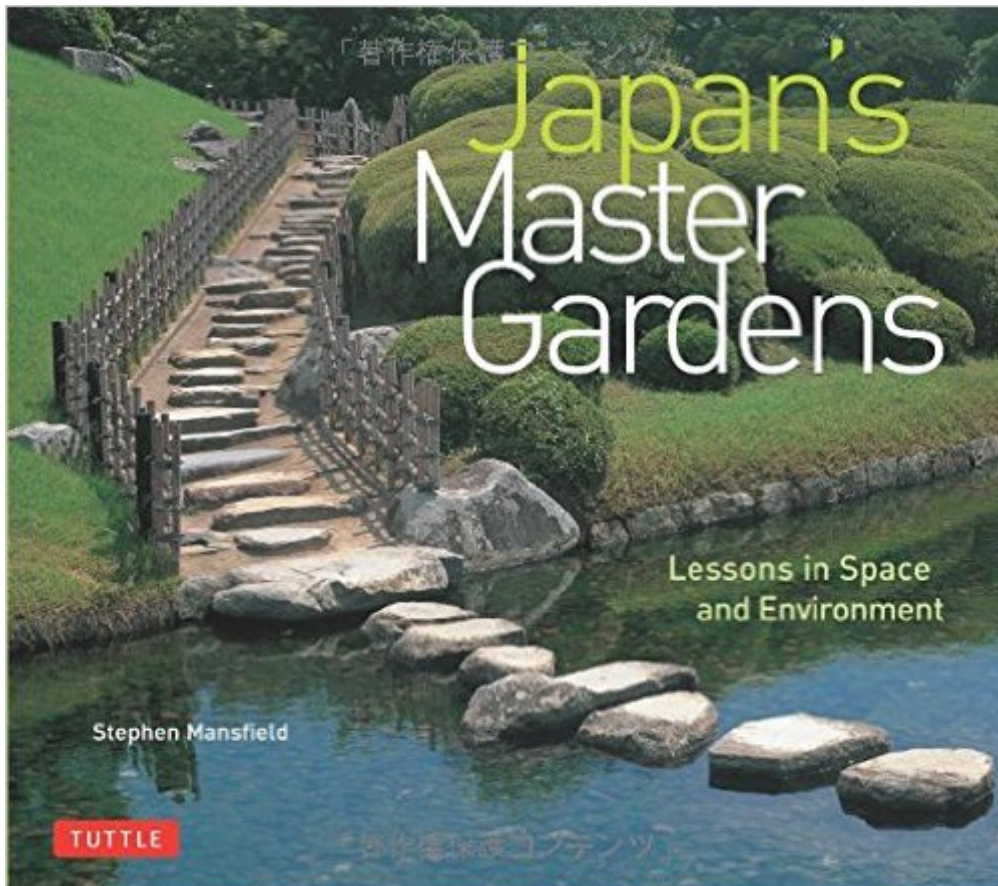


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# Japan's Master Gardens: Lessons In Space And Environment



## Synopsis

Featuring stunning photographs and thoughtful commentary this Japanese gardening book is a must have for any gardening enthusiast. No two Japanese gardens are ever the same. Each is inimitable, yet embodies commonalities of design and aesthetic taste. Each finds the space for innovation within a tradition that benefits from a thousand years of applied knowledge in gardening and landscape architecture. Japan's Master Gardens explores the ingenuity and range of Japanese landscaping, from the self-imposed confines of courtyard designs to the open expanses of the stroll garden. In this beautifully illustrated book, Stephen Mansfield takes readers on an exploration of the outward forms, underlying principles, complex use of metaphor and allusion, and beauty and depth that set the Japanese garden apart. Topics include: A Sense of Nature The Modular Garden Landscape Gardens Requisitioning Space Healing Gardens

## Book Information

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Hardcover with Jacket edition (April 10, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4805311282

ISBN-13: 978-4805311288

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.7 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #388,702 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #57 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Japanese Gardens](#) #252 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Architecture > Landscape](#) #253 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife > Landscapes](#)

## Customer Reviews

In his newest book, author and photographer Stephen Mansfield takes us on a tour of 25 gardens in Kyoto, Nara, and Kamakura, including gardens in less-touristed regions such as Okayama, Shizuoka, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Kagawa, Shiga and Okinawa. A variety of gardens are covered, from the modular to the traditional, and in settings ranging from residential, temple, pond, teahouse, landscape to rock and dry gardens. When I first discovered this book, I admit I was skeptical. I wondered if we really needed another book on Japanese gardens. But you won't find any of the "usual suspects" of Japanese gardenry like Ryoanji, Katsura Rikkyu, and other "National Treasures"

which have already been given plenty of ink elsewhere. Here, you'll find inspiration and, if you're like me, you'll discover "new" gardens to revitalize your interest in the subject. In poetic text that is never precious and often illuminating, Mansfield offers detailed descriptions of the outer forms and inner meanings of these varied spaces. He artfully delves into each garden's history, landscaping features and elements, literary and artistic significance, cultural relevance and metaphorical meanings. The book is smartly divided into five sections that help the reader understand and appreciate the gardens they cover: 1. A Sense of Nature, 2. The Modular Garden, 3. Landscape Gardens, 4. Requisitioning Space, 5. Healing Gardens. It also includes a helpful list of historical periods and a comprehensive glossary for those who might be new to the art of the Japanese garden. Though it could profitably be used by landscape designers, gardeners and architects, this is way more than a possible how-to book if making a Japanese garden is something you aspire to.

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