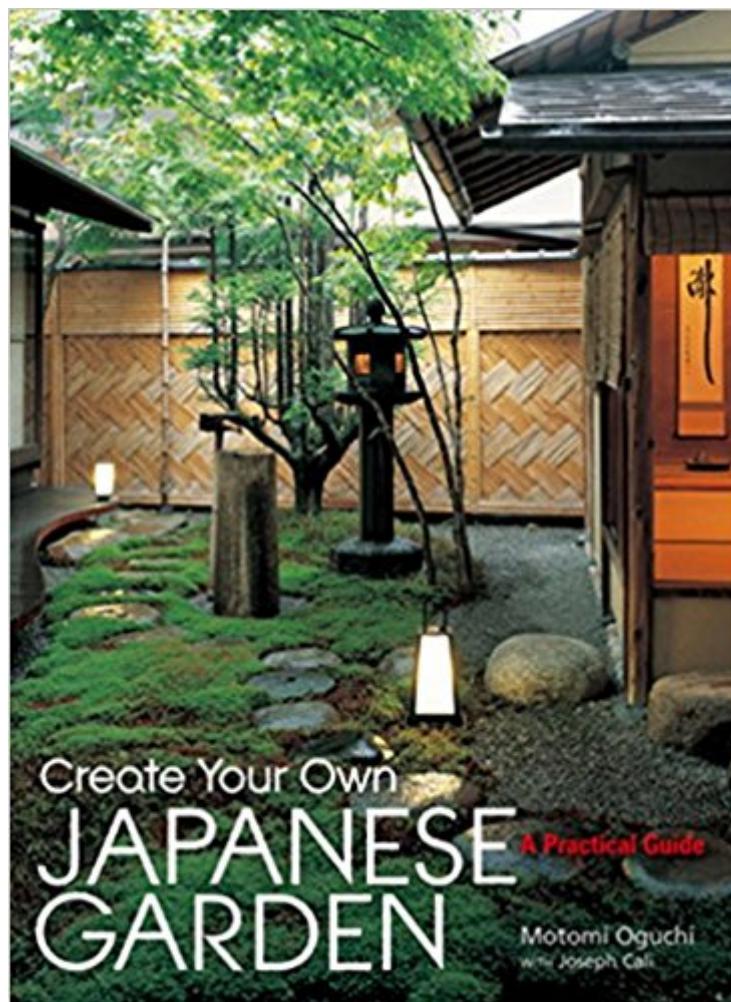


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# Create Your Own Japanese Garden: A Practical Guide



## Synopsis

In this book, renowned garden designer Motomi Oguchi offers the reader a step-by-step, practical approach to creating Japanese gardens, drawn from a wealth of experience that covers thirty years and encompasses the design of more than 400 gardens. The author uses real examples from gardens he has designed, constructed, and photographed to illustrate his key points, approaching each work from the perspective of the home or building owner. Oguchi begins with front gardens, as these are usually what one encounters first when entering a home. Typically, these front plantings are not defined Japanese garden types but rather, physical areas. He then moves on to tsubo niwa (courtyard gardens) and kare sansui (dry gardens) that might be found in the middle or rear of a building, or any available small space. Next, he introduces tea and tree gardens, which are more likely to be sections of a larger garden; and highlights specific characteristics and conditions of interior gardens. Within each chapter are general layouts and methods of developing the various gardens, which precede specific, step-by-step instructions. The author also offers practical and affordable variations on more ambitious designs and shows how they can be adapted to the reader's home or building. In addition, Oguchi emphasizes the importance of proper maintenance and offers suggestions for special touches and restoration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Oguchi, longtime designer of Japanese gardens and author of more than 18 books on the subject in Japanese, offers English speakers both an overview and practical knowledge of this easily recognized but to many Westerners mysterious art form. Oguchi describes the Japanese garden's

relation to architecture from the ancient era to the mid-19th century, tracing its evolution from the lavish hills, ponds and waterfalls of early estates to the inward-turning, abbreviated and abstracted gardens of urban townhouses. He calls the guidelines of Japanese garden design naturalness, studied tastefulness, and harmony, tempered by flexibility for site conditions, current needs and desires, and self-expression, and presents essential design devices such as asymmetry, miekakure (hide and reveal). Most of the book gives concrete details on how to design and build a garden for the home or small business, using as examples the author's designs for restaurants, homes and his traditional teahouse. With precise instructions and illustrations for building typical elements such as bamboo fences and stone bridges, the book gives Americans all the information they need to create authentic Japanese gardens. The lack of a glossary may make it hard for readers to retain meanings of the many Japanese terms strewn throughout the text. (Aug.)

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"With precise instructions and illustrations for building typical elements such as bamboo fences and stone bridges, the book gives Americans all the information they need to create authentic Japanese gardens." •Publisher's Weekly"This is probably the best garden book to be published in English in the past half decade. This book deserves an A- grade." •Journal of Japanese Gardening"This book is loaded with design ideas for East and West." •Washington Post"Just leafing through the photographs is enough to make you feel at peace!" •My Home

It is as described -- a practical guide. However, the author uses dozens of Japanese words, so one really needs to be familiar with common garden construction words and phrases.

Many pictures are in black and white, but good info.

It's a very informative and helpful book for anyone who wants to build a Japanese-style garden, or for anyone who just wants to know more about Japanese gardens. Great explanations and good pictures. A must for any fan of Japanese gardens.

I'm trying to put together a fairly authentic Japanese garden in my backyard, and this book is full of ideas you can implement, but it's also a simply beautiful picture tour of Japanese gardens and the

elements that make them up.

A very user friendly book. Good instructions and illustrations.

After buying and reading many books on design of Japanese gardens and being dissatisfied because of no detailed help, this book was refreshing. This book bridges the gap between concept and digging a hole to plant a tree. Is well worth the cost.

Create Your Own Japanese Garden: A Practical Guideinspired me to not only create my own Japanese garden, but I am adding an outdoor shower designed along the lines of a very small tea house. I hope this is not considered disrespectful of the Japanese culture!

I love the beautiful pictures and the instructions for traditional Japanese building for the modern era. Nice read for anyone!

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