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Japanese Garden Notes: A Visual Guide To Elements And Design



Synopsis

"The undisputed American master of Japanese garden scholars."—*New York Times*, Dominique Browning
Matching some 400 color photographs to brief, informed observations, renowned garden designer Marc Peter Keane walks us through 100 Japanese gardens, stopping along the way to note essential elements of design, technique, and culture. Covering everything from large-scale aspects of space and balance to subtle elements that are often overlooked, this is an innovative, stunningly visual guide for planning and inspiration.
Landscape architect and author Marc Peter Keane lived in Kyoto, Japan, for nearly 20 years and specializes in Japanese garden design. He lives in Ithaca, New York.

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Customer Reviews

"An elegantly soulful interpretation of the essential elements of Japanese garden design."—*The New York Times*
"An inspirational source for any individual interested in Japanese gardens and their design."—*Choice Reviews*
"Gorgeous... Like the gardens themselves, every corner of Japanese Garden Notes has been carefully considered, making for a delightful, nourishing coffee-table book."—*The Japan Times*
"It's hard to think of a better person to serve as a personal guide through 100 of Japan's finest gardens."—*Spoon & Tamago*
"In the crowded field of books on Japanese gardens, Marc Keane has produced a classic."—*Kendall H. Brown*, author of *Quiet Beauty: The Japanese Gardens of North America*
"As evidenced through this selection of photographs, the

garden design ideas vary in their composition and execution. Some include lush and open green spaces, while others are more contained and have meticulous arrangements. Each will make you want to go and connect with nature."

My Modern MET "A true work of art... that all who are interested in Japanese gardens should have on their bookshelf."

Shakkei: The Journal of the Japanese Garden Society "A jumping-off point for audiences interested in learning more about Japanese gardens, and offers inspiration for casual observers, garden design students, and aficionados."

Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia "A must-have volume for anyone seriously interested in understanding the spirit and attention to subtle detail that make Japanese gardens places of tranquility and refuge wherever they exist in the world."

Diane Durston (Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education) and Sadafumi Uchiyama (Garden Curator), Portland Japanese Garden "Gives the reader a rich overview of Japanese garden art, while pleasing the eye with surprising, intimate, even intense, photographs."

Alex Kerr, author of Lost Japan "Captures the beauty and intelligence of Japanese gardens better than any book I know of."

Leonard Koren, author of Wabi-Sabi: for Artists, Designers, Poets & Philosophers "Keane is the perfect person to expound on the finer aspects of the Japanese garden. [Japanese Garden Notes] captures the elegance of such a calming place."

JQ magazine

Marc Peter Keane: Marc Peter Keane, a graduate of Cornell University, is an American landscape architect and author. He lived in Kyoto, Japan, for nearly 20 years, and specializes in Japanese garden design. Presently, he maintains a design office in Ithaca, New York. He is the author of several books about garden design: *Japanese Garden Design* (an introduction to the culture and design of Japanese gardens); *Sakuteiki: Visions of the Japanese Garden* (a translation of Japan's oldest gardening text, co-authored with Prof. Jiro Takei), *The Art of Setting Stones* (a collection of philosophical essays on gardens), and *The Japanese Tea Garden* (history and aesthetics of Japanese tea gardens). Keane is a fellow at the Research Center for Japanese Garden Art in Kyoto, the East Asia Program at Cornell University, and the Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies at Columbia University. He has lectured widely throughout the United States, England, and Japan. Keane also acted as chairman of Kyoto Mitate International for many years, a non-profit organization that worked to revitalize Kyoto's traditional environments and cultural heritage.

Having spent time in Japan every year since 1994 (my wife and I both serious about gardens) find this compact volume to incorporate all the best of our memories in photos we WISHED we had

taken...or at least have been present each time Mr. Keane seems to have magically arrived in the perfect light for each location. The poetic descriptions capture, not only important details, but the spirit of each garden view rendering an indelible after image to carry with us to our every creative endeavor!

MPK's masterful book inspires tranquility and awe, such as his description of pine needles: "gesturing like the poised fingers of a dancer." Photographed with precision and elegance and accompanied by the author's Zen-like prose, every page is balanced with equal measure of scholarly rigor and poetic grace.

This is a gorgeous book. The beautiful photographs of gardens in Japan and the lean, straight-forward text let us see how the design elements in these gardens convey ideas and images. It is hard to think of better illustrations as to how small details matter than the description and explanation of the elements in these gardens. We could learn a lot about designing our own spaces from seeing how the simple elements here create boundaries, entrances, and other concepts of design, but even if one has no plans to design anything, this book helps us to see things differently and appreciate the beauty in Japanese design.

What makes Japanese gardens so appealing? Highly planned yet seemingly artless, the principles of classic Japanese gardens are elegantly illustrated in this beautifully designed book. It will give gardeners countless ideas for practical use, as well as serving as a guide for visiting gardens in Japan.

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