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The Japanese Tea Garden



Synopsis

"A necessary addition to the library of any serious student."—The New York Times Sunday Book Review
Almost every Japanese garden is influenced by the tea garden. Here, Marc Peter Keane describes the history, design, and aesthetics of tea gardens, from T'ang China to the present day, with over 115 stunning photographs, floor plans, and illustrations. The most extensive book on this genre ever published in English, The Japanese Tea Garden is a rich resource for garden lovers, historians, and landscape architects. Landscape architect Marc Peter Keane lived in Kyoto for twenty years and has a design practice in Ithaca, New York.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Keane has done a great service to both those who are interested in gardens and those who are interested in the Way of Tea. This is a beautifully designed and illustrated book that will fulfill every requirement for proud display on your coffee table. At the same time, it is a serious look at the history of the tea garden, where it came from, its forms and purposes, its influence on other types of gardens and architecture. Keane is particularly to be commended for tracing the history of the tea garden and the development of its design throughout history. This is something that has been missing from the English literature about tea gardens and is a great help in understanding the function of the garden and the goals of its designers. This book is to be highly recommended for anyone with an interest in the Way of Tea or the development of garden design in Japan.

Besides having beautiful pictures, I was pleasantly surprised to find that this is a serious scholarly work about the history of tea gardens. It is very thorough, easy to understand even though it's scholarly (although the writing style isn't the most captivating -- this isn't pop lit), organized, and very useful for a student of tea or Japanese gardens.

Anything Keane has done about Japanese Gardens is great. I'm a Volunteer Guide at Portland's beautiful Japanese Garden, so am most interested in JG. Part of our Garden is a tea house and tea garden. Keane does a fine job of explaining and illustrating both. As in all his books, Keane includes beautiful photos and clear, well-written explanations. The book is essential for any library on the subject.

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