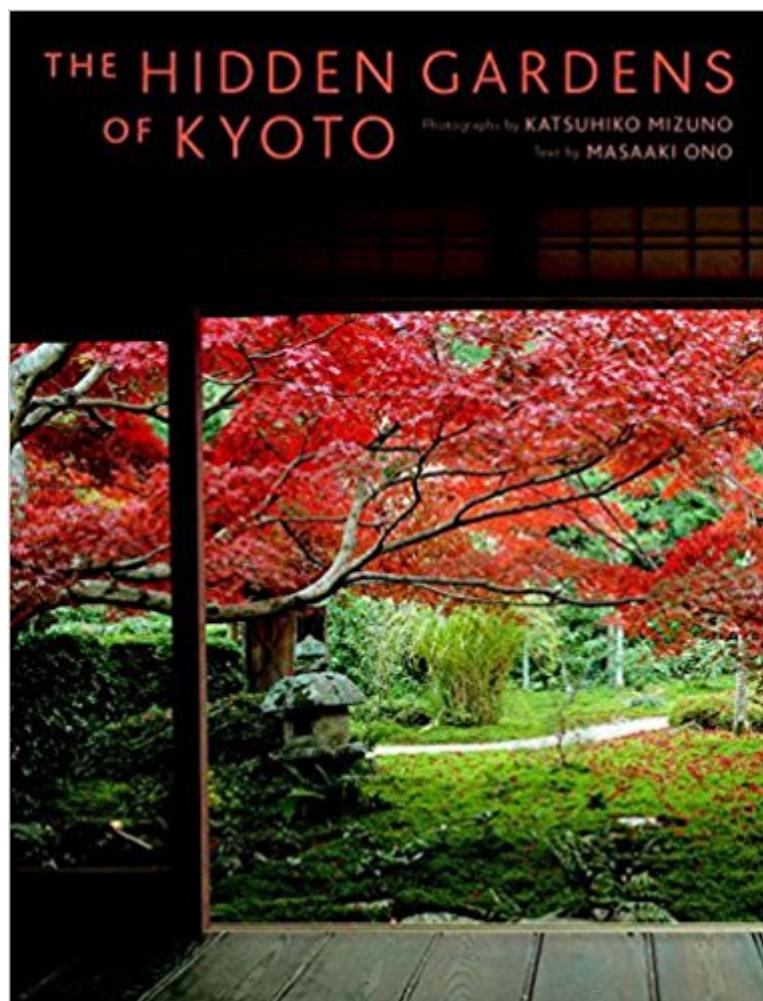


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The Hidden Gardens Of Kyoto



Synopsis

ForeWord Magazine's BOOK OF THE YEAR Awards, Silver Medal Winner, Home & Garden

Supreme examples of the art of Japanese gardens, not easily accessible to the public. The Hidden Gardens of Kyoto is the attractive sequel to Landscapes for Small Spaces by the same photographer, Katsuhiko Mizuno. In this new book, Mizuno introduces the gardens of Kyoto that are not easily accessible or are totally closed to the public. Mizuno was born in Kyoto and has spent most of his life in this old capital, established in the eighth century. Kyoto is not susceptible to short-term fashions, and this rigidness can be seen in the way it has kept the tradition of garden art alive over the centuries in public and private spaces. Thanks to his familiarity with the city, Mizuno has been able to penetrate its hidden corners and capture the beauty of unknown gardens with his cameras. The Hidden Gardens of Kyoto displays more than fifty gardens, from private dwellings to the Imperial Palaces and Villas, temples, tea schools and shrines. The elements and structure of each garden are explained by Masaaki Ono, who studied under the greatest twentieth-century garden designer, Mirei Shigemori. Plans drawn by Ono also accompany some of the garden descriptions. Some Japanese gardens are planned so as to be seen from one vantage point, but many are designed for viewing from multiple angles. In his previous book, Mizuno only showed us one aspect per garden, but this time we are given various views as we explore the stroll gardens or look down from the verandas of the buildings surrounding enclosed gardens. This three-dimensional approach will help both professional and amateur garden designers and landscape architects to understand the structure as well as the diverse vegetation used in one garden.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kyoto gardens epitomize the austere yet visually potent elements of Japanese garden design. Mizuno's exquisite photography reveals the essential attributes of Japan's primary garden styles, offering breathtaking glimpses of private landscapes where refined textural effects are achieved in vast ponds surrounded by emerald evergreens, dry gravel waterfalls, and mossy expanses. Although the text accompanying each image is brief, Ono deftly explicates the consequence of a rock's placement or the calligraphic potency of raked stone, and clearly delineates the significant aspects of the pond, dry landscape, and tea garden. From the dynamic asymmetry governing a composition of shapely trees to the transitory response engendered by falling leaves, an ethereal perfection comes to pass in Mizuno and Ono's melding of words and pictures. Alice JoyceCopyright
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"This is one of the most finely photographed books of gardens I have seen.... If you favor Japanese garden styles, you will be impressed by the sweeps, use of stone, meticulous attention to detail and feel for nature the text and images convey." •Washington Post"Between these elegant covers...readers are treated to some of Kyoto's most exquisite gardens that never open to the public." •Los Angeles Times"From the dynamic asymmetry governing a composition of shapely trees to the transitory response engendered by falling leaves, an ethereal perfection comes to pass in Mizuno and Ono's melding of words and pictures." •Booklist"Anyone on your gift list who loves Japanese style will be delighted to receive *The Hidden Gardens of Kyoto*."
•Metropolitan Home"Don't miss the *Hidden Gardens of Kyoto*. ...The timeless elegance of such gardens is extraordinary. ...This newly-released masterpiece demonstrates the Japanese esthetic that blends utility and ornamentation which for centuries has provided a sanctuary where inhabitants can stroll, boat, sip tea and meditate on all of life's possibilities. The utmost attention to detail translates into the precision with which inanimate objects are integrated into their natural surroundings." •Renovation & Decor"The *Hidden Gardens of Kyoto* is devoted to resplendent photographs of the gardens themselves. A singularly beautiful treasury."
•Midwest Book Review"This luscious volume opens the raffia-tied bamboo gate to reveal a world of gardens both ancient and surprisingly contemporary." •Seattle Times"This book can provide many moments of pleasure and inspiration." •Post and Courier"[The book] gives much insight of the various garden elements in traditional Japanese gardens."

Juneau Empire"An elegant visual and textual introduction to Japanese gardens."
Asahi Herald"With these details, Mizuno and Ono give readers a new appreciation of the traditional Japanese garden. Perhaps the most intriguing detail of The Hidden Garden of Kyoto is knowing that the gate into these gardens—which might otherwise be closed—is, in these pages, open to us all." The Globalist (Online)

Ex-Library stock that was in very good condition and exactly as described on website.Great value for money-and for the wonderful information contained within. A stunner of a book.

this is a book about not so common visited places, although there are also some very "touristic" places. the pictures are nice to good, it gives a good overview about Kyoto. I was a little disappointed that the Nanzenji temple is not commented. but if you are fond of Japanese gardens it is a good picture book that give you ideas.

Great picture book, but there isn't much in the way of detailed commentary. Would have enjoyed this book a lot more if there had been some focus on exactly what was highlighted in the photo.

This a beautiful collection of large-sized well composed photographs of the different type of gardens found throughout Kyoto. They are accompanied with brief text on their design principles and historical background. Might proof useful as inspiration and reference for anyone writing and/or illustrating a story set in Feudal Japan like Samurai-Ninja stories. It might also be a nice surprise present to Anime/Manga fans by adding another dimension to their collections.

Because of this book, I am going to try and get to Kyoto and see all these marvelous gardens. Well, not all, as that would take years, even if they were all open to the public. Because of that, I did buy the Japanese original, and interestingly the front cover is entirely different, taken from a far more serene, peaceful garden. Not the bling that the English language version shows. Many of the gardens are stones and pebbles, raked. There is only one picture in the entire book that has any flowers in it, those being Chinese bellflowers, a calming blue. The autumn pictures of the Japanese maple, which I think are mostly acer japonicum aconitifolium, are breathtaking. Red and flaming. Like the cover picture. There are also some bright azaleas, but mostly trees, shrubs, ponds, peaceful places. Contemplative space. Many of these gardens are over 100 years old. Amazing. Such an old culture. One that values the inner life.

The impressively visual photography of Katsuhiko Mizuno deftly combine with the informative text of Masaaki Ono in *The Hidden Gardens Of Kyoto*, an amazingly beautiful photography book presenting captivating images of Kyoto gardens. The full-color pictures come with captions in fine print that succinctly inform the reader of the garden's location and style of composition. A summary of basic information and common Japanese garden formations is included in the back, but the majority of *The Hidden Gardens Of Kyoto* is devoted to resplendent photographs of the gardens themselves. A singularly beautiful treasury.

This book provides an excellent inside look at Kyoto's historical gardens, though without much of the context in which they exist (e.g. surrounding city, houses). The photography is fantastic as it realistically shows the reader both the intricate details & broad strokes that make up these complex settings. Keep in mind, it is a serious piece of work and the descriptions are somewhat short and/or dry (but maybe that's the point).

After visiting Kyoto, I think this book gives us many opportunities to appreciate so many details of the wonderful and charming Japanese gardens of the ancient Japan capital. And the pictures overall taken in fall period are much better, in my opinion, to the spring pictures

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