

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2018
Art on the Move Across Asia and Beyond – Part II
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The Garden Landscape in Cross-Cultural Translation: China and the West

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Key features of Chinese gardens: open-air pavilions arranged around water; rockeries and artificial mountains; zigzagging pathways; changing views; borrowing scenery; framing and juxtaposition; evocative naming of scenes. Site of seclusion, as well as site of social gathering.

Lion's Grove Garden (*Shizi Lin* 獅子林), Suzhou: est. 1342; painted by NI Zan (1301–1374); visited by the Qianlong emperor in 1757; listed on UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000. Named for the central rockery with stones that resemble playful lions.

Garden of Perfect Brightness (*Yuanming Yuan* 圓明園), Beijing: established 1709 as garden-palace for the Qing emperors; empire-in-microcosm; famously includes section of European Palaces. Looted and burned in 1860 during Second Opium War; now Yuanming Yuan Ruins Park.

The Emperor of China's Palace at Peking, and His Principal Gardens, London, 1753: set of twenty etchings mostly based on Matteo Ripa's 1713 engravings of the garden-palace Mountain Hamlet for Escaping Summer Heat (*Bishu shanzhuang* 避暑山莊) in Chengde.

“chinoiserie”: An ornamental style that originates in Asian design, but is not concerned with authentic replication; rather, it creates an imagined Asia in dialogue with the West as a cosmopolitan style.

Kew Gardens, London: Sir William Chambers designed the Chinese Pavilion, House of Confucius, and Great Pagoda, 1760–1762. Listed on UNESCO World Heritage List in 2003.

Chinese House at Stowe, Buckinghamshire: first recorded chinoiserie building in England (1738); originally situated on stilts over a small pond. Chinese House also at **Shugborough**, Staffordshire (1747).

Georges-Louis Le Rouge, ***Details des nouveaux jardins à la mode*** (c. 1776–1787): multi-volume publication compiling print images of chinoiserie gardens in Europe, as well as “The Pleasure Palaces of the Emperor of China.”

Chinese wallpaper: examples in the Chinese Dressing Room at **Saltram**, Devon, England; State Bedroom and State Dressing Room at **Penrhyn Castle**, Gwynedd, Wales; and East Bedroom, **Harewood House**, Leeds; Port Royal entrance hall and Chinese Parlor at **Winterthur**, Delaware.

Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, Bar Harbor, Maine: designed by Beatrix Farrand in 1920s; with Moon and Bottle Gates, ‘Spirit Path,’ and Asian sculptures.

The Astor Court, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York: completed June 1980; based on Master of the Fishing Nets Garden (*Wangshi Yuan*); brainchild of Brooke Russell Astor; collaboration with Suzhou Garden Administration.

Garden of Flowing Fragrance (*Liufang Yuan* 流芳園), The Huntington Library, San Marino: Phase I completed 2008; pastiche of classical Suzhou gardens; collaboration with Suzhou Garden Administration.

Suggested Readings:

Attiret, Jean Denis. *A Particular Account of the Emperor of China's Gardens Near Peking*. Translated from the French by Sir Harry Beaumont [Joseph Spence]. London, 1752.

Chambers, Sir William. *Plans, Elevations, Sections, and Perspective Views of the Gardens and Buildings at Kew, in Surry*. London, 1763.

----. *A Dissertation on Oriental Gardening*. London, 1772.

Chang, Elizabeth Hope. *Britain's Chinese Eye: Literature, Empire, and Aesthetics in Nineteenth-Century Britain*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010. See Chapter 1: "Garden"

De Bruijn, Emile, Andrew Bush and Helen Clifford. *Chinese Wallpaper in National Trust Houses*. National Trust, 2014. Read online / download free PDF:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/documents/chinese-wallpaper-in-national-trust-houses.pdf>

Finlay, John. "Henri Bertin and the Commerce in Images between France and China in the Late Eighteenth Century." In *Qing Encounters: Artistic Exchanges between China and the West*, edited by Petra Ten-Doesschate Chu and Ning Ding, 79–94. Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2015.

Jacobsen, Dawn. *Chinoiserie*. London: Phaidon, 1993.

Ji Cheng. *The Craft of Gardens*. Translated by Alison Hardie, photographs and foreword by Maggie Keswick. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988.

Li, June. *Another World Lies Beyond: Creating Liu Fang Yuan, the Huntington's Chinese Garden*. San Marino: The Huntington Library, 2009.

Murck, Alfreda and Wen Fong. *A Chinese Garden Court: The Astor Court at The Metropolitan Museum of Art*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1980.

Read online or download free PDF at:

https://www.metmuseum.org/art/metpublications/A_Chinese_Garden_Court

Porter, David. *The Chinese Taste in Eighteenth-Century England*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Sloboda, Stacey. *Chinoiserie: Commerce and Critical Ornament in Eighteenth-Century Britain*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2014. See Chapter 4: "Commerce in the Garden: Nature, Art, and Authority"

Strassberg, Richard E. "War and Peace: Four Intercultural Landscapes." In *China on Paper: European and Chinese Works from the Late Sixteenth to Early Nineteenth Century*, edited by Marcia Reed and Paola Demattè, 88–137. Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2011.