

Research Center for Japanese Garden Art &  
Historical Heritage • Japanese Garden Section



## About the Center

The Center is associated with the Kyoto University of Art and Design. The aim of the Japanese Garden Section of the Center is to integrate various research regarding Japanese garden art: history, design, aesthetics, archeology, and traditional gardening techniques. The Center actively supports contacts with landscape firms and gives advice to authorities that maintain historic garden sites in and outside of Japan. For students the Center acts as a place to practice or gain experience in one of the many aspects of the field; for professors and professionals, the Center is a place where theory and practice meet.

## Foundation and Objectives

Japanese gardens originated from a profound relationship between man and nature. As artistic expressions of this relationship, Japanese gardens provide invaluable lessons regarding design of landscapes in balance. More in general it teaches us our engagement towards a harmonious environment. The Center was founded in 1995 to provide a facility and means for the study of Japanese garden art as a contribution to the creation and development of landscape in a wider sense; all to the betterment of society in general.

## Location

The Center is located on the campus of the Kyoto University of Art and Design. Since the early 8th century AD, when the city was first constructed as an Imperial capital, Kyoto has been the site of numerous developments in the art of landscape gardening. Even to this day, Kyoto holds a vast wealth of many gardens, large and small, that can be found within its borders, integrating the beauty of the natural world into urban culture. As such, the Center is within close reach of many of Japan's historically significant and most famous gardens.



Leiden University Botanical Garden, Holland, 1993 Design: Hiromasa AMASAKI • Makoto NAKAMURA • Wybe KUITERT

## Organization

The core staff of the Center is drawn from University teachers in Landscape Architecture, Environmental Design, and Preservation Sciences. Other researchers and specialists in gardening, architecture, history, or archeology working in Kyoto give professional support. Active in many fields of Japanese garden art, the staff of the Japanese Garden Section of the Center includes:

### Director:

Hiromasa AMASAKI, landscape architecture, garden research

### Vice Directors:

Toshinori NAKAMURA, history of residential architecture

Keiji YASUHARA, landscape architecture, gardening technique and history

### Chief Advisor:

Makoto NAKAMURA, landscape philosophy, landscape design

### Chief Researchers & Researchers:

Takahiro NAKA, landscape architecture, garden history and Head of the Section; Wybe KUITERT, landscape architecture, garden history; Haruyoshi SOWA, landscape architecture and design; Takayuki KATAISHI, landscape design, construction, and maintenance; Sumiko UDO, landscape design and Manager of the Center; Yoji SASAKI, landscape architecture, environmental design; Takehiko TAKANASHI, forest aesthetics, forest ecology; Yasushi SHIMOMURA, community landscape and environment; Ken KAWAI, landscape design and drawing; Atsuko NAKAI, landscape courses management; Fumie OGINO, plants and environment, affairs and management; Yukari MUTO, modern industrial art history, management

### Guest Researchers:

Marc Peter KEANE, landscape design; Masao KIFUNE, garden construction, and maintenance; Isao YAMANAKA, garden survey; Yukari IHARA, landscape design; Ryuji YOSHIMURA, landscape planning and design; Hanako INOUE, landscape design; Kaori MACHIDA, garden history; Yumiko TERADA, horticultural therapy; Kazuhiro KOMAI, garden construction, and maintenance

### Research Associates:

Zentaro YAGASAKI, architecture survey; Hisao SUZUKI, garden archeology; Yoshiaki MAEDA, garden survey; Tokushiro TAMANE, garden construction and maintenance; Kinzo NISHIMURA, cut-stone ornaments; Masataka KITAMURA, tree surgery; Yutaka SUGANUMA, landscape architecture; Takashi YAMAGUCHI, landscape architecture



Musashino Wild-flower Garden, Japan, 1990 • Design: Hiromasa AMASAKI

## Research Objectives

The primary object of the Center's research is the site: old gardens, or other historic sites such as castle towns, ancient burial mounds, or historic temples and shrines are surveyed on architecture, rocks, ground forms, often adding excavations and archeology; an analysis is made of plant life or discovered pollen remains. On top of that research objectives of the Japanese Garden Section include the broader meaning of Japanese garden art. Through various expressions of Japan's history, culture, and society, such as architecture, arts and crafts, tea ceremony, flower arrangement, religion, politics, and philosophy, a deeper understanding is attained of the workings of the complex relations between man and nature.

Results of the Center's research are made available through public courses, symposia, and various publications. The Center also offers technical advice on the renovation or restoration of historic gardens and sites, and accepts commissions for the design of new gardens.

## Education and Exchange Programs

An apprenticeship and credit-exchange system is maintained so that students from other universities within Japan can study at the Center. Various yearly courses and seminars address landscape professionals from within Japan. In addition, an English language intensive seminar has been established at the Center to provide an opportunity for foreign students.



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