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Japanese Garden of Monaco

By Laura Ciocan

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by: **Laura Ciocan**

Have you ever seen an authentic Japanese garden? Well, I had the chance of seeing the one in Monaco and was really impressed too. Wanna taste a little Japanese culture? Stepping on this ground is escaping from the real world into a fantasy land. You suddenly find yourself in a typical Japanese natural setting like the ones you see in marvelous paintings. The only thing that's missing is the fog. Instead, the Mediterranean sun reveals all minute details in a warm light.

With Japanese gardens, what you see is not all; the surface of things is the mere reflection of the psyche of an ancient culture. One really needs to be literally "cultured" in this direction to best appreciate the value of this art. (which I myself was not at the time of my visit! And it was a pity as I did not know what to look for and what to analyse better!) One can speak of a philosophy of gardening coming from the ancient Japan. Japanese gardening is an art fetched beyond the arrangements of vegetation, water and stone but is full of symbols: Koko – the veneration of timeless age; Shizen – the avoidance of the artificial; Yugen, or darkness – imply the mysterious or subtle; Miegakure – the avoidance of full expression

The perception of nature is different in the Japanese culture from that of the European one. Instead of viewing nature only as something to be subjugated and transformed according to men-made ideal of beauty, Japanese developed a close connection to nature, considering it sacred, an ally in putting food on the table and an ideal of beauty in itself. That is why the Japanese gardens are the synthesis of nature in miniature instead of correction of nature as with European gardens.

Actually, the design of Japanese gardens come from the Chinese model. The history goes back in time, around year 100BC when the emperor of China, Wu Di of the Han Dynasty established a garden that contained three small islands, mimicking the Isles of the Immortals, who were the principle Taoist deities. An envoy of Japan saw it and took the idea to Japan, improving the existing Japanese practices.

Japanese Garden of Monaco

The Japanese Garden of Monaco was designed at the request of Prince Rainier who thus fulfilled a desire Princess Grace had expressed during her life-time. The garden was designed by the landscape-architect Yasuo Beppu, has 7,000 square meter, its construction took 3 years and it was inaugurated in 1994.

There are some specific elements: The wall (Hei) with an intermediary bamboo fencing (Takégaki) that stands for fragility and simplicity. The main gate (Shô-mon) The stone lanterns (Tôrô) – each having special different characteristics; The lake (Iké) with large swishing gold fish. The stone fountain (Fusen-Ishi) The covered terrace (Kyukeijo) The islands (Shima) – represent two long-living animals – the tortoise and the crane, symbols of complementarity expressed The Tea house (Chatshitsu)– named the Garden of Grace (Ga-én) The dry landscape (Karésansui) – quintessence of Cosmos The Belvedere (Azumaya) – a house on a hill allowing view in all four corners The waterfall (Taki) – symbolizes the strength of Man and Nature, contrasting to the horizontality of the lake. The arched red bridge (Taikobashi) – is red, the color of happiness and is narrow so as to make access to

the divine island more difficult.

There are olive trees, cherry trees, conifers, azaleas, rhododendrons and camellias, a varried, rich vegetation of Mediterranean, South American, Australia, African and Asian origin, pruned according to the Japanese tradition.

Walking in the crowded Monaco, with all its stone, steel and glass, you can find in the Japanese Garden a peaceful, green oasis where even the great number of tourists passes unnoticed, wandering on the winding paths, through the thicket of the garden.

Laura Ciocan writes for

where you can find all you want to know

about living in Monaco

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A Guide To Japanese Gardens

By Charles & Susan Truett

Ready for something different in your garden? Take a look at Japanese bridges. These beautiful ornamental bridges bring the Far East right into your back yard or garden.

Japanese bridges add elegance to gardens and look beautiful when placed over a koi pond or Japanese style dry river bed. There are many flowers, shrubs and trees that compliment Japanese bridges also.

Japanese Garden of Monaco

If you are interested in Japanese bridges for your garden you may want to look online for ideas and suggestions. There are excellent sites that not only feature the bridges but have information about planning an entire garden space in the Japanese style.

Many of the designs for these Japanese bridges are taken from ancient drawings. The Japanese bridges are graceful and unique. Place a Japanese bridge in your garden and create a space to meditate, a quiet area for contemplation and dreaming. These are just a few of the benefits of having a Japanese bridge.

You might want to begin planning a Japanese bridge by surveying the space you have to work with. Make sure the Japanese bridge is the correct size. The Japanese bridge will not look as lovely as it should if it is too big or too small for the area. Think carefully about the other things you will have in the space. You will want to coordinate the flowers, trees and any other ornamental elements you plan to use. If you have a pond you will need to determine the best Japanese bridge for the pond.

Plan carefully and you will be able to add a little Oriental flair to your yard even if you live in New York City!

We have a large number of styles and varieties of garden bridges available online. For more information and to learn more about

, visit:

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