

ASIA

Kobei

***JAPANESE LANDSCAPING,
TRADITION AND CULTURE
BROUGHT TO THE
20TH CENTURY***

ASIA

Where East Meets West

In America

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By: Kohei Owatari

Wouldn't it be nice to have a beautiful and unique work of art displayed in your home, where its impact would be most significant? If you are considering a beautiful alternative in redecorating your yard, Asian style landscaping may be an ideal solution, particularly Japanese style. This manner of decoration has grown in popularity, as Asian culture is become more embraced in America. This beautiful option in landscaping is a garden created with an artistic hand, and it is truly worth looking into when considering a contemporary and unique alternative for your home.

American style landscaping and Japanese landscaping are very different from one another. The most substantial difference between the two is the purpose of the landscaping. While American landscaping is most often for functional reasons (ex. Distribution of water, need for a deck,

creation of a new art-piece, art being a crucial element in landscaping.

If you've got a good artist working on your garden, the results can be phenomenal. It is the landscaper's job to present nature in the very **best way** possible, therefore a great deal of artistry and detail is involved. In Japanese landscaping, the materials used are most often raw, in other words, unchanged by man. This creates a very natural look to the piece of land, rather than a manufactured look. The artistic element is very important

when creating a Japanese garden, in fact, most often, the garden is a unique creation of the landscaper.

An ideal garden would carry with it a number of features and characteristics. Japanese landscaping conveys a feeling of complexity, and at the same time simplicity. It looks unconstructed, yet very organized. This is a model of a typical "ying-yang" type design which is common in Asian artistry and prominent in Asian culture. It is a branch off on Zen philosophy, which is obviously still influential in Asian art. The most prominent features in Japanese landscaping include: stone towers, waterfalls, sand, bamboo, Asian sculptures and wooden pieces. These elements create a very relaxing tone to your home or garden, ideal for a busy person who appreciates art and nature.

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