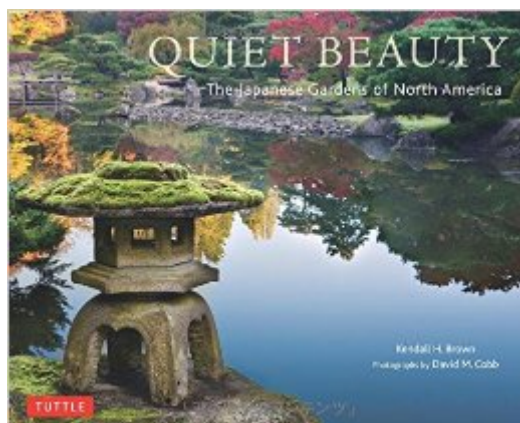


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Quiet Beauty: The Japanese Gardens Of North America



Synopsis

Gold Medal winner in the 2014 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award for Home & Garden

"Just flipping through the pages of *Quiet Beauty: The Japanese Gardens of North America* will instantly lower your blood pressure." — *The New York Times Book Review*

Quiet Beauty: Japanese Gardens of North America is an extraordinary look at the most beautiful and serene gardens of the United States and Canada. Most Japanese garden books look to the gardens of Japan. *Quiet Beauty* explores the treasure trove of Japanese gardens located in North America. Featuring an intimate look at twenty-six gardens, with numerous stunning color photographs of each, that detail their style, history, and special functions, this book explores the ingenuity and range of Japanese landscaping. Japanese gardens have been part of North American culture for almost 150 years. *Quiet Beauty* is a thought provoking look at the history of their introduction to the world of North American gardening and how this aspect of Japanese culture has taken root and flourished. Japanese gardens include: Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California Nitobe Memorial Garden, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia Japanese Garden, Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Texas Garden of the Pine Winds, Denver Botanic Garden, Colorado Japanese Garden, Montreal Botanical Garden, Quebec Tenshin'en (The Garden of the Heart of Heaven), Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts Roji'en (Garden of Drops of Dew), The George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Japanese Gardens, The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, Delray Beach, Florida Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix, Margaret T. Hance Park, Arizona Garden of the Pine Wind, Garvan Woodland Garden, Hot Springs, Arkansas

Book Information

Hardcover: 176 pages

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing; Hardcover with Jacket edition (April 23, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4805311959

ISBN-13: 978-4805311950

Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.9 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #345,441 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Japanese Gardens #196 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Nature & Wildlife > Landscapes #215 in Books > Crafts,

Customer Reviews

This book is another fine compilation by photographer David Cobb and writer/historian Kendall Brown. A very good piece on North American Japanese Gardens. Highly recommend this book to anyone with an interest in gardens, Japanese Culture and photography.

This book is a work of art. Before you read another word, I have to tell you: I've known the author for quite a few years. When I say "quite a few" I mean 40. We grew up together in Southern California, went to junior high school, high school, and college together. Even then, his calling in life was to be the kind of scholar who could talk to anybody. That's what this book does. It talks to you and me and everyone who ever saw a Japanese style garden and said, "Wow!" Read this book and you'll understand why.

I recently added Kendall Brown's Quiet Beauty to my growing collection of books on Japanese gardens and have been very happy with the purchase. I have come to expect excellent photography in such books and Quiet Beauty does not disappoint. The accompanying text is also substantial and informative. I was particularly fond of Brown's choice to group the gardens into several historical periods beginning with those with roots in the World's Fairs of the late nineteenth century and running through gardens of more recent vintage where there has been a unification of Japanese tradition with the climate and tastes of North America. I have not seen this perspective offered in other books on this subject and found it to add significantly to my appreciation of the gardens I have visited. For those who might wish to use the book to plan visits, Brown has made an excellent selection in terms of quality and geography. At least 15 of the gardens described have appeared among the top 25 Japanese gardens in North America as rated by the editors of the Journal of Japanese Gardening. Unfortunately one of my favorites, Asticou, in Northeast Harbor, ME, is not covered although this is a minor deficiency in an otherwise fine book. It might be noted that Japanese gardens, more than any others, are sensitive to rigorous upkeep and maintenance especially skilled pruning. Brown alludes to this in several descriptions (e.g. Shofuso whose quality has varied over the years with interest and funding). More recently I found that Tenshin Men at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts had deteriorated significantly from the condition presented in Brown's text. Hopefully the attention that this book generates will lead to more consistent efforts to preserve these valuable national treasures.

This is the most informative book I have ever read regarding the history and development of Japanese Gardens in America. Not only is it scholarly, it is exquisitely photographed and illustrated. It even taught me things I never knew about my own work.

I would recommend this beautiful book to anyone interested in Japanese Gardens, or Asian art. The particular reason it was chosen, was that, the gardens featured were in North America and thus able to be visited without overseas travel. The book is informative and blessed with exceptionally nice photography. All in all a wonderful addition to one's library...

I volunteer almost full time at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Phoenix, AZ. in caring for plants and outdoor maintenance. This garden was featured in this book and that was of interest to me. The other featured Japanese gardens were all in the United States which was also of interest to me.

This book along with the photos contained therein makes a great gift to anyone interested in Japanese art/culture/philosophy/design. You will not be disappointed in the contents and you may end up keeping the book for yourself.

If, like me, you love spending time at Japanese Gardens, and though you love to travel to Japan, would enjoy visiting gardens in the U.S.A., then this book is a real gem. I just spent a week with my family in San Francisco and visited the Japanese Garden there. I am grateful for the book helping me find these gems when I travel here in the States. The photographs are stunning, but the book is a great travel guide for those, like me, want to visit as many Japanese Gardens as possible.

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