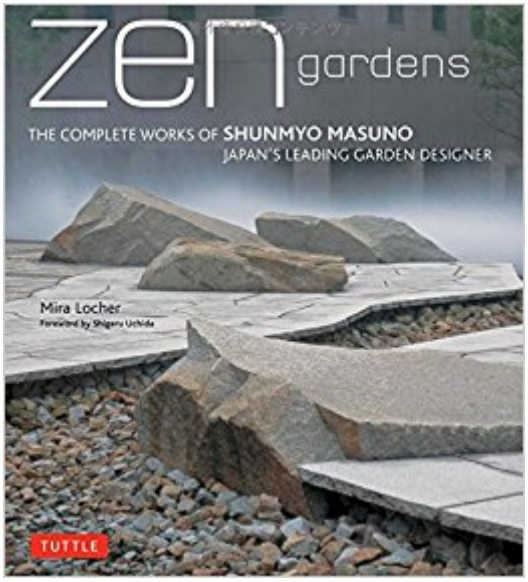
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Zen Gardens: The Complete Works Of Shunmyo Masuno, Japan's Leading Garden Designer



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Synopsis

Shunmyo Masuno, Japan’s leading garden designer, is at once Japan’s most highly acclaimed landscape architect and an 18th-generation Zen Buddhist priest, presiding over daily ceremonies at the Kenkoji Temple in Yokohama. He is celebrated for his unique ability to blend strikingly contemporary elements with the traditional design vernacular. He has worked in ultramodern urban hotels and in some of Japan’s most famous classic gardens. In each project, his work as a designer of landscape architecture is inseparable from his Buddhist practice. Each becomes a Zen garden, "a special spiritual place where the mind dwells."This beautiful book, illustrated with more than 400 drawings and color photographs, is the first complete retrospective of Masuno’s work to be published in English. It presents 37 major gardens around the world in a wide variety of types and settings: traditional and contemporary, urban and rural, public spaces and private residences, and including temple, office, hotel and campus venues. Masuno achieved fame for his work in Japan, but he is becoming increasingly known internationally, and in 2011 completed his first commission in the United States which is shown here.Zen Gardens, divided into three chapters, covers: "Traditional Zen Gardens," "Contemporary Zen Gardens" and "Zen Gardens outside Japan." Illustrated with photographs and architectural plans or sketches, each Zen garden design is described and analyzed by author Mira Locher, herself an architect and a scholar well versed in Japanese culture.Celebrating the accomplishments of a major, world-class designer, Zen Gardens also serves as something of a master class in Japanese garden design and appreciation: how to perceive a Japanese garden, how to understand one, even how to make one yourself. Like one of Masuno’s gardens, the book can be a place for contemplation and mindful repose.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Shunmyo Masuno restores nature in Japan within a corner of urban space. His gardens bring comfort to people who tire of dry city life by cleansing their souls." Ã¢â ¬â •Toyo Ito, internationally acclaimed award-winning architect and founder of Toyo Ito & Associates, Architects"This stunning book illustrates many (but probably not all) of Shunmyo Masuno's oeuvre. Not only are there outstanding images but the text accompanying them is interesting, readable and informative. This is highly recommended to all members interested in modern interpretations of Japanese gardens. Masuno is arguably the most important designer to have emerged in Japan in the last 20 years. Ã¢â ¬Â¦ If you haven't already bought this book, I unhesitatingly commend it to you." Ã¢â ¬â •Shakkei blog"Locher's stunning presentation highlights 37 master gardens in Japan and abroad (including in the U.S.) that embody a transcendent marriage between the primal elements of nature and metaphysics. [Ã¢â ¬Â¦] With 320 color photos and designs, Locher captures the mystery and mastery of Masuno's work." Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, Starred Review"This showcase of the work of Japanese garden designer Shunmyo Masuno marries clear exposition of the designer's philosophy with drop-dead gorgeous color art." Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly, 2012 Best Book, Gardening"Zen Gardens endorses a spiritual approach to the process of garden design, whereby the design and its inherent aesthetic qualities are allowed to grow from the place, rather than being imposed on it. Illustrated with more than 400 drawings and colour photographs, this book is a wonderful source of inspiration for creating beautiful, contemplative landscapes."Ã¢â ¬â • Garden Design Journal"Even just a quick riffle through the pages of Zen Gardens: The Complete Works of Shunmyo Masuno can cause a healthy lowering of one's blood pressure. Seeing such tranquil spaces in our generally chaotic world offers an escape to an oasis of serenity, or what Shunmyo Masuno himself calls an "unmoving truth." [Ã¢â ¬Â¦] Author Mira Locher, an architect and professor based in the United States and Japan, is an excellent guide to this tour of Masuno's work, explaining key elements of Zen and Japanese design and the complexity of such calm splendor. [Ã¢â ¬Â¦] Zen Gardens: The Complete Works of Shunmyo Masuno is surely best approached just as one would enter a Masuno gardenÃ¢â ¬â •with a sense of quiet, curious wonder at how man and nature can sometimes meet as one." Ã¢â ¬â •ForeWord Reviews"Shunmyo Masuno has chosen the most determinate and primal material of all to work with: rock, a substance that ages but does not wither. Embracing tradition and modernity, these gardens are expressive of a keen

intelligence and profound knowledge of Japanese culture, yoked with an artist’s perspective on landscape. Visionary garden designers like this appear perhaps once in a single generation, if that." Ã¢â ¬â •Stephen Mansfield, author of Japan’s Master Gardens and Japanese Stone Gardens"Shunmyo Masuno’s oeuvre of thoughtful and thought-provoking designs represents an important contribution to the world of gardens and landscapes. From his training and life as a Zen priest, Masuno has developed a viewpoint and mindset that have strong contemporary relevance yet are clearly bound to Japan’s long history of garden design. He is able with his artistry to transpose Japanese concepts to gardens all over the world to delight the eye and soul." Ã¢â ¬â •Cornelia Oberlander, landscape architect

Mira Locher is an architect and professor who works in both the U.S. and Japan. She holds degrees from Smith College and the University of Pennsylvania. She worked for Team Zoo Atelier Mobile in Japan for seven years before setting up an architectural practice, Kajika Architecture, in partnership with Takayuki Murakami in the U.S. She is an Associate Professor at the College of Architecture & Planning at the University of Utah. She is the author of Traditional Japanese Architecture: An Exploration of Elements and Forms and Super Potato Design: The Complete Works of Takashi Sugimoto: Japan’s Leading Interior Designer.

Japanese gardening is a wonderful art form that celebrates simplicity, creativity and nature. The work of Shunmyo Masuno, perhaps Japan’s leading garden designer, is superbly showcased in this beautiful work. The photographs are both inspiring and gorgeously presented. Importantly, the text adds detail about the highlighted gardens that is enlightening and thoughful. As a Japanese garden enthusiast, this book has a special spot in my book collection. I highly recommend purchasing it.

Photos and text give great introduction to Shunmyo Masuno’s design practice, and elements to consider for your own designs...

A must have/read for those interested in Japanese Gardens. Masuno creates both traditional and contemporary gardens of great beauty and peace.I only wish the book was much longer and there were more interviews of and quotes by this master.

a dream world

The book is divided into two parts. The first part of the book is focused on traditional gardens while the latter deals with more contemporary designs. Some of the work is reminescent of that of Mirei Shigemori but with somewhat greater emphasis on the stone and gravel hardscapes. Many of the 'gardens' are perhaps better described as architectural landscapes dominated by the extensive use of very large boulders and stone walls. This is not a book for those interested in creating their own gardens but is a useful library addition for those with broader interests in modern Japanese garden design.

Interesting exploration of a landscape architect's career. Many of the designs are traditional . . . and he incorporates elements of traditional architecture into his more modern projects.

I purchased this as a gift for my boyfriend, it was exactly as I was expecting it to be. The book is in excellent shape, it is well written, and the pages are absolutely gorgeous. I would recommend this to anyone!

Beautiful book, great ideas! Wish I ordered the hardcover.

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