

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

4. The Japanese Gardens in Public Parks, Botanic Gardens and Art Museums

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Preface

Public parks, botanical gardens and art museums were originated in Western countries and thereafter they have been introduced to other countries which inclined to modernization as devices of modernization. But, conversely, Japanese gardens have been often incorporated into such devices which were cultural assets of foreign countries. What does it mean? This question can be simplified, if compare with Japanese gardens created in private premises or gardens. Incorporation of Japanese gardens into private gardens was largely dependent on personal interests of government officials or merchants who had an experience in Japan. On the other hand, incorporation of Japanese gardens in public cultural facilities normally requires social acceptance. This chapter outlines the process of incorporating Japanese gardens into foreign public cultural facilities.

First of all, I would like to outline the period when Japanese gardens started to be constructed in oversea cultural facilities and the number of case examples. The research conducted in this report identified 430 Japanese gardens overseas which were still in existence or were recorded in trustable materials. Among them, 120 Japanese gardens were constructed in cultural facilities such as public parks, botanical gardens and art museums. These gardens were constantly constructed from the early 20th century to today. Particularly after the 1970s, this trend became intensified. As for the breakdown, 50 Japanese gardens are located in public parks (42%), 15 in botanical gardens (13%) and 6 in art museums (5%). Others include those constructed in cultural centers and universities. There are also a few examples in city halls, hospitals and so on.

1. Japanese Gardens in Public Parks

The formation process of Japanese gardens presently located in public parks is as various as the following categories.

- A Japanese gardens initially constructed in private premises which lately opened to public as public parks
- B Japanese gardens constructed as exhibition facilities in expositions
- C Japanese gardens deliberately constructed as a part of public parks

Japanese gardens of category A are often seen in Britain. Gunnersbury Park in London would be a typical example. It was a former premise of Rothschild family and in 1901 Japanese garden was constructed, featuring water channel, bamboo bridge, tea house and stone lanterns. Although the garden was once deserted, it was restored and returned to the original condition of 100 years ago by strong support of local Japanese community on the occasion of the Japan 2001 Festival. Japanese cultural center was also constructed adjacent to the garden.

Japanese gardens of the category B include Ho-o-do (Byodoin Ho-o-do) and stroll garden, which were exhibited by Japanese government in the Columbia Expo in 1893 held in Jackson Park in Chicago. The teahouse and Torii gate were additionally constructed in 1934, but Ho-o-den was burnt down due to the fire in 1944. The garden had been kept as it used to be and a waterfall was added in 1981. In 1992, the city of Osaka, a sister city of Chicago, made a donation for the restoration of the garden. The garden was also renamed as 'Osaka Garden'. In 2001, the garden was further renewed and repaired on a basis of the master plan and reopened in 2002.

Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco (1894) is also an example of Japanese gardens originated from expositions. It is allegedly the oldest Japanese Garden in the United States. Japanese gardens of the category C include those in Delaware Park in Buffalo, Holland Park in London and Fairmount Park in Philadelphia.

Japanese garden in Delaware Park was constructed for the commemoration of the friendship between Buffalo and Kanazawa in 1974. This stroll garden is maintained by the collaboration of the local Japanese group, Sister-city Committee and Park Management Committee. From 1995 to 1996, restoration project was carried out, led by professionals dispatched from Kanazawa. The project was funded by the Commemoration Organization for the Japan World Exposition, Kanazawa Landscape Contractors Association and the donation from the Rotary Club.

Japanese garden in Holland Park, characterized by pond and waterfall, was constructed for the remembrance of the Japanese festivity held in 1991. Later, the restoration work was conducted with gardeners from Kyoto in 2001.

In the case of Fairmount Park, the transplantation of the Shoin-styled building in 1958, which was originally donated from the America-Japan Society to the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA) in 1953, associated the construction of Japanese garden. The garden has been constantly renovated with the support of Japanese government (1976) and local horticultural association (1982). Japanese gardens in public parks are, in most cases, the reminders of the exhibition facilities of expositions or the memorial gardens constructed after the exhibitions related to Japan. For the maintenance of those Japanese gardens, the support from local Japanese communities or Japanese sister cities played an essential role.

2. Japanese Gardens in Botanical Gardens

Similarly to public parks, the history of Japanese gardens in botanical gardens dates back to as early as the early 20th century. The reasons of incorporating Japanese gardens into botanical gardens are roughly classified into the following categories.

- A Japanese gardens as a part of exhibition facility or collection
- B Commemoration of specific person and his/her history
- C Transplantation from different sites

As for the category A, the stroll garden in Brooklyn Botanic garden in New York (1915) is the typical example and is allegedly the oldest Japanese garden as a public garden in the United States. The garden was donated from Alfred T. White, the early benefactor and trustee of the botanical garden, and designed by Japanese designer Takeo Shiota. As a part of botanical gardens, this garden consists of an abundant variety of Japanese trees, flowering trees and flowering plants, attracting many visitors for Hanami (cherry blossom viewing). Since the completion, the garden has been maintained carefully. In 1999-2000, an extensive restoration work was conducted with the fund from the City of New York, the New York State and the Independence Community Foundation.

A typical example of the category B is Nitobe Memorial Garden in the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden in Vancouver (1960) constructed for the commemoration of Inazo Nitobe who devoted himself to build bridge between the United State and Japan. Designed by Kannosuke Mori, it is one of the finest tea and stroll gardens in the North America. Being maintained carefully, the garden today presents seasonal interests with a variety of plant collections such as maple, cherry, azalea and iris, all brought from Japan.

In Washington Park Arboretum in the University of Washington in Seattle, a stroll garden (1960) was constructed for the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Japan. The city of Seattle requested the City of Tokyo for the design of the garden. Kiyoshi Inoshita, Juki Iida and Nobumasa Kitamura were appointed for the design.

The category C includes the Japanese gardens in the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the National Botanic Garden of Wales. The former one was not strictly a garden but a landscape improvement as Japanese Zone around Chokushi-mon (the messenger's gate) which was formerly

exhibited in the Japan-Britain Exposition in 1910 and later donated to the botanical gardens. Later, in the situation where the gate became deteriorated, improvement work was conducted in 1994-1995 for the purpose of promoting friendship and exchange between both countries (designed by Masahiro Yoshida, Masao Fukuhara and Jun Takeda).

The latter one was a transplantation and extension of Japanese garden exhibited in RHS Chelsea 2001 by Japanese team as a part of JAPAN 2001 and given a gold prize and the highest award (designed by Masao Fukuhara, Jun Takeda and Masahiro Yoshida). It was an authentic Japanese garden with pond, dry garden and tea garden. By the way, the restoration of authentic Japanese gardens are today in progress in a number of locations.

In the case of botanical gardens, Japanese gardens were merely incorporated into the botanical gardens without any context, compared to Japanese plants which were often introduced as collections. In the background, there was an existence of Japanese key person or festivities that encouraged Japanese garden boom.

3. Japanese Gardens in Art Museum

The reason of building Japanese gardens into art museums is limited, compared to public parks and botanical gardens.

- A Presence of curators or staffs who are strongly interested in Japanese culture
- B Presence of museums' specific fields to deal with Japanese culture

In both cases, Japanese gardens are treated as a part of exhibition collections.

Tenshin-en in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston is a typical example of the category A. The museum is globally famous for its enthusiasm in the collection of Japanese arts. Moreover, the first curator of Asian arts in the museum was well known Japanese Tenshin Okakura. With the respect of such history, a dry garden named after him was constructed in 1988, designed by the leading landscape architect Kinsaku Nakane.

The category B can be exemplified by the Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden in South Florida. This museum was founded in 1977 for the purpose to promote the understanding of Japanese culture. George Sukeji Morikami, who joined Japanese immigrants' agricultural community which contributed to the agricultural renovation of Florida - so-called Yamato Colony - in his youth one hundred years ago, donated his land, which he gained in the year of the end of World War II, to Palm Beach County in the mid 1970s with a request to retain the land as a public park to commemorate Yamato Colony. Based on Morikami's will, the Morikami Museum was founded by the collaboration of his friends, neighbors and the county. With a considerable amount of collections of Japanese arts, various events and educational programs related to Japan, it is today one of the important tourist attractions in Florida. The design of garden is recreation-oriented and it is comprised of walking paths, rest facilities, nature trails, bonsai display of tropical plants and a pond of Shinden style. The garden was restored and enlarged in 1999.

Hammond Museum and Japanese Stroll Garden are also one of such instances, founded in 1957 at the aim of the cultural and human exchange between Western and Eastern countries.

Japanese gardens in art museums possess an important meaning in terms of the human or cultural relationship more than those in public parks and botanical gardens. For example, the Morikami Museum is strongly rooted into the local society, especially Japanese immigrants' community.

Postscript

In the background of incorporating Japanese gardens into public cultural facilities, there was a history of intimate cultural exchange with Japan. Particularly in the case of botanical gardens and art museums, the construction of Japanese garden was in many cases triggered by close relationship of specific people. Even though they are all same public facilities, the process of incorporating Japanese

gardens interestingly shows difference in between according to the character of each public facility. Incorporation of Japanese gardens into public facilities in oversea countries has an important meaning, because through such gardens we can see the existence of specific human communities or person that contributed to leave Japanese gardens in foreign countries as a consequence. Such gardens are totally different from those constructed by government or municipalities for Expos and so forth. I would like to conclude this paper with my respect to the efforts and achievements of our forefathers who ventured out to abroad, which resulted in the construction of Japanese gardens overseas. And I hope that Japanese gardens of this kind will further increase in the future, as well as foreign gardens in Japanese cultural facilities in a same way.

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