



Stone Arrangement in the Japanese Garden

Arrangement of stones is one of the most important elements when creating a Japanese Garden.

In the oldest preserved manual of Japanese gardening, garden making was called "ishi wo taten koto" - erecting stones.

The oldest manual on gardening is called "Sakuteiki" and was published in the Heian period. It contains a great variety of do's and don'ts for stone arrangement. In modern times we are not as strict, but the same basic rules are used.

Selecting stones

When we choose stones for a garden, we want interesting and esthetically pleasing stones in a variety of shapes. Ideally, one should go to a quarry and arrange the available stones in the same layout they will be in the garden in order to see which stones are most suitable for the chosen design. This has been a method practiced from the Heian period and continues today.



Sakuteiki

作庭記

This book is considered to have been written (or compiled) by Tachibana no Toshitsuna.

The Sakuteiki describes the construction of gardens in the shinden-zukuri style. Some principles published in it are:

5 types of gardens laid out next to water

8 types of islands

9 basic types of waterfalls

Practical advice

Possible forms of garden streams

Different forms of stone arrangements