

JAPANESE GARDENS

Introduction:

- The idea of these unique gardens began during the Asuka period.
- Inspired by Chinese landscape gardens.
- Japanese gardens first appeared on the island of Honshu.
- Japanese gardens have their roots in Japanese religion of Shinto.
- Earlier gardens were designed in order to bring a spiritual sense to the gardens and make them places where people could spend their time in a peaceful way and meditate.
- Today, in many parts of Japan and the western parts of the world the traditions of Japanese garden art are still maintained. The intensity of expression, continue to inspire many artists that aspire to create a personal Japanese garden of their own.
- Japanese gardens are commonly known as Zen gardens.

Elements:

- **Water**
- **Rock and sand**
- **Garden bridges**
- **Stone lanterns and water basins**
- **Garden fences and gates**
- **Trees and flowers**
- **Fish**

Elements - Rocks and Sand:

- Rock, sand, and gravel are an essential feature of the Japanese garden. The rocks are like the coordinates of a garden project. Rocks and water also symbolize yin and yang, the hard rock and soft water complement each other, and water, though soft, can wear away rock.

Size:

1. Only when viewed in the context of the scale of the garden & its relationship with the neighbouring rocks and other artifacts.
2. Variation in rock sizes offer greater contrast & interest resulting in the more dynamic arrangement of rocks.

3. Rocks are traditionally classified as tall vertical, low vertical, arching, reclining, or flat.

