



Review On History Of Gardening And Concept Of Theme Garden

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Abstract

Garden and gardening are very old practices which are performed by humans to add quality in living. From the Vedic period people have planted different plants and trees in a well organised manner and they have named it as a 'Garden'. The purpose of making a garden is changed over time. The gardens were made for royal display to study purposes. When the gardens were created with the idea of showing one thought and having a uniform harmony, they were named it as a 'Theme garden'. Theme gardens have been a hotly debated topic since the beginning.

Keywords – Garden, theme garden, garden history, garden design, landscaping

I.Introduction

Gardening is an ancient practice that has been performed by humans for thousands of years. Today, gardens are created to beautify places or to recreate the land. Nowadays with the modern studies of horticulture and well-developed architecture gardens are developed at indoor as well as outdoor space to spend quality time with family or friends, or even with pets.

In ancient times people have designed gardens specifically for beneficial purposes. They have mostly planted the fruiting plants like coconut, mango, guava, papaya, banana, chikoo, apple, different berries and even some fruiting vines like grapes, watermelon, muskmelon etc. they have also planted and grown flowering plants like rose, lotus, kadam, palash, crown flower (aakado), datura, Nerium, Jasmin, marigold, parijat, hibiscus etc.

They have planted those flowering and fruiting plants for consumption and religious purposes. They offer specific flowers and fruits to specific gods such as datura is specially offered to god Shiva, lotus is offered to devi Laxmi, kadam and Jasmin are specially offered to god Krishna, palash is offered to devi Sarasvati. The same thing was also with the fruits. Some fruits are specially required in so many religious practices as coconut is used in most of the Hindu religious practice. Due to these reasons people have been making gardens for a long time (Roy, 2013).

I.1 History of garden

The history of systematic gardening in India is very old. From the time of Ramayana and Mahabharata gardens are very well known. Gardens have been mentioned in Hindu Vedic literature like Ramayana, Mahabharata and even in some Vedas like Rigveda, Yajurveda, etc.

In Ramayana Maharishi Valmiki has documented that in Ayodhya there were beautiful gardens, richly decorated temples, beautiful ponds in which there were different lotus and lilies were planted. In Ravana's kingdom there was a garden called Ashok vatika where Ravana abducted Sita and kept her over there. In this Ashok vatika there were many fruiting plants and also a number of flowering plants documented. Sita was sitting under the tree called sita-ashok (*Saraca indica*) tree over there (Randhawa & Mukhopadhyay, 1986).

The Garden of Eden is also documented in the religious writings of the Abrahamic traditions. In this garden, God created two humans named Adam and Eve for the purpose of creation. where they were restricted to only eating one particular type of fruit, when they disobeyed the rule and instead ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they were expelled from the Eden garden (Thacker, 1985).

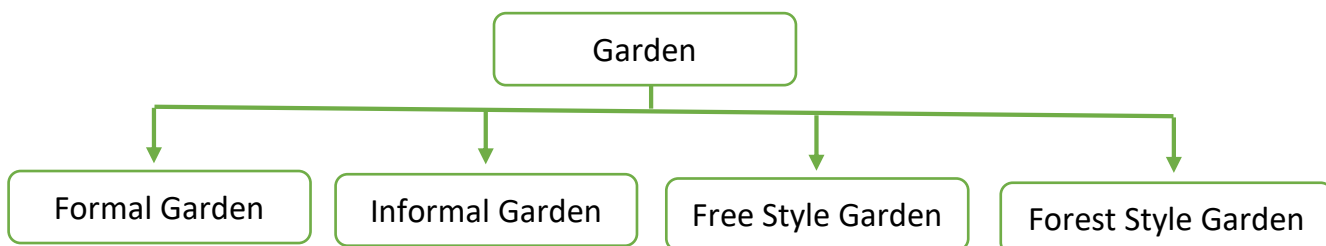
In Egypt there was also evidence of a garden. The major element of the Egypt garden was the stone sculptures. Different shapes and sized sculptures were found over there. The wall paintings in the pyramids of Egypt also refer to gardens in that era. Plants which are identified in those paintings are mostly palms and cactus. Water bodies, especially ponds, are also found in the Egyptian gardens (Daines, 2008).

In the wall paintings each and every tree is symbolised with a specific different shape. Even as the same as Indian philosophy some plants were representing Egyptian gods as well. The date palm in the painting was symbolised as Re and Min. The down palm was representing the Thoth. The tamarisk or willow tree was representing the Osiris. Water lilies and papyrus represented Horus and Hathor. (Wallert, et al., 1962).

The major development for gardens in India was done in the period of Mughals. Mughals have developed about 1200+ gardens in his kingdom area. They have also introduced making of some extra elements in gardens like fountains and sculptures (Roy, 2013).

II. Types of garden

All the gardens are mainly divided into four types.



II.1 formal garden

In formal gardens, plans are made in a symmetrical manner. All the roads and pathways are made with proper measurements and also at proper angles. Plantations are also done in some shape like square, rectangle, round etc. Balancing is done on both sides of the garden. In formal gardens trees are selected as individual features or even sometimes based on them. This is the more aesthetic and systematic garden which shows discipline in itself (Chadha, 2006).

II.2 informal garden

Informal gardens are asymmetric gardens. They are kept as natural as found in nature. The main objective of an informal garden is to replicate the natural landscape in its own way. Land is selected in its natural form; levelling is not done in any most of the area. Hills and slop are specially used to create a more realistic landscape like nature. Walkways and pathways are designed in free form instead of symmetrical lines. Most of the time Structures and elements are placed individually in the garden. The best examples of informal gardens are English gardens, Chinese gardens and Japanese gardens (Chadha, 2006).

II.3 free style garden

This garden is a mixture of formal garden and informal garden. In a free style garden, all the elements are placed in such a manner that each and every corner of the garden looks lush green in colour and provides a classy creative texture. The main principle of a free style garden is to design an area without any restriction and enhance the beauty of land (Janick, 1963).

II.4 forest style garden

Wild style gardens are most near to forest style plantation and growth of plants. In wild style, garden slopes and low areas are used to make ponds which look more natural. Heighted areas are used to replicate hills in gardens. As same as a free style garden there are also not many rules for the forest style garden. To provide a realistic and forest style look many times dead plants and trees are kept in the same condition (Janick, 1963).

III. What is theme garden

Gardens are now a symbol of class in society; even the members of Royal Horticultural Society in the UK have started garden shows based on themes like flower show (Park, et al.). Gardens are now made with the one concept. In this each and every element of the garden representing the one idea or relating to one thing is called theme garden. Theme gardens are very creative and well-mannered gardens. This concept-based garden has one rhythm in it. Every element in the theme garden is chosen based on one theme and the same thing is followed for the entire garden.

The concept of theme garden is not very old but due to its styles and unique concept it spread all over the world very quickly. The main concept of theme garden is unity. In this garden each and every element like main entrance, benches, lighting, fountain, sculptures, arches, pergolas, walk-ways etc. speaks about one thing or symbolises the same thought (Peter, 2009).

Theme garden could be designed on any theme like based on colours of plats of flowers, texture of plants, flowering season or fruiting season of plants, activities can be done in garden, plantation type, insects attracting, special features of garden, different elements of garden, special water elements, plantation method, education, etc.

❖ Some of the most common theme gardens and its theme concept

No	Garden	Concept
1	Butterfly Garden	Home for different butterflies
2	Bamboo Garden	Different bamboo plantation
3	Zen Garden	Japanese style
4	Kitchen Garden	Specially design to grow kitchen vegetables
5	Tea Garden	Specially grown different ingredients for different teas
6	Sculpture Garden	Major element is different sculptures

7	Moon Garden	Enjoy after sun goes down
8	Rock Garden	Main element rocks
9	Water Garden	Maximum water features
10	Medicinal Garden	Main plantation is medicinal plants
11	Therapeutic Garden	Different therapies were performed
12	Alba Garden	Main element white flowering plans

IV. Conclusion

Garden and gardening directly influence the human health and brain, surrounding environment and also to the economy. Garden design and themes changed over time and will continue to change based on our needs. Based on requirement and availability gardens were made. With the influence of one idea or one criteria theme gardens are designed and made. Theme gardens are very particular and specific gardens which have clear and straight one proposal. Main purpose of Theme gardens is to design and represent the single concept of owner.

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