

The Japanese Ornamental Garden at the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens



This is the first attraction that you see at the entrance. It is an Ancient Japanese Shinto symbol which welcomes the visitor to an area of peace and harmony.

The following pictures were taken at different points within the garden trail. The best time to visit is in the Spring when the cherry-blossoms are in full bloom

The tree in the forefront on the left is a cherry-blossom. The Japanese garden always uses a combination of different foliage and colors mixed into a panorama above standing water

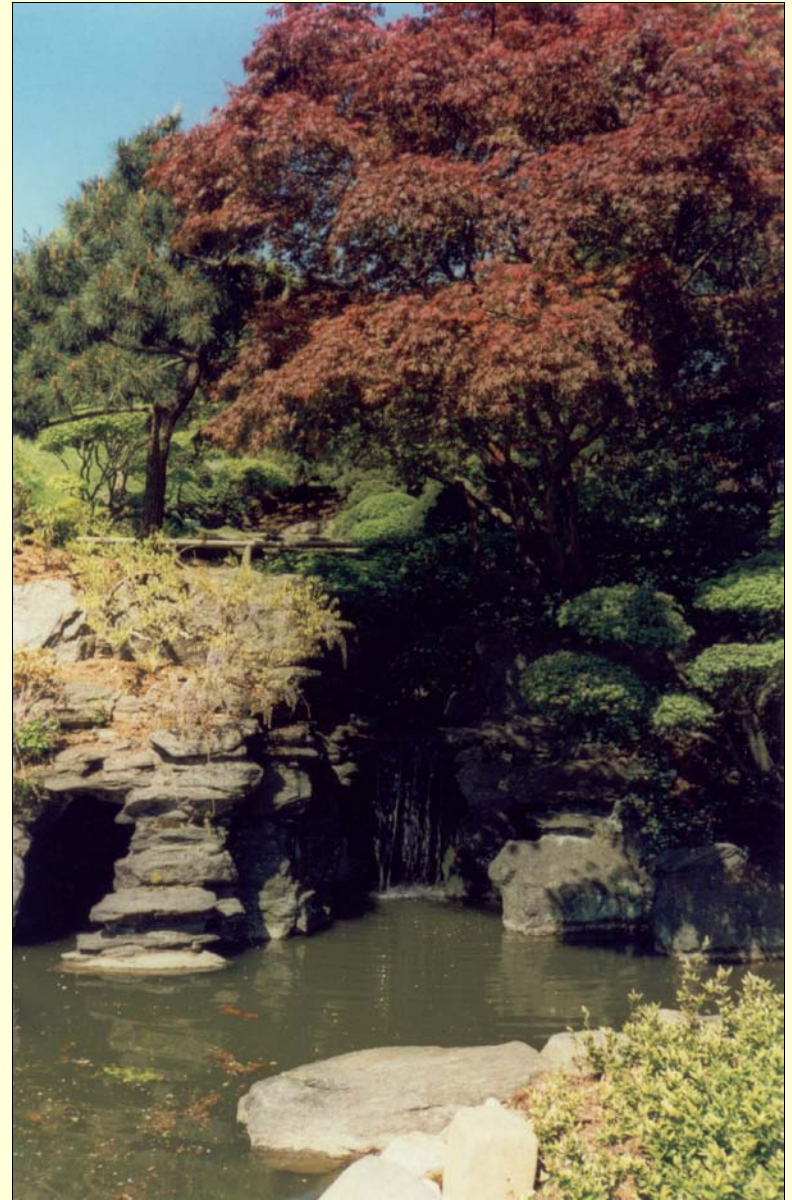


The gardens are built at different levels creating a view that goes as far as the eye can see causing you to believe that the gardens last forever and touch the sky



Serenity

The Japanese are masters of using waterfalls that suddenly appear as you walk within the garden. They are surrounded by shrubs of all kinds and colors that make the waterfall blend into the scenery and create serenity. The rock pools often contain Japanese carp or koi, which are Asian goldfish, that add another calming feature to the environment.



This is a photograph looking down on to the waterfall and as you can see you have a completely different view of the area that makes the eye believe you are looking at a totally different section of the gardens



All Japanese gardens use bridges to add a further dimension to the scenery. Note in the background the red symbol at the main entrance. The tree at the front right is a Japanese maple which is a small tree that grows outward instead of upward and the leaves overlap each other on the branches



A typical Shinto Shrine

This particular shrine was dedicated to “NARI” the God of harvest and protector of plants. Shrines like this one are usually found next to temples or along the local streets or in a person’s back yard. The original woods used to build this shrine in 1914-1915 were white cedar, ash, redwood and cypress. The structure is held together by wooden pegs rather than nails, further enhancing the value of nature in the building.



Guarding the Shrine

At the front entrance of the shrine is this statue of an animal whose job is to keep the shrine sacred at all times and war off any evil spirits that may want to do harm to the shrine.



A Shinto Stone Prayer Pillar



In many of the larger gardens and shrines are these prayer pillars. The people visit them often and attached flowers and hand-painted prayers around the base of the monument

The Ornamental Bonsai Tree



This Japanese decorative tree is located in one of the hot-houses. Bonsai trees are very difficult to grow. To create the size and shape of the tree requires years of pruning and tender care. This particular tree, a Japanese-Cedar, is worth several thousand dollars due to its age.