

## **Unveiling the Distinctions: Chinese and Japanese Gardens-A Journey Through Aesthetics and Design**

Chinese gardens and Japanese gardens are both beautiful and tranquil spaces, however, for some of people they find it difficult to distinguish between Chinese and Japanese gardening style, but there are several easier way to distinguish between them.

First of all, in terms of Karesansui Garden that means Japanese dry garden, it embodies the ideology of Zen. It utilizes rocks and sand to express nature and the universe.



**The serenity of Karesansui: Japanese rock garden**

In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, Japan developed a distinctive style of garden called Karesansui, which was quite different from the Chinese literati garden. The first “Karesansui” was mentioned by “Tang Sansui” with “Tang” referring to China and “Sansui” representing landscape gardens in ancient Japan. Therefore, the prototype of Karesansui gardens can be tracked back to China.



Initially, it is used for introspection in Zen meditation practice, Karesansui gradually evolved into independent gardening style, which is a significant difference between Chinese and Japanese gardens.

In fact, Chinese gardens also have similar ideas while with different techniques. Instead of using white sand and stones, they utilize water patterns on paved surfaces in dry gardens, along with architectural elements and surrounding artificial mountains to suggest the presence of water, a concept known as “ Water illusion in dry gardens”.



**Water ripples on the pavement and artificial mountains symbolizing towering peaks and ridge**

Secondly, one of the significant differences between Chinese and Japanese gardens is the concept of mountains as elements in their design.



**Ge Garden: Summer Mountains**

This can be a unique feature of Chinese gardens in the world of landscaping. Our garden can often larger and more elaborate, with many different areas to explore while Japanese gardens tend to be smaller and more focused on a single aspect or feature. Therefore, Japanese gardens emphasize stone placement, mainly focusing on the texture of individual stones and the variations in the placement.

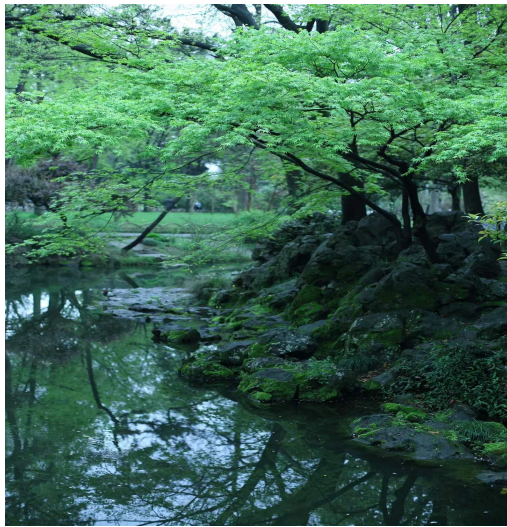


**The three-stone arrangement in Japanese gardens**



**Spacious high of the cave: 2.7meters**

Thirdly, the characteristics of Chinese gardens are different. Chinese gardens tend to be more extroverted, utilizing winding paths, rock gardens, and miniature landscapes to symbolize larger natural settings. Additionally, they frequently incorporate water features like lakes, ponds and streams. On the other hand, Japanese gardens have a more introverted appearance, characterized by simple, clean lines and natural elements, such as rocks, sand and trees. These gardens are commonly including water features like small pond and waterfalls.



**Chinese garden**



**Japanese garden**

In general, Chinese and Japanese gardens share the common goal of providing beautiful and serene environments for people to appreciate; yet they exhibit distinct aesthetics and principles of design.