridges we can find stone or a Shrub as we can see here. And most of these bridges or none of these bridges have railing. Here we see wooden Bridge and earthen Bridge, the wooden Bridge cover with earth and so these are some important elements of Japanese garden. Now we will look at two examples for Japanese garden. We will look at an example of dry landscape Garden that is Zen garden at ryoan ji temple first. Here is the view of the ropan ji temple garden. It as a small enclosed in ward looking Garden it is part of a Zen temple. It is approached and viewed from the verandah of a temple. The enclosure measures 70 feet by 30 feet. It contains 15 stones in 5 uneven groups. From left to right we can see 5, 3, 3, 2 and 3 stones here. It is said that from the verandah they always said that one stone is always hidden from the view. So here is the view of the stone groups we can see the forest that is beyond the boundary. And this stones are set in coarse Sands and they are raked in patterns. Thisis part of the Zenpractice. The sand is raked in circular pattern around the stone and in straight lines in other places. One of the important characteristics of water is its mobility and these sands are raked in pattern. And the wind white out these traces and as a result the attempt to capture the transient quality of the water in the sand racking patterns. We can see the enclosing wall. It is 7 Feet high and it has tile roof on top. We can see the plans beyondclosing wall. The entire arrangement we can see it is bounded by stones. So this is the close up view of the raked sand, pebbles and Verandah of the garden. The only vegetation in the garden is moss around the stones. This ryoanji garden is a perfect setting for contemplation. The next example that we are going to see is katsura Imperial Villa,. The garden and katsura imperial Villa was built during the eDO period and it was belt as a countryside retreat by prince toshihito. This Garden design blends the Elegance of Heian era and the rustic simplicity of tea culture. This

Garden has two ancient symbols of longevity in the landform. That is tortoise shaped Island set in a flying crane shaped lake. And there are series of the houses in the garden and the stepping stone path links all these tea pavilion. A part of 1760 stones make this stone pathway and the observer always moves in clockwise direction and the Lake is always to the right of the observer. Here we see three dimensional view, where we can see the palace, different tea Gardens, tea pavilions and the stone pathway. This black and white image shows the tortoise shaped Island and the flying crane shaped lake. This shows the configuration of the building and relationship to the garden elements. We can see the buildings and the different sculptures and stoned arrangement. Now this is overlaid with vegetation .this is the entire view of the garden, another view. As the observer moves along the pathway the different carefully composed views, are revealed to the observer. As we see here this is the initial view of the tea garden and the view of the island and here is the view of the palace from the Pavilion. View of the islands and view of the earthen Bridge. And the temple. When the observer come to the palace, there is a stone viewing platform. Here are some of the structures in the garden, garden Gates, garden bridges, and different kinds of stepping stones. These paths sequentially present the garden views and objects to the visitor. And plants are carefully placed so that it is impossible for a visitor to view the entire Garden from 1 place. Here are some of the carefully composed view of katsura Palace.