

THE BEAUTY OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN

1.

The beauty of the  
Japanese Garden lies in  
Its inventiveness.

2.

Japanese gardens  
Invite the eye to pleasure  
In a contained space.

3.

The pleasure is not  
Commensurate with their size  
But with their movement.

4.

The eye desires to  
Appreciate a wildness,  
Not a straightness.

5.

Wildness is akin  
To Nature's own growing, not  
Artifice of Man

6.

It must follow a  
Never-ending path to the  
Garden's enchantment.

7.

Round river rocks make  
The garden path sensation  
For both foot and eye.

8.

Rough planks that bridge streams  
And moss ground-cover are raised high  
To add adventure.

9.

Their zigzag pattern  
Reminds that beauty is where  
You seek to find it.

10.

Steppingstones can be  
Rounds of tree trunks or marble  
Laid down in a path.

11.

Stand an ancient stone  
Upright amidst greenery:  
It will withstand Time!

12.

Or like Noguchi,  
Grind the stone until it looks  
Ancient and wise.

13.

A bamboo fence to  
Lead the eye, sending it back  
To its beginning.

14.

A wavering line  
Of birch or bamboo—a grove--  
Suggests a forest.

15.

Let the texture of  
Their bark play against varied  
Green and yellow leaves.

16.

Solitary pine,  
Trained from the Nursery,  
You stand best alone.

17.

Survivor of wind  
And rain, hanging from a ledge,  
You represent life.

18.

The bamboo pipe drips  
Into garden basin drop  
By drop: Fulfillment.

19.

We are uplifted  
By the wave and inspired by  
The mountain's summit.

20.

But come upon them  
From the lowlands and valleys--  
Or none measure up.

21.

Does Time stop in a  
Japanese Garden? I know  
Only it grows on me.