

III The Japanese Garden Outside of Japan - The Significance and Role -

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Preface

The oldest record of a traditional Japanese garden, constructed abroad, is of a garden exhibited in the International Exposition in Vienna in 1873. In considering the genealogy of Japanese gardens outside of Japan, the role of the Expo is a key component.

By the middle of the 19th century, Britain was at work realizing the Industrial Revolution, France was in the era of the Second Empire under Napoleon III and other European countries were engaged in expanding their colonies abroad. The United States, after the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, was about to experience rapid industrialization in the north states. It was the age of imperialism when Western powers moved toward the partition of the world and competed for territories and commercial interests. This combination of industrial development and the first wave of mass-produced products, plus all manner of new commodities from the colonies, led to the inception of the International Exposition. It was an international trade show that allowed countries to demonstrate their supremacy on a grand stage.

1. The World Surrounding the Early Expos

The first Expo was held in London, the capital of the British Empire, and was given the grand title of “the Great Exhibition.” At its heart, the Crystal Palace symbolized the newly industrializing world, with its magnificent cast iron and glass construction. This first International Exposition was so successful that it attracted approximately 6 million visitors.

In successive years, Universal Expos were held in New York (1853) and Paris (1855). In the 1862 London Expo, Japanese cultural items were exhibited for the first time. These were Japanese crafts collected by the first British minister to Japan, Rutherford Alcock. Back in Japan it was still an age of great uncertainty. With the opening of Japan by Commodore Perry in 1854, the age of the Shogun was waning but the country became more unstable. The chief councilor (*tairo*) to the Shogun Ii Naosuke, signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce (also known as the Harris treaty) with the United States in 1858, against the wishes of the Emperor and rival Samurai. Two years later he was assassinated by 17 low ranking samurai in the event known as the *Sakuradamongai* Incident. In the following years, violence against foreigners increased until an attack in which a British merchant was killed in 1862, known as the Namamugi Incident, forced a response by the British fleet against the Lord of Satsuma that was to prove seminal in the final shift toward the reforms of the Meiji government some 6 years later.

In the midst of all this, and encouraged by French minister to Japan Léon Roches, the last Tokugawa bakufu (Shogun led government) participated in the Paris Expo of 1867, with the participation of the Choshu and Satsuma domains (who were, ironically, aligned against it for domestic supremacy). According to the record various commodities were exhibited and a Japanese style house with a small pond was constructed. Nevertheless, this seems a far cry from what we would call a Japanese garden.

The Paris Expo was followed by the Vienna Expo of 1873. In Japan, the formation of a new government, the abolition of the traditional domain system, and the establishment of the Interior Ministry were ongoing. With expectations running high, the government decided to participate in the Expo and appeal to the world with its ability to prosper through trade. The Vienna Expo ran from May 5 to November 2 of that year in Prater Park, close by the river Donau.

2. Japanese Gardens in the Early Expos

An existing drawing of the Japanese exhibition booth for the Vienna Expo, indicates the titles of *Nihon Sha-en* (Japanese shrine garden) and *Nihon Shokubutsu-en* (Japanese botanical garden), which were probably created in the image of shrines and precincts. It was composed of a *Torii* gate (shrine gate) made of plain wood at the front entrance, *Kaguraden* on the right hand side, a small pond with an arched bridge in front of the main shrine and stone lanterns alongside the *Sando*. This garden is therefore considered the oldest Japanese garden constructed in a foreign country. This garden attracted considerable attention because it enabled Europeans to see in person, Japanese scenery they knew only from Ukiyoe (woodblock print art). This exhibition eventually led to the fashion of “*Japonisme*.” The chief designer of this garden was Tsuda Sen, who was famous for his popularization of new agricultural technology, which he studied during his time in Vienna. He was also well known as one of the founders of Aoyama Gakuin and as the father of Tsuda Umeko who founded Tsuda College for Women.

In the following Philadelphia Expo of 1876, the Japanese exhibition was a garden-like space attached to houses with dripping fountains, classic vases and bronze figures of cranes and boars. Although it does not seem a typical Japanese garden from the description, it is generally accepted as the first Japanese Garden in America.

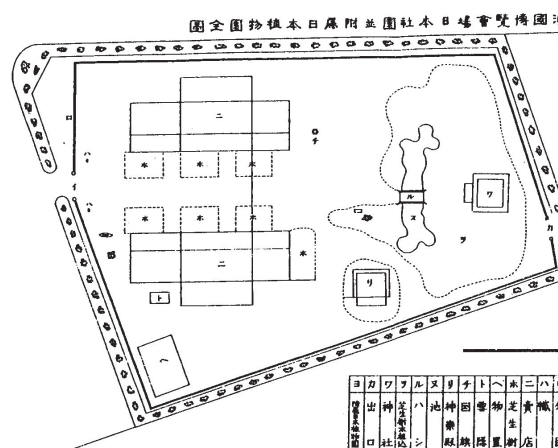


Figure-1: The Plan of the Japanese Exhibition Booth for the Vienna Expo

3. The Influence of Japanese Gardens in World Expositions

In Europe, the most influential exhibition of Japanese gardens was the Paris Expo of 1878. This garden was modeled after a farmer's garden. It was enclosed by *Tsuijibei* (traditional pounded-clay and plastered wall) and bamboo fences, and contained a small pond, paddy field and bonsai display. Although a keen interest in things Oriental and Japanese was already established in Europe, this Expo led to the spread of *Japonisme* to a wider range of artistic fields (Claude Monet allegedly painted “*La Japonaise*” in 1876 and started to build a pond with water lilies in his home in 1893).

Although London and Paris were the center for World Expos in the late 19th and early 20th century, the center shifted to the United States after World War II. It was here, in the Cali 1 fornia Midwinter International Exposition held in San Francisco in 1894, that the world's first authentic Japanese garden was constructed. Though largely designed by American, John McLaren, the building materials, garden materials and craftsmen all came from Japan. The garden was a strolling-style tea garden with mounds, pond and stream within its original 4,000 square meter area. It continues today in Golden Gate Park as the oldest Japanese Garden in the United States.

At the time of the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, Japan was in the midst of the Russo- Japanese War. Japan participated in the Expo, allegedly, in order to gain support from the United States. With an area of 15,000 square meters, the garden was the largest of any exhibited in that Expo. The garden called “The Imperial Japanese Garden” was designed by Fukuba Hayato. Construction work was carried out and supervised by the gardeners of the Imperial Household Agency and essential trees were brought from Japan.. It was the first Japanese garden in the history of the Expos, created solely by Japanese. It was a stroll style garden, with buildings resembling the Sisinden-tasted pavilion and the Golden Pavilion, and other various buildings. After the close of the Expo, the Sisinden-tasted pavilion, ornamental rocks and several trees were given to Professor Takamine Jokichi and arranged on his American estate known as *Shofu Den*.

Throughout the time from the late Edo Period to the beginning of World War II, Japanese gardens

were constructed as devices to express the uniqueness of Japanese culture as a whole. This resulted in the creation of many gardens that did not conform to the tradition of Japanese garden styles. However, these gardens led to greater understanding of Japan and the popularity of Japanese culture.

4. Japanese Gardens in the Postwar Expos.

World Expositions were not held for sometime after the war ended. In the first post-war Expo, the Brussels World's Fair of 1958, the commodity-oriented exhibitions of the past, continued a shift toward exhibitions that emphasized the life and culture of humanity, that was begun by the New York World's Fair of 1939. Conversely, for a Japan continuing its recovery from the devastation of war, the shift was toward economic recovery through industrialization. This change of focus was clearly reflected in Japan's exhibitions. Furthermore, with Japan hosting its first World Expo in Osaka in 1970, and subsequent fairs in Okinawa (1975) and Tsukuba (1985), Japan was anxious to highlight its achievements in the modern world.

Furthermore, with the foundation of the International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH) in 1948, International Horticultural Exhibitions approved by AIPH have been held since 1960. This exhibition became the main venue for the exhibition of Japanese gardens.

In 1984, a Japanese garden exhibited in the first International Garden Festival in Liverpool won the golden prize. In 1990, Japan expressed its commitment to the importance of flowers and greenery and coexistence with the nature with the International Green and Flower Exhibition in Osaka. Foreign countries' participation in this Expo led to the constant exhibition of Japanese gardens in subsequent Horticultural Shows such as the Zoetermeer, Netherlands (1992), Kunming, China (1999), Haarlemmermeer, Netherlands (2002), and Rostock, Germany (2003).

Postscript

The history of Japanese gardens outside Japan is integrally linked with the advent of World Expositions. Considering the volume of people that attended these fairs—50million for Paris 1900, 20million for Chicago 1933, for example—Japanese gardens were, in this way, exposed to countless millions of people around the world. Regardless of the accuracy or depth of understanding gained from such exhibitions, there is no doubt that they ignited tremendous interest in Japanese culture. Because such exhibits are built to be temporary however, few Japanese gardens from these Expos still in exist today.

Please refer to the table “list of Expos” for reference about Japanese gardens exhibited from the late 19th century to the early 20th century and the late 20th century.

The History of World Expositions and Japanese Gardens

Year	Venue	Note
The Period of Paris-London centered World Expositions		
1851	London, UK	Crystal Palace
1853	New York, USA	
	Dublin, Ireland	
1855	Paris, France	
1862	London, UK	Alcock participated in the exhibition and Takeuchi delegacy visited
1867	Paris, France	Bakufu, Satusma and Saga participated. Japanese house and small pond
1873	Vienna, Austria	First participation of Japanese new government. Japanese shrine garden, botanical garden were exhibited. Iwakura delegacy visited.
1874	Dublin, Ireland	
1876	Philadelphia, USA	100 th anniversary of independence. Japanese garden exhibited.
1878	Paris, France	Japanese garden with Tsuiji wall, bamboo fence, teahouse, paddy field and pond
1884	New Orleans, USA	
1885	Antwerp, Belgium	
1886	London, UK	
	Melbourne, Australia	
1888	Glasgow, Scotland	
1889	Paris, France	The tower of Eiffel, Japanese garden with Bonsai display
1893	Chicago, USA	HO-o-den Japanese garden, Horticultural pavilion
1894	San Francisco, USA	Japanese village, Japanese garden
1895	Atlanta, USA	
1897	Brussels, Belgium	
1900	Paris, France	Horyuji temple, Japanese garden, the miniature model of Japanese garden
The Period of America centered World Expositions		
1901	Buffalo, USA	Teahouse and Japanese garden
1904	Saint Louis, USA	Shishinden, Golden pavilion. All designed and constructed by Japanese staffs
1905	LiEge, Belgium	
1906	Milan, Italy	
1907	Dublin, Ireland	
	Hampton Roads, USA	

1909	Seattle, USA	Japanese garden
1910	Brussels, Belgium	
	London, UK	Japan-Britain exposition. Japanese garden with the messenger's gate
1911	Turin, Italy	
1913	Ghent, Belgium	
1915	San Francisco, USA	Golden pavilion, Japanese garden
	San Diego, USA	Teahouse and Japanese garden
1922	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	
1924	Wembley, UK	
1925	Paris, France	Japanese garden
1926	Philadelphia, USA	
1928	-	The conclusion of International Exposition Treaty
1929	Barcelona, Spain	
1930	Seville, Spain	
	Liège, Belgium	Japanese garden
1931	Paris, France	
1933	Chicago, USA	Application of integral theme. Japanese garden
1935	Brussels, Belgium	
1937	Paris, France	
1939	New York, USA	Japanese garden
1940	San Francisco, USA	Japanese garden
The Postwar World Expositions in which Japanese gardens were exhibited		
1948		The foundation of AIPH
1970	Osaka, Japan	The first Expo in Asia
1975	Okinawa, Japan	Ocean Expo
1984	Liverpool, UK	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition. Japanese garden
1985	Tsukuba, Japan	Science and Technology Exposition
1990	Osaka, Japan	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition
1992	Zoetermeer, Netherlands	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition. Japanese garden
1999	Kunming, China	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition. Japanese garden
2000	Awaji, Japan	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition
2002	Haarlemmermeer, Netherlands	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition. Japanese garden
2003	Rostock, Germany	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition. Japanese garden
2004	Shizuoka, Japan	Garden and Horticulture Exhibition
2005	Nagoya, Japan	World Expo