

苏州园林

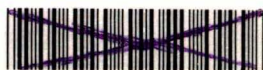
Suzhou Gardens

章新胜 主编

園

五洲传播出版社

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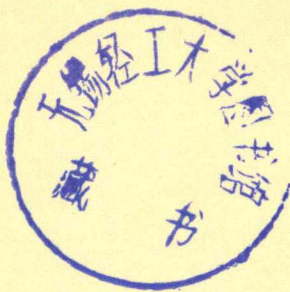
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说苏州是一座园林城市，或者说苏州是一座城市园林，都是恰如其分的。

据历史资料记载，苏州园林的鼎盛时期是明代，当时苏州园林多达271处，到了二十世纪八十年代，苏州园林仍有69处尚存，如今对外开放的园林有17家。

“虽有人作，宛如天开”，这大概是苏州园林能甲天下的重要原因之一。无论是以水为主还是以石取胜的苏州园林，讲究的是模仿自然再现自然的意境，沧浪亭便是一例。沧浪之水不同与通常所见的园林之水深藏于园林之中，而是环绕在沧浪亭四周，水与园林宛若天然浑成，无半点人工雕凿之感，水流自然澄澈，水中游鱼戏逐。沧浪之水在脚下缓缓流淌，你不知道它从何而来，又将流向何方，但是你能真切地感觉到它的生命，它的活力，这就是自然。

如果说沧浪亭的水，滴活了一座园林，那么拙政园是另一种以水为主的典型代表，园中建筑十有八九临水而筑，你透过各式花窗由里朝外探望，小池假山相映成趣，玉兰古榆扶疏接叶，临水湖石参差错落，隔岸半亭隐然在望，对面斜坡丛林半掩，使人仿佛置身天然池沼之中，自然就忘却了

人间几多烦恼诸种虞许。

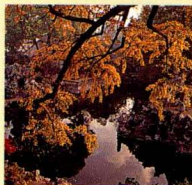
有假山王国之称的狮子林，奇峰异石遍布，几乎每一石皆耐人寻味，多数象狮，亦有如鱼鸟，如蟹龟，却又无不含蓄掩蔽，似象非象，引人遐思，也堪称“造”出自然的典型，“人道我居城市里，我疑身在山林中”，文人墨客，多有诗文赞赏，说狮子林的叠石妙夺天工，游赏之后，愉快得一切烦恼都消失了。苏州园林的另一个

特点是小。苏州是个小城，所以苏州的园林也是小的，小到只有零点零一四公顷，如残粒园那样，更小的也不是没有，如拙政园也不过五六十亩地，算是苏州园林的老大哥了。因为小，它就不能直白，要曲折，让你一眼望不到其终，便有了曲径通幽的苏州园林特色。园林建筑因地制宜，园林布局错落有致，就产生出“物外景，

景外意”的艺术魅力，如小家碧玉的网师园，可称苏州园林小园之极品，亦是一种以少胜多的典范。也许，只有到了网师园那样的地方，你才能真正明白什么叫咫尺天地，什么叫山穷水尽疑无路，柳岸花明又一村。

苏州园林，不仅是苏州人民的骄傲，也是中华民族几千年文明的见证，更是世界历史文化遗产中的一颗光彩夺目的珍宝。

序



Suzhou is a city of gardens, and it is also true to call it a garden of urban surroundings.

Record shows that Suzhou gardens reached their prime in the Ming Dynasty, when they numbered altogether 271, of which 69 still remained in the 1980's. At present, 17 such sites are open to the public.

"Man-made as they are, they appear as works of Nature." That probably explains why Suzhou gardens excel among all classical gardens in China. It is crucial for Suzhou gardens, featuring either waters or rockery, to imitate and reproduce the essence of Nature. The Surging Waves Garden is a case in point. It differs with others in that water embraces the garden from outside and becomes an integrate part of a natural garden instead of being enclosed inside the garden as in most cases. As you watch the crystal brook with swimming fishes flow down underfoot and wonder where it is from and bound for, you get a genuine feeling of its pulse and vitality — the appeal of Nature.

Whereas water enlivens the scenes of the Surging Waves Garden, it highlights the Humble Administrator's Garden in another typical manner. Here, over eighty percent of the buildings are erected at the edge of the water, and looking through the variety of latticed windows, you will be intrigued by the delicate pond and artificial hillocks complementing one another, by the age-old magnolias and elms, the multi-shaped rockeries along the water, and by the half-hidden pavilions across the water and tree groves along hill slopes, and you seem to find yourself amidst a natural lake, casting into oblivion all the earthly worries and fraud.

Another typical example is seen in the Lion Grove Garden, known as the Kingdom of Rockery,

where a wide array of rocks evokes the visitor's imagination by giving resemblances to many lions and also fish and birds, crabs and turtles, in an implicit yet thought-provoking way. "Living in a bustling town as you see me, I seem to find myself in a mountain forest." Depiction like this has been made by many a scholar to marvel at the superb workmanship of rockery in the Lion Grove Garden, said to give the visitor such great pleasure as to dispel all his worries.

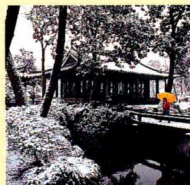
Limited space is another feature of Suzhou gardens, which matches the size of a small city. The Cracked Grain Garden has an area of only 0.014 hectare, and there are probably gardens even smaller than that. The Humble Administrator's Garden, boasting to be the first largest, is no more than 10 acres of land.

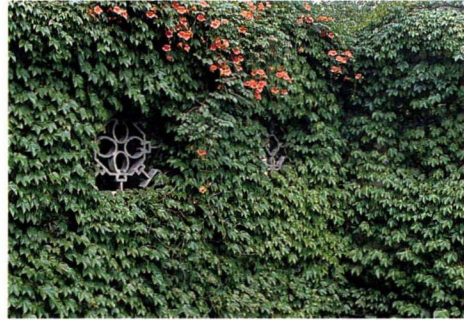
Suzhou gardens being small in space, it would be unwise to present their scenery in a straight manner. In stead, it should be gradually revealed from different angles so that you cannot cover the whole in one glance, thus the characteristic of winding pathways leading to varied prospects. All kinds of architecture are well adapted to the natural terrain of the garden in irregular

and rhythmic layout so that buildings become part of the scenery and the scenery imparts a deeper meaning. This is best exemplified in the delicate the Master-of-Nets Garden, where a small garden reflects a much bigger world and where you get a real feel of Nature in a nutshell and realize what is meant by the famous line: "Seemingly, the hills and waters have come to an end, yet before one knows it, a rustic dwelling jumps into sight."

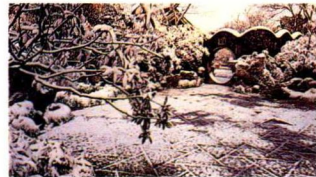
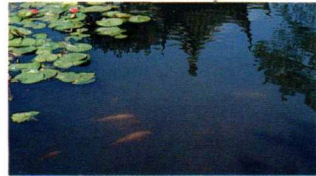
Suzhou gardens are not only the pride of Suzhou people, but a witness to the thousands of years' Chinese civilization, and a radiant gem in the historical and cultural heritage of the world.

Foreword





春
Spring





拙政园
The Humble Administrator's Garden



留园
— The Lingering Garden —



拙政園

— The Humble Administrator's Garden —



狮子林

— The Lion Grove Garden —



拙政园

— The Humble Administrator's Garden —



沧浪亭
— The Surging Waves Garden —



怡园

The Garden of Harmony



艺圃

The Garden of Cultivation



曲园

The Zigzag Garden



獅子林

— The Lion Grove Garden —



艺圃

— The Garden of Cultivation —