



# Liu Ming Yuan: An Introduction to Chinese Gardens

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Speaker

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- How did classic Chinese gardens develop?
- What are the primary principles and elements?
- How can we apply them to our project?
- Are there other examples?

- **How did classic Chinese gardens develop?**
- Thousands of years of gardens
- Early hunting parks and imperial parks
  - Mountains
  - Later started using rocks since it wasn't always possible to be near mountains
- Private gardens
  - Escape to mountains without leaving the city, be in nature
  - Also part of residence



# Imperial

Peter K. Burian, *The Wenchang Tower or Pavillion and a boat dock*, 2018.  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/01/Wenchang\\_Tower\\_or\\_Pavillion%2C\\_Summer\\_Palace%2C\\_Beijing%2C\\_2018.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/01/Wenchang_Tower_or_Pavillion%2C_Summer_Palace%2C_Beijing%2C_2018.jpg)



# Examples of types

## Buddhist

Carol Brash, *Courtyard at Hanshan Temple*, 2015.



## Scenic Spot

Carlos Adampol, *View of West Lake*, 2015.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hangzhou\\_\(15730606661\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hangzhou_(15730606661).jpg)

## Literati

Carol Brash, *Framed View at the Garden of the Master of the Fishing Net*, 2015.



## Imperial (Northern)

Peter K. Burian, *The Wenchang Tower or Pavillion and a boat dock*, 2018.  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/01/Wenchang\\_Tower\\_or\\_Pavillion%2C\\_Summer\\_Palace%2C\\_Beijing%2C\\_2018.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/01/Wenchang_Tower_or_Pavillion%2C_Summer_Palace%2C_Beijing%2C_2018.jpg)



## Examples of Styles



## Literati/Private (Southern)

Carol Brash, *Framed View at the Garden of the Master of the Fishing Net*, 2015.

# What are the primary principles and elements?

- One idea that they all have in common is a garden should not merely imitate nature, but work in harmony with it
- A garden happens by design, not accident – it is a form of art

## Principle:

- Use of poetic descriptions and naming to express the emotions of the designer/viewer
- These frequently reference Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist ideas

## Principle:

- Paintings and gardens
  - Landscape paintings may be the inspiration for a view in a garden
- Gardens were painted, sometimes as a type of portrait of the owner – reflecting upright character and appreciation of nature and beauty
- Art was viewed and made in gardens

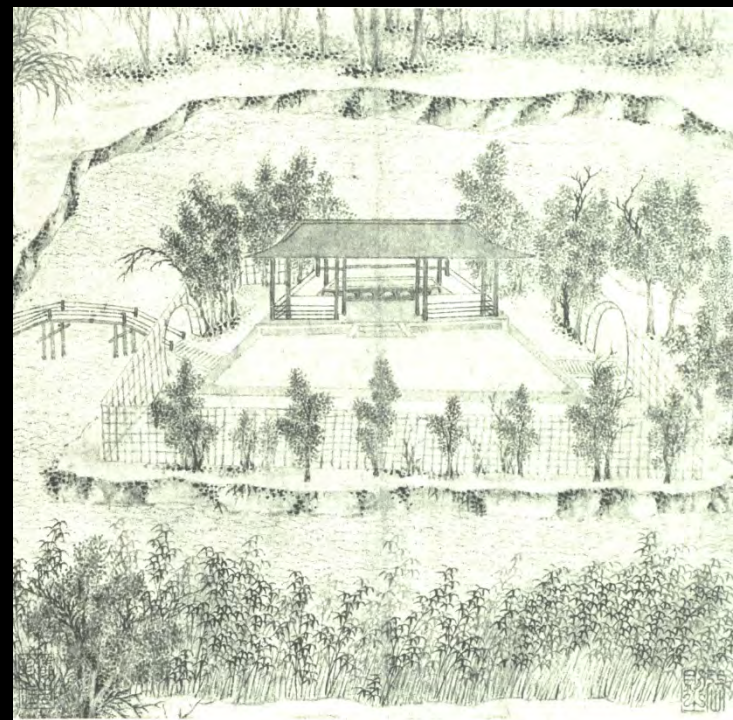


## Principle:

- Creating views/ expanding space
  - Architecture is part of the view, but also frames views
- Sited for views
- By blocking and revealing views, the space of the garden is increased
- Borrowed views also increase the sense of space

## Elements:

- Mountains/Rocks
- Water
- Architecture
- Plants
- Views
- Arts – poetry, painting, calligraphy

































嘉賓亭

山  
水  
有  
清  
音

音  
殊  
多  
佳  
日









- How can we apply them to our project?



山水有清音  
心與月俱靜









城隍廟  
一雙新龍侍龍家



- **Are there other examples?**
  - Other translations

## A selection of Chinese gardens recently open in the US

1996	Pursuing Harmony Garden at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, Minnesota
1996	The Margaret Grigg Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden, St. Louis, Missouri
1998	The Gardens, Chinese Cultural Center, Phoenix, AZ (dismantled 2019)
1999	New York Chinese Scholar's Garden, Staten Island, New York
2000	Lan Su Classical Chinese Garden in Portland, Oregon
2006	Seattle Chinese Garden in Seattle, Washington
2008	Liu Fang Yuan, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance at The Huntington, San Marino, California
2010	Tacoma Chinese Garden and Reconciliation Park, Tacoma, Washington
2017	Liu Fang Yuan, the Garden of Harmonious Beauty at the Minnesota Arboretum, Chaska, Minnesota
2018	Liu Ming Yuan, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance at Phalen Park, Saint Paul, Minnesota
2???	National China Garden, at the National Arboretum, Washington, DC





Knowing the Fish Pavillion,  
Lan Su Classical Chinese Garden, 2006.





“Read the Landscape”  
Moon Gate, Lan Su Classical  
Chinese Garden, 2006.





View with a distant pavilion, Liu Fang Yuan, Huntington Garden, 2009.



View, Liu Fang Yuan  
(Garden of Flowing  
Fragrance) at the  
Huntington, 2011.









**Future Features Waiting to Come Alive!!**





Thank you!

Feel free to follow up with questions:  
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“Longing for tradition, for what is one’s own, and longing for overcoming the problems of the past, and for the sense of belonging that marks allegiance to tradition or an international world of scholarship: these are considerations that have commonly occasioned difficulty when tradition and modernity are conceived as mutually exclusive and opposed.”

Stanislaus Fung, “Longing and Belonging in Chinese Garden History,” in *Perspectives on Garden Histories*, edited by Michel Conan, Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks, 1999: 208.