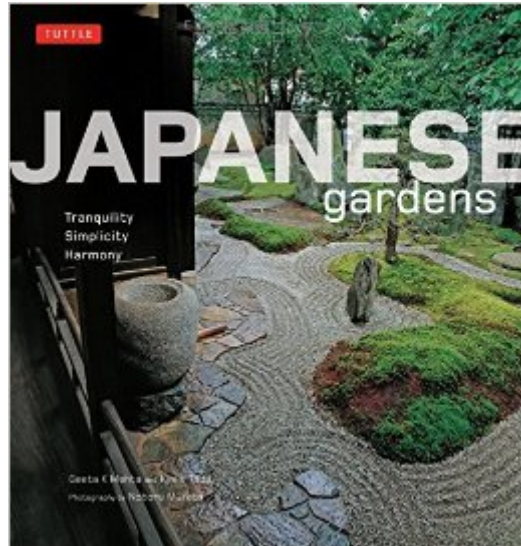


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Japanese Gardens: Tranquility, Simplicity, Harmony



Synopsis

Featuring beautiful photographs and insightful commentary this Japanese gardening book is a must have for any gardening or zen enthusiast. At the heart of a Japanese garden is harmony with nature. More than simply a landscape of trees and flowering shrubs, a Japanese garden provides a place of serenity and rest, filled with peaceful spots that lend themselves to meditation and contemplation. Japanese Gardens celebrates and illustrates this ideal, showcasing the exquisite natural beauty of more than 20 quintessentially Japanese gardens—big and small, urban and rural, traditional and contemporary. The expert author-and-photographer team behind this book excels at capturing and explaining the essential elements and techniques that distinguish Japanese garden design from that of other countries. The featured sites reflect a cross section of Japanese culture and history including large feudal period gardens, temple and Zen gardens and private countryside gardens. The mountain flower garden, tea garden, rock garden and bonsai garden alike are all celebrated and appreciated in this beautiful book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Japanese Gardens may be only a mid-size book, but it has some of the best examples of Japanese gardens that I have seen. The examples vary from temple to residential, from relatively grand to quite modest, but they are all outstanding in one way or another. They are very well photographed, and the images are large enough to really 'look around' in. I have quite a few 'picture' books on this subject, and Japanese Gardens is one of the most enjoyable to return to. For the last few weeks it's

always been out, and often open... and I find myself frequently pausing to turn pages and ponder the beautiful images. The text is easy to read, and informative as well. This is a lovely book.

For me, the important thing to learn about Japanese gardens is the spirit behind them. Thus, I am not much interested in books of the "how to" type here. I believe you need to understand this subject at a deeper level. Therefore, I find this book to be a most excellent guide to Japanese gardening. The pictures are simply stunning. The photographer is extremely skilled and has an almost magical ability to use the play of light and shadow to best advantage when portraying the gardens. Overall, the effect of looking at the pictures is almost like actually being there! The accompanying texts are also well written and tells about the history of each garden. Read this book, get yourself immersed in the pictures, to get some true intuitive understanding of the Japanese garden.

Japanese gardens are legendary for their natural tranquility and artistically elegant use of space and topography. Co-compiled and written by Geeta K. Mehta and Kimie Tada, "Japanese Gardens: Tranquility, Simplicity, Harmony" visually showcases an impressive and memorable series of Japanese temple gardens, private gardens, and public gardens. Profusely illustrated throughout in full color photography by Noboru Murata, "Japanese Gardens" is an informed and informative tour through the best examples of Japanese gardening techniques and philosophy extant today. An elegant, beautiful, inspired and inspiring compilation, "Japanese Gardens" is a welcome and enthusiastically recommended addition to personal, professional, academic, and community library Gardening & Landscape Design reference collections and supplemental reading lists.

I was disappointed by this book. Lavish praise from others, but if you want a coffee table book, this isn't it. Many of the photographs are overly processed in a '70s style, whitening the shadows. Also the resolution for many of these is simply not adequate. If on the other hand you want analytic or practical insight into Japanese gardens, this is also not for you. Accompanying text is brief, descriptive and much too general: "A good view of the entire garden can be seen from the building. The pond is fed by a man-made mountain stream. The miniaturized suhama pebble beach in the foreground seeks to mimic nature. The large stones were brought here from a mountain valley. The stone lantern called yukimi doro, seen on the left, is situated on the water's edge, as is usual at garden ponds." Who will it suit? People who want a broadbrush introduction to a variety of Japanese gardens.

There isn't a ton of text in this book, but what's there is perfect. Between the pictures and the text, the book really decodes what makes a Japanese garden a Japanese garden. It also tells the story behind many of the elements in traditional Japanese gardens, and the photos are simply drop-dead gorgeous. It gave me lots of ideas for my blank-slate backyard, and tons of inspiration to get started on my own Japanese garden.

This book is filled with beautiful illustrations and very informative writings. I was able to take information presented in this book and incorporate it into my own garden. Overall, it was a very helpful guide as well as an interesting read. I would recommend this book to those who want to incorporate Japanese style garden into their own, or those who simply want to learn more about Japanese garden.

This book is full of wonderful views of amazing gardens. It is a picture book. The Japanese refuse latin making it difficult to identify plants and trees. I. E all spruces are ezo spruce. Great to look at not much else

This is a lovely book which provides a very zen balance of well chosen words and images. Even just browsing through it has brought me tranquility, simplicity and harmony.

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