Characteristics of Japanese Garden

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Abstract: The article briefly discusses the emergence of garden art in Japan, its main types and analyzes the main features of the Japanese garden.

Keywords: Contemplation and appreciation of the beauty of landscapes, the constructive scheme of the garden, the formal signs and symbols of the Japanese garden, the gardens attached to the monasteries and temples, the tea ceremony garden, the rock garden, the moss garden, the water garden, the landscapes garden, "Turtle Islands" and "Crane Islands", "paradise islands", "four of noble plants".

The first information about Japanese gardens dates back to the reign of Emperor Suiko (592-628 AD). The Japanese considered gardening a kind of painting and widely used landscapes depicted in the paintings when creating a garden [1].

Garden art, along with Buddhism, came to Japan from India, through Korea and China in the 6th century. Throughout its history, numbering almost one and a half thousand years, the Japanese garden was formed in line with the landscape style direction. This was facilitated by the nature of Japan with its mild climate, rich flora and variety of landscapes (rocky mountains, lakes, rivers, streams, waterfalls, sandbars, wooded hills, etc.).

The love of the Japanese for nature found its expression in the desire to concentrate all this diversity on a small area of the garden. The main function of the Japanese garden is the contemplation and appreciation of the beauty of landscapes from certain viewing points - terraces, windows of the house, viewpoints of the walking route. The Japanese garden developed along with the culture of its time, obeying the religious concepts of Buddhism and Shintoism. The following periods are distinguished in its development:

VI-VIII centuries - the period of Nara, characterized by the influence of Chinese culture. The capital Nara is being built on the model of the Chinese capital Changchan. At the palaces, the first gardens were created according to the Chinese type, with a general design scheme - mountains and water. Semantic symbolism appears (pine - longevity, bamboo - resilience, etc.). This is the period of formation of the Japanese garden based on the synthesis of Japanese spatial concepts and Chinese garden compositions.

IX-XII centuries - Heian period. The capital, Kyoto, is characterized by a refined cultural life and the development of art. The garden acquires refined forms and is used both for entertainment and court holidays, as well as for contemplation, reflection and relaxation. The garden receives a typological planning scheme, it is based on a lake and an island. Thus, garden art is formed as a specific genre with its own formal features and canons.

XIII - the beginning of the XIV century - the Kamakura period. It is characterized by the rise to power of the military nobility and the spread of the Zen Buddhism sect. The gardens become part of the temple complex.

XIV-XVI centuries - Muromachi period. It is characterized by the convergence of the Heian and Kamakura directions and the new flourishing of culture. This period in the history of Japanese garden art is considered a classic. Gardens are developed at monasteries and created by monks.
In the XVI century, a new type of garden appears - the garden of the tea ceremony [3,4].

In the 18th century, Japanese masters formed the typology of gardens. According to functional requirements, the gardens are divided into palace, temple, tea ceremony gardens, gardens near a residential building. [2].

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By the nature of the relief: a flat garden and a hilly garden.

According to the complexity of the compositional construction: the full form is “syn”, the semi-abbreviated form is “so”, the abbreviated - "geo".

The most extended form "shin" usually contains the entire set of compositional elements. The form "gyo" is more concise, and although the number of elements is small, they are more expressive and meaningful. Understatement should activate the perception of the garden.

According to the main component on which the perception is sharpened: a rock garden, a moss garden, a water garden, a garden of landscapes, etc. Regardless of the type of garden, stones and water make up an integral part, his "skeleton" and "blood". Stones are selected by shape, color, texture. Groups are formed from them: the main one determines the entire composition - the height of the hills, the size and shape of the reservoir, the placement of plants in the garden; auxiliary - obeys the main one and emphasizes its main idea: "guest group" - compositionally does not obey the main one, but balances it; a connecting group, which compositionally unites the garden with the house, etc. [3,4].

Planning a Japanese garden begins with choosing a plot. Most often the main things in the plot are mountains and hills, stones and water. However, sometimes in the gardens there is no specific image of hills, springs or rivers, but there is only an abstract hint of their shape - a symbol. Then there is the so-called "dry landscape", which seeks to convey the beauty of valleys and gorges, fast mountain streams without the use of water [1].

Water is the lifeblood of any garden. It is present in the form of a reservoir with a bay, islands, sandy and stone banks and depicts a calm and wide river or a turbulent stream with rapids. A
favorite element of the garden is the waterfall. In almost all compositions with a reservoir and islands, the main place is given to the “turtle island” and “crane island”, symbolizing the desire of the human spirit to the depths of knowledge and soaring upwards, as well as to the “paradise island”, which is not connected to the shore [3,4].

Particular attention is paid to plants. With the help of plants, the change of seasons is accentuated: spring - with the flowering of fruit trees, autumn - with the color of leaves (especially maple), winter - with a pattern of bare branches. Preference is given to flowering trees and shrubs. There are very few flowers, sometimes none at all. The most favorite plant, sung in poetry and painting, is Japanese dense-flowered pine. Of the flowering ones - plum (ume), cherry (sakura), camellia, azalea, hagi. Chrysanthemum, plum, orchid and bamboo, according to Japanese concepts, form the “four noble” of the plant world [3].

An integral part of the garden are garden structures: bridges, benches, stone lamps, fences, gates. They are made of natural material - wood, bamboo, stone, sometimes metal (cast iron or bronze benches), without varnish and paint, in order to convey the texture of the material, its natural color. In terms of composition and color scheme, gardens are closely connected with painting.

A characteristic feature of the Japanese garden is symbolism. Behind the visible landscape with its beauty, refined form and finely thought-out composition lies a deeper content. It can be read by the symbolism carried by the components of the garden, by the shape and arrangement of stones, islands, etc. These features are most clearly manifested in flat (philosophical) gardens [3,4].

There are many gardens in Japan that consist only of stones and sand. One of the famous gardens of this type is the Ryoanji Garden in Kyoto.

The garden has the shape of an elongated rectangle. Its flat surface is sprinkled with coarse white sand, on which there are 15 stones of various shapes. Due to its proportions and skillful arrangement of stones, this garden is considered an outstanding piece of garden art in Japan [1].

References
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