

Chinese Garden

"Everything is truly great and beautiful, both as to the design and the execution: and [the gardens] struck me the more, because I had never seen any thing that bore any manner of resemblance to them, in any part of the world that I had been before."

Chinese Garden

The Chinese garden is a landscape garden style which has evolved over three thousand years. It includes both the vast gardens of the Chinese emperors and members of the imperial family, built for pleasure and to impress, and the more intimate gardens created by scholars, poets, former government officials, soldiers and merchants, made for reflection and escape from the outside world. They create an idealized miniature landscape, which is meant to express the harmony that should exist between man and nature.



Philosophy

The Chinese classical garden had multiple functions. It could be used for banquets, celebrations, reunions, or romance. It could be used to find solitude and for contemplation. It was a calm place for painting, poetry, calligraphy, and music, and for studying classic texts. It was a place for drinking tea and for poets to become happily drunk on wine. It was a showcase to display the cultivation and aesthetic taste of the owner. But it also had a philosophical message.

Taoism had a strong influence on the classical garden. After the Han dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD), gardens were frequently constructed as retreats for government officials who had lost their posts or who wanted to escape the pressures and corruption of court life in the capital. They chose to pursue the Taoist ideals of disengagement from worldly concerns.

For followers of Taoism, enlightenment could be reached by contemplation of the unity of creation, in which order and harmony are inherent to the natural world.

The gardens were intended to evoke the idyllic feeling of wandering through a natural landscape, to feel closer to the ancient way of life, and to appreciate the harmony between man and nature. In Taoism, rocks and water were opposites, yin and yang, but they complemented and completed one another. Rocks were solid but water could wear away rock. The deeply eroded rocks from Lake Tai used in the classical garden illustrated this principle.

Borrowing scenery is a most fundamental idea in Ming period garden making theory.

The winding paths and zig-zag galleries bridges that led visitors from one garden scene to another also had a message. They illustrated a Chinese proverb, “By detours, access to secrets”.



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According to the landscape historian and architect Che Bing Chiu, every garden was “a quest for paradise. of a lost world, of a utopian universe. The scholar’s garden participated in this quest; on the one hand the quest for the home of the Immortals, on the other hand the search for the world of the golden age so dear to the heart of the scholar.”

A more view of the philosophy of the garden was expressed by Zhou Ganzhi, the President of the Chinese Society of Landscape Architecture, and Academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Engineering, in 2007: “Chinese classical gardens are a perfect integration of nature and work by man. They are an imitation of nature, and fully manifest the beauty of nature. They can also be seen as an improvement on nature; one from which the light of human artistic genius shines.”



拙政园

The Humble Administrator's Garden

Yangzhou

Where Marco Polo once served as a municipal official, is a city with 2,500 years history, tracking back to the Spring and Autumn Period, when it was called Guangling.



The Garden of Emperors

The legacy of Yangzhou's garden culture scales even grander heights at the city's Slender West Lake.

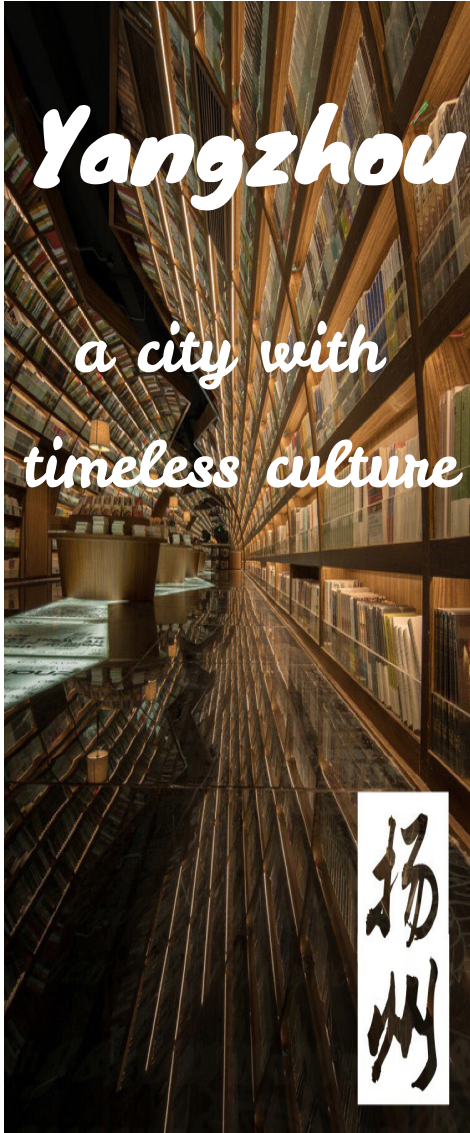
The Poet's Garden

On Xunningmen Street, south of Huang Zhiyun's bamboo masterpiece, lies an arguably even more picturesque example of the Qing-era horticultural arms race.



Let's explore the beauty of Yangzhou and reach the stunning destinations.





“ I've been to Yangzhou and I made it as a golden treasure for a lifetime.”



The Garden that salt built

By the 1800s, Yangzhou's salt merchants had become synonymous with displays of extravagant wealth. The glorious 23-square-kilometre Ge Garden (Ge Yuan) is just one example among many.

Ancient Grand Canal

It is the oldest of the whole China Ancient Grand Canal with various historical sites and humanities landscapes. With famous Taoism temples, Buddhism temples, Islam mosque and Catholic church alongside the canal.



Q: When were you first drawn to photography?

I began painting when I was two years old, and I was educated at the Central Academy of Fine Arts High School, Central Academy of Drama, and graduated from the Central Academy of Fine Arts. The environment



I grew up in has always had an artistic ambience, and the people surrounding me have always been artists. In school we learned how to paint, sculpt, and all the other traditional art techniques, and as a child I never even attempted or considered taking up photography. In order to make a living after graduating, I was a graphic designer for a long time. At that time, it was still not easy for an artist to

make a career out of one's art. It's not like it is now where I can make millions in just one photo shoot, at that time it was still unthinkable.

As a child I began painting and studying art because I was good at it, and from there never stopped. In winning a fair number of prizes at different competitions, my parents agreed to let me continue down this path, and in the process helped cultivate my ambition. Becoming a photographer was my first true job. The changes photography brought my life are too many to list, and at a bare minimum photography was the driving force for me in maturing from a girl into a woman.

Q: Which of your works are your personal favorites?

My "Red" series at the Maeght Gallery in Paris was my first foreign exhibition series. was pregnant at the time I completed the work for this series. The year after I gave birth to my child was a year of extreme happiness.

I completed my “Five Elements” series, which is a particularly meaningful artistic creation of mine that combines Chinese Taoist culture, concepts of environmental protection, and world art. My “Five Elements” series is one that I am principally satisfied with, and is one of the most complete projects from the third stage of my career. Another series from the third stage of my career, the MAC “Love and Water” series, is a commercial series that I am enormously proud of. The series combined both commercial, artistic, and philosophical elements. I took the traditional Chinese concept that man is an integral part of nature in combination with ideas of environmental protection to promote to the world an ideal I believe in very strongly.

Q: What are your future plans?

As nothing more than a simple person, I have no power to change the future of mankind or myself. I sincerely hope

that communication between people on a spiritual level will see great developments, and not just in numbers or statistics, but something we can all see with the naked eye. Not just in form either, but a true balance of idealism and materialism, and worldly recognition of the true beauty of traditional Chinese



life. Only if the majority of people live life in this manner will the world be a beautiful and peaceful place to live, people will have clean air to breath and fresh water to drink, and mankind will be able to attain an ideal and harmonious future.

園

GARDEN

土

Building or Pavilion

口

Pool or Lake

艸

Plant or Rock

口

Enclosure

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