

3rd March

GREAT GARDENS OF THE 18TH CENTURY: LANDSCAPE GARDENING FROM HAS TO HERMITS

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Painshill Park, Surrey, England. An 18th century landscape garden designed by Charles Hamilton MP

The landscape garden was a great English innovation. In place of the formal patterns, clipped hedges and straight lines that were in vogue throughout Europe, William Kent introduced a new notion in the 1730s: a 'natural' garden, full of variety, drama and surprise. Examples are drawn from gardens such as Rousham, Claremont, Painshill and Stowe, and from the ever-ingenious designs of Humphry Repton. But did the origins of the landscape garden lie elsewhere? Also considered are two imperial gardens of 18th-century China, which may have helped to shape the great gardens of Georgian England.



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