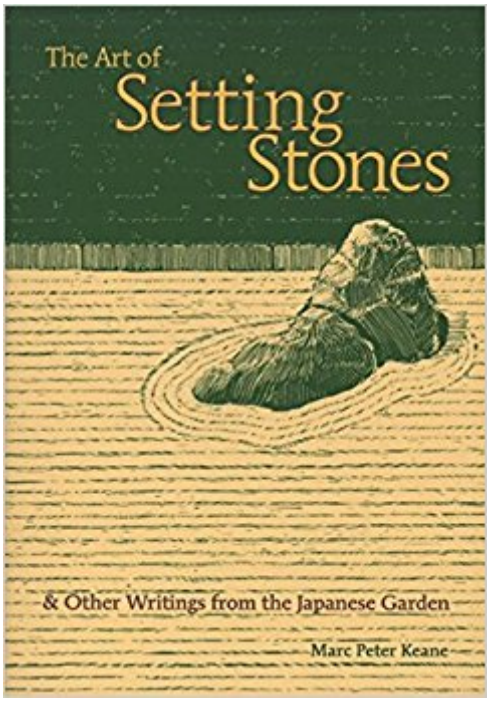
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The Art Of Setting Stones: And Other Writings From The Japanese Garden



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Synopsis

In Japanese gardens, composition follows from placement of the first stone; all elements and plantings become interconnected. These eight essays on Kyoto gardens similarly begin with keen description and build into richly meditative excursions into art, Buddhism, nature, and science. Landscape architect Marc Keane shows how Japanese gardens are both a microcosm of the natural universe and a clear expression of our humanity, mirroring how we think, worship, and organize our lives and communities. Filled with passages of alluring beauty, this is a truly transcendent book about "experiencing" Japanese design.Marc Peter Keane has lived in Kyoto for 17 years and is author of Japanese Garden Design. He designs residential, company, and temple gardens.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This series of essays may be one of our most important modern interpretations of the meaning of the garden." -Donald Richie

From the IntroductionÃ Â Ã Â Ã Â What I have written might well be considered a guidebook but not one to actual places. Rather it is a general guide to certain basic principles that the gardens, temples, and shrines of Kyoto articulate, and to what we can gain from listening to them.

Marc Keane is a landscape architect practicing and teaching in Japan, and in this little gem he does

an excellent job of explaining the function of the various components in a Japanese garden, and the function of the garden itself. You learn from reading the title essay that in traditional Japan there was no word corresponding to our "garden". Instead, the phrase "the art of setting stones" was used. This is not a technical manual intended to inform the reader on how to create a Japanese garden. Instead, Keane uses his personal observations and experience to give life to the symbolism endemic to the components of a Japanese garden.The book is comprised of eight essays, each examining a different aspect of the garden, such as "Currents", "Boundaries", "Layers", "Trees", and more. And of course, stones. As an example of his approach, he begins the title essay by describing the setting of stones. How he, along with three other men, using all of their strength, work in unison to carry a stone and place it correctly. He moves from this description to explain how the setting of stones relates to earlier traditions, and is an affirmation of community. What I enjoyed so much about the book is that he relates the physical components of the garden to larger aspects of life and our relationship to the natural world and to one another.Keane is both a practitioner and a teacher, and his views are a synthesis of direct experience and academic research. He’s clearly a man of deep feeling and his presentation is that of a poet.

Wonderful book. The prose is outstanding. Very Zen.

The Setting of Stones is a beautiful book to enjoy and to learn from. It has interesting Japanese historical symbolism, a respect for gardens and nature, as it brings serenity in its poetic prose with added philosophical depth. It is a book to have and to keep.

I have long loved this beautiful collection of essays by Marc Peter Keane...drawing from his work and life in Japan. So glad it is now available on Kindle...and will be one of the books our book club will read this year.

Marc Keane is an artist extraordinaire! I thoroughly enjoyed every word, every thought from this garden genius.

Truly outstanding book; beautifully written and research.

delightful language ... I dip in here for a brain re-set from time to time

very lovely

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