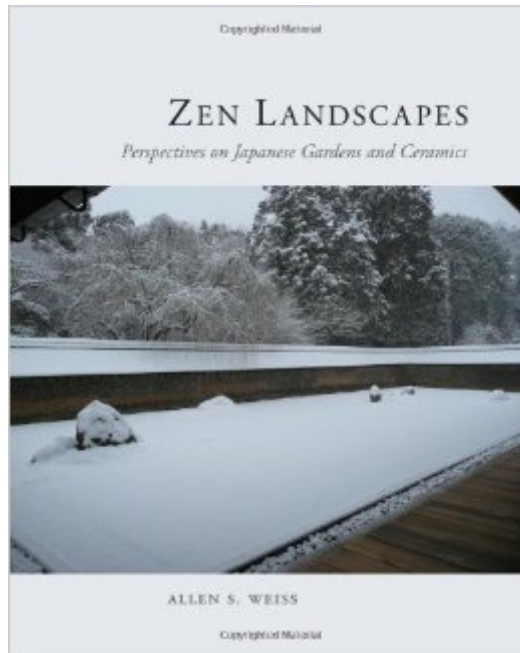


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Zen Landscapes: Perspectives On Japanese Gardens And Ceramics



Synopsis

Â The essential elements of a dry Japanese garden are few: rocks, gravel, moss. Simultaneously a sensual matrix, a symbolic form, and a memory theater, these gardens exhibit beautiful miniaturization and precise craftsmanship. But their apparent minimalism belies a true complexity. In *Zen Landscapes*, Allen S. Weiss takes readers on an exciting journey through these exquisite sites, explaining how Japanese gardens must be approached according to the play of scale, surroundings, and seasons, as well as in relation to other artsâ revealing them as living landscapes rather than abstract designs.Â Weiss shows that these gardens are inspired by the Zen aesthetics of the tea ceremony, manifested in poetry, painting, calligraphy, architecture, cuisine, and ceramics. Japanese art favors suggestion and allusion, valuing the threshold between the distinct and the inchoate, between figuration and abstraction, and he argues that ceramics play a crucial role here, relating as much to the site-specificity of landscape as to the ritualized codes of the tea ceremony and the everyday gestures of the culinary table.Â With more than one hundred stunning color photographs, *Zen Landscapes* is the first in-depth study in the West to examine the correspondences between gardens and ceramics. A fascinating look at landscape art and its relation to the customs and craftsmanship of the Japanese arts, it will appeal to readers interested in landscape design and Japanâ™s art and culture.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Reaktion Books; 1st Ed. edition (October 15, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1780231903

ISBN-13: 978-1780231907

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 1.1 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #972,874 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #137 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Japanese Gardens #302 inÂ Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Ceramics #940 inÂ Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Garden Design

Customer Reviews

This is a great book that covers Zen garden and ceramics in an interesting way...well written, but

have your dictionary handy as the author uses words seldom heard.

.....written with extraordinary insight. Allen Weiss makes brilliant associations between the ceramics and the gardens of Japan. He gives a fresh approach that helped me understand how Zen plays a major role in these creations with clay and earth. .

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