

**Art of the Japanese Garden: From Tradition to Modernity**  
**Lecturer: Professor Marie Conte-Helm OBE**



This lecture introduces some of Japan's most famous gardens and provides a context for understanding the principles of Japanese garden design as it has evolved through the ages.

The Japanese love of nature and the changing seasons has manifested itself in the subject matter of paintings and in the intimate and grand-scale gardens surrounding aristocratic palaces and Buddhist temples as well as Zen-inspired dry landscape gardens with their strikingly symbolic content. Nature and artifice are intriguingly combined in such examples to capture the very essence of the landscape. Historical developments and religious and philosophical influences have informed the Japanese approach to the visual arts. This lecture will also draw upon wider examples to illustrate the distinctive qualities that the Japanese have brought to garden design, an approach that has been successfully adapted to modern domestic settings and to Japanese gardens abroad.

**Professor Marie Conte-Helm OBE**

Professor Marie Conte-Helm is Executive Director of the UK-Japan-21st Century Group. From 2000 to 2011 she served as Director General of the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, the largest UK charity supporting links between the two countries. Prior to that, she was Reader in Japanese Studies and Director, East Asian Developments at Northumbria University, Newcastle (1994-99), where she continues to hold a Visiting Professorship. She has also been Reader in Japanese Studies and Head of the Japanese Studies Division at the University of Sunderland where she worked closely with Japanese companies investing in the North East of England and played an active role in support of educational and cultural exchange.



Professor Marie Conte-Helm OBE

Professor Conte-Helm's research has centred on the economic and cultural relationship between Japan and Britain and she has published widely in the field, including *Japan and the North East of England: From 1862 to the Present Day* and *The Japanese and Europe: Economic and Cultural Encounters*.

She is currently a director of the UK-Japan 21<sup>st</sup> Century Group, a member of the White Rose East Asia Centre (Universities of Sheffield and Leeds) International Advisory Board, and the British Association for Japanese Studies. She is also a member of the Board of Governors of the University for the Creative Arts and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

In 2009 Professor Conte-Helm was awarded the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation 'for outstanding contribution to relations between Japan and the UK'. She was awarded an OBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to UK-Japan educational and cultural relations.

## The Art of the Japanese Garden

### Suggested Reading

- Helena Attlee, *The Gardens of Japan*, Francis Lincoln Publishers, London 2010. ISBN.0 711229716.
- Joe Earle, *Infinite Spaces: The Art and Wisdom of the Japanese Garden*, Tuttle Publishing, Vermont and Tokyo, 2007. ISBN.9784805312698.
- Marc Peter Keane, *The Japanese Tea Garden*, Stone Bridge Press, Berkeley, 2009. ISBN.9781933330679.
- Gunter Nitsche, *Japanese Gardens*, Taschen, Berlin, 2007. ISBN.9783822896440.
- Bowen Pearse, *Companion to Japanese Britain and Ireland*, (including entries on Japanese gardens in the UK and Ireland), In Print, Brighton, 1991. ISBN.1 873047 10.
- Joan Stanley Baker, *Japanese Art*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1984. ISBN.0 500201927.
- David B Stewart, *The Making of Modern Japanese Architecture: 1868 to the Present*, Kodansha Intl, Tokyo and New York, 1987. ISBN.0 870118447
- Various authors, *Cultural Atlas of Japan*, Phaidon Press, Oxford, 1988. ISBN.0 14825263.

