

golden gate park history

Golden Gate Park History: A Journey Through San Francisco's Urban Oasis

golden gate park history is a fascinating tale of vision, perseverance, and transformation that reflects the spirit of San Francisco itself. Stretching over 1,000 acres, this sprawling urban park is not just a green space but a vibrant cultural landmark with a rich past. From its humble beginnings on what was once sand dunes and wasteland to becoming one of the most visited parks in the United States, Golden Gate Park's story is as captivating as the natural beauty and attractions it houses today.

The Origins of Golden Gate Park

San Francisco in the mid-19th century was rapidly growing, yet it lacked a large, public park that could offer residents a place to escape the bustling city. The idea of creating a grand urban park was inspired by the success of New York's Central Park. However, the site chosen for Golden Gate Park was far from ideal. The area was originally a stretch of windswept sand dunes, with sparse vegetation and harsh conditions.

Early Vision and Planning

The push to create Golden Gate Park began in the 1860s, spearheaded by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. They saw the potential to transform the barren western edge of the city into a lush retreat. Landscape architect William Hammond Hall was hired in 1870 to design the park. Hall faced enormous challenges including stabilizing the sand dunes and planting hundreds of thousands of trees to create a sustainable environment.

Following Hall's initial work, John McLaren took over as Superintendent in 1887 and served for nearly 60 years. McLaren's passion and innovative horticultural techniques were pivotal in shaping the park's character. His philosophy of preserving natural beauty while enhancing the landscape helped Golden Gate Park evolve into a masterpiece of landscape architecture.

Golden Gate Park's Development Through the Years

Over the decades, Golden Gate Park grew not only in size but also in diversity of attractions and natural features. The park includes lakes, gardens, museums, and recreational facilities that continue to draw millions of visitors annually.

Transforming the Landscape

One of the most remarkable aspects of Golden Gate Park history is the transformation of its landscape. What was once a tough, sandy expanse was turned into a verdant paradise through extensive planting and landscaping efforts. Trees such as eucalyptus, cypress, and pine were introduced to stabilize the soil and create windbreaks. The creation of trails, meadows, and artificial lakes enhanced both the ecological function and aesthetic appeal of the park.

Iconic Features and Cultural Landmarks

Golden Gate Park is home to several iconic landmarks and cultural institutions that have historical significance:

- **Conservatory of Flowers:** Built in 1879, this Victorian-era greenhouse is one of the oldest wood-and-glass conservatories in North America and houses rare and exotic plants.
- **de Young Museum:** Opened in 1895, this fine arts museum showcases American art, textiles, and artifacts from around the world.
- **California Academy of Sciences:** Established in 1853 and relocated to the park in 2008, this science museum features an aquarium, planetarium, and natural history exhibits.
- **Stow Lake and Japanese Tea Garden:** These serene spots offer visitors picturesque views and a peaceful retreat within the park's bustling environment.

These attractions reflect the park's dual role as a natural sanctuary and a center for learning and culture.

Golden Gate Park's Role in San Francisco's Social and Cultural Life

Beyond its physical beauty, Golden Gate Park has long been a gathering place for community events, festivals, and celebrations that highlight the city's diverse culture.

A Hub for Recreation and Community Events

Since its inception, the park has provided spaces for sports, concerts, and social gatherings. The expansive open lawns and dedicated facilities make it a favorite spot for joggers,

cyclists, and families. Over the years, Golden Gate Park has hosted everything from music festivals like Outside Lands to historical events such as the 1967 Summer of Love, which marked a pivotal moment in the city's counterculture movement.

Environmental Stewardship and Conservation Efforts

Golden Gate Park's history also includes a strong commitment to environmental preservation. Efforts to maintain the park's biodiversity and ecological health continue to this day. Initiatives such as habitat restoration, native plant cultivation, and sustainable maintenance practices ensure that the park remains a healthy urban ecosystem. This ongoing stewardship honors the legacy of early park planners who saw the importance of blending nature with urban life.

Tips for Exploring Golden Gate Park Today

For those interested in experiencing the living history of Golden Gate Park, here are a few tips to make the most of your visit:

1. **Start at the Visitor Center:** Located near the park's eastern entrance, it offers maps, guided tours, and historical information to enrich your visit.
2. **Visit the Historic Gardens:** Don't miss the Conservatory of Flowers and the Japanese Tea Garden, both rich in history and natural beauty.
3. **Explore Museums:** Allocate time to visit the de Young Museum and the California Academy of Sciences to connect with the cultural heritage of the park.
4. **Enjoy Outdoor Activities:** Walk or bike along the park's trails, rent a paddleboat on Stow Lake, or simply relax on the open meadows.
5. **Check Event Calendars:** The park frequently hosts cultural festivals, concerts, and community activities that offer a glimpse into its ongoing social role.

Golden Gate Park History as a Reflection of San Francisco's Evolution

The story of Golden Gate Park is inseparable from the broader narrative of San Francisco's growth and identity. Its creation transformed a once inhospitable area into a beloved urban green space that continues to inspire residents and visitors alike. The park's blend of natural splendor, cultural richness, and community spirit makes it a living testament to the city's resilience and creativity.

As you wander through its trails, explore its museums, or simply take in the views, you're walking through over 150 years of history that have shaped not only a park but an essential part of San Francisco's soul. The golden threads of innovation, dedication, and respect for nature that run through Golden Gate Park history remind us how urban spaces can thrive when community vision and environmental stewardship come together.

Frequently Asked Questions

When was Golden Gate Park established?

Golden Gate Park was established in 1871 and officially opened to the public in 1873.

Who was the primary designer of Golden Gate Park?

The primary designer of Golden Gate Park was William Hammond Hall, the park's first superintendent, who planned its initial layout.

What inspired the creation of Golden Gate Park?

Golden Gate Park was inspired by the success of Central Park in New York City and aimed to provide a large green space for recreation and nature within San Francisco.

How large is Golden Gate Park?

Golden Gate Park spans over 1,017 acres, making it one of the largest urban parks in the United States.

What were some challenges faced during the development of Golden Gate Park?

Developers had to transform sand dunes into fertile parkland, which involved planting thousands of trees and creating irrigation systems to sustain vegetation.

What historical events have taken place in Golden Gate Park?

Golden Gate Park has hosted numerous events, including the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition, music festivals like the 1967 Human Be-In, and various cultural gatherings.

How has Golden Gate Park evolved over time?

Over time, Golden Gate Park has expanded its recreational facilities, incorporated botanical gardens, museums, and conservatories, and continues to serve as a vital cultural and natural landmark in San Francisco.

Additional Resources

Golden Gate Park History: A Chronicle of San Francisco's Urban Oasis

golden gate park history unfolds as a compelling narrative of vision, transformation, and cultural significance. Nestled in the heart of San Francisco, California, Golden Gate Park stands today as one of the most iconic urban parks in the United States. Spanning over 1,000 acres, it rivals New York's Central Park in size and serves as a vital green space for millions of residents and visitors annually. Understanding the park's history reveals much about urban planning, environmental restoration, and the evolving priorities of San Francisco's civic life throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Origins and Early Development of Golden Gate Park

Golden Gate Park's inception dates back to the late 19th century, during a period when San Francisco was rapidly expanding. The city's planners recognized the necessity for a large public park to provide respite from urban density and industrialization. The site chosen for the park was originally a stretch of rugged sand dunes and scrubland, considered inhospitable and unsuitable for development. The challenge was formidable: transform this barren landscape into a verdant, usable public space.

In 1870, the California legislature appointed a board of park commissioners, and William Hammond Hall was hired as the park's first superintendent. Hall, a civil engineer by training, embarked on a massive earthmoving and landscaping effort. His vision emphasized the preservation of natural contours while introducing carefully planned vegetation. Hall's work was later continued by John McLaren, who became one of the park's most influential figures. McLaren's tenure, spanning nearly 60 years, shaped much of Golden Gate Park's character as it is known today.

Transforming Sand Dunes into a Lush Environment

The early transformation of the park focused on stabilizing shifting sands and creating a sustainable ecosystem. Hall and his team planted thousands of trees and shrubs, many of which were exotic species imported from around the world. Eucalyptus, Monterey pines, and cypress trees played a crucial role in anchoring the soil. This massive reforestation project not only prevented erosion but also created diverse habitats that attracted wildlife.

This environmental engineering feat was considered groundbreaking at the time. Unlike many urban parks that relied solely on manicured lawns and flower beds, Golden Gate Park was designed to mimic natural landscapes, blending open meadows, wooded areas, and water features harmoniously. This approach contributed to the park's enduring appeal and ecological value.

Cultural and Recreational Evolution Through the Decades

Golden Gate Park has long been more than just green space; it has served as a cultural and recreational hub for San Francisco. As the city's population grew, the park adapted to meet changing social needs and interests.

Landmarks and Attractions Within the Park

Over the decades, several landmarks were added that elevated the park's status as a destination:

- **Conservatory of Flowers:** Completed in 1879, this Victorian-era greenhouse is one of the oldest public wood-and-glass conservatories in North America. It houses a vast collection of rare and exotic plants, reflecting the park's botanical ambitions early on.
- **de Young Museum:** Founded in 1895, this fine arts museum showcases American art from the 17th through 21st centuries, alongside art from Africa, Oceania, and the Americas, linking natural beauty with cultural enrichment.
- **Japanese Tea Garden:** Established in 1894, it is the oldest public Japanese garden in the United States and exemplifies the park's dedication to international cultural representation.
- **Stow Lake and Spreckels Lake:** These man-made lakes provide recreational opportunities such as boating and fishing, enhancing the park's appeal as a multi-use environment.

These features underscore how Golden Gate Park's history is intertwined with both natural preservation and the promotion of arts and leisure.

Social and Political Role of the Park

Golden Gate Park has also played a significant role in social activism and public gatherings. The park's open spaces have historically hosted fairs, concerts, and political rallies, particularly during the countercultural movements of the 1960s and beyond. Events like the 1967 Summer of Love drew thousands of young people, marking the park as a symbol of freedom, expression, and community.

Such events illustrate the park's dynamic role in San Francisco's identity, serving as a venue where social currents and civic engagement manifest visibly.

Environmental Challenges and Restoration Efforts

Despite its success, Golden Gate Park has faced environmental challenges, including drought, invasive species, and the impact of urban pollution. Maintaining such a large green space in a coastal city with variable climate conditions requires ongoing stewardship.

Water Management and Sustainability

One of the primary challenges has been water management. The park's early designers had to develop irrigation systems to sustain its diverse plant life. Today, water conservation remains a priority, with modern systems incorporating recycled water and drought-resistant landscaping to adapt to California's frequent dry spells.

Conservation Initiatives

In recent decades, efforts to restore native habitats and control invasive species have intensified. Projects aimed at reviving indigenous flora and fauna seek to enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience. The park's management balances historical preservation with contemporary environmental science, ensuring that Golden Gate Park remains both a cultural landmark and a living ecosystem.

Golden Gate Park in Comparison to Other Urban Parks

When placed alongside other major urban parks, Golden Gate Park stands out for its size, diversity, and historical depth. While Central Park in New York spans approximately 843 acres, Golden Gate Park covers more than 1,017 acres, making it one of the largest urban parks in the United States.

Unlike some parks that emphasize formal gardens or athletic facilities, Golden Gate Park offers a unique combination of naturalistic landscapes, cultural institutions, and recreational amenities. Its design philosophy, which integrates environmental restoration with public use, serves as a model for urban park development worldwide.

Advantages and Limitations

- **Advantages:** The park's vast size and variety of attractions make it a versatile space for visitors with diverse interests. Its historical significance and ongoing cultural programming contribute to its status as a landmark.

- **Limitations:** The park's coastal location exposes it to salt spray and fog, which can limit certain plant species. Additionally, maintaining such an extensive park requires substantial funding and resources, posing challenges for sustainable management.

Balancing these factors is integral to the park's continued success and relevance.

Golden Gate Park's history is a testament to human ingenuity and the enduring importance of urban green spaces. From its beginnings as an unpromising expanse of sand dunes to its current status as a multifaceted cultural and ecological asset, the park embodies the evolving relationship between nature and city life in San Francisco. Its ongoing preservation and adaptation reflect broader themes in urban planning and environmental stewardship that resonate far beyond California's borders.

[Golden Gate Park History](#)

golden gate park history: Working Paper #1 San Francisco (Calif.). Recreation and Park Department, Deborah Learner, 1979* William Hammond Hall was the engineer who developed the basic layout of the Park. John McLaren did most of the landscaping. The early problems were taming the drifting sand and obtaining an adequate water supply. The development of the Park was a major asset for San Francisco.

golden gate park history: Five Thousand Concerts in the Park David W. Bandy, 2010 This book explores the history of the band through its bandmasters ... since 1882--P. 1.

golden gate park history: *The Making of Golden Gate Park* Raymond H. Clary, 1985-02-01

golden gate park history: *Building San Francisco's Parks, 1850-1930* Terence Young, 2004-02-16 In 1865, when San Francisco's Daily Evening Bulletin asked its readers if it were not time for the city to finally establish a public park, residents had only private gardens and small urban squares where they could retreat from urban crowding, noise, and filth. Five short years later, city supervisors approved the creation of Golden Gate Park, the second largest urban park in America. Over the next sixty years, and particularly after 1900, a network of smaller parks and parkways was built, turning San Francisco into one of the nation's greenest cities. In *Building San Francisco's Parks, 1850-1930*, Terence Young traces the history of San Francisco's park system, from the earliest city plans, which made no provision for a public park, through the private garden movement of the 1850s and 1860, Frederick Law Olmsted's early involvement in developing a comprehensive parks plan, the design and construction of Golden Gate Park, and finally to the expansion of green space in the first third of the twentieth century. Young documents this history in terms of the four social ideals that guided America's urban park advocates and planners in this period: public health, prosperity, social coherence, and democratic equality. He also differentiates between two periods in the history of American park building, each defined by a distinctive attitude towards improving nature: the romantic approach, which prevailed from the 1860s to the 1880s, emphasized the beauty of nature, while the rationalistic approach, dominant from the 1880s to the 1920s, saw nature as the best setting for uplifting activities such as athletics and education. *Building San Francisco's Parks, 1850-1930* maps the political, cultural, and social dimensions of landscape design in urban America and offers new insights into the transformation of San Francisco's physical environment and quality of life through its world-famous park system.

golden gate park history: *The Making of Golden Gate Park, 1906-1950* Raymond H. Clary, 1987

golden gate park history: *Golden Gate Park* Christopher Pollock, 2003 An oasis of peace and nature in a crowded city, San Francisco's Golden Gate Park is one of the largest and most diverse parks in the world. Spanning over 1,000 acres, the park is home to gardens, lakes, museums, athletic fields, even a paddock for bison. It is wildly popular with locals and tourists alike, and through the years visitors have always enjoyed sending postcards from this amazing place. Through this collection of early postcards from 1894 through 1940, readers will experience classic views of Golden Gate Park, including some that no longer exist. Encompassing the park's famed monuments, statues, windmills, lakes, streams, and beautiful attractions like the bandshell and the Japanese Tea Garden, these images detail a fascinating place that stays with everyone who visits.

golden gate park history: *San Francisco: The Musical History Tour* Joel Selvin, 1996-04 Get the real skinny on the Bay Area's most illustrious rock and-roll, jazz, and blues musicians and their favorite digs from the one cat who should know—the San Francisco Chronicle's longtime music critic Joel Selvin. Here are the stories, legends, and secrets behind the clubs, recording studios, famous homes, and final resting places of dozens of music greats, from Jimi Hendrix to Linda Ronstadt. With rare archival photographs of pivotal events and places, this lively compendium will captivate both resident and visiting music fans.

golden gate park history: *Hiking through History San Francisco Bay Area* Tracy Salcedo, 2016-04-15 Imagine hiking along a wooded trail near San Francisco and stumbling upon the stone foundation of a crumbled building, the wooden slats of the walls caved in, the ironwork of the hinges still dangling on the burned out door. This discovery piques your interest—what is this? What's its significance? How can you find out? Enter *Hiking through History San Francisco Bay Area: Exploring the Region's Past by Trail*. Make no mistake—this is a hiking book first and foremost, complete with rich photos and detailed maps, but with added extras and sidebars detailing enough historical information to satisfy every curiosity along the way.

golden gate park history: *History of Rock and Roll* Tom Larson, Thomas E. Larson, 2004 History of rock and roll includes: biographical information on past and present musicians, composers, bands, producers, and record executives; analyses of evolutionary rock styles from before the 1950s to the present, including a list of the most seminal recordings from each style; an album-by-album review of ... the Beatles and Bob Dylan; an audio CD containing twenty notable recordings in rock, with a synopsis of each.

golden gate park history: *Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California* M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, 1921*

golden gate park history: *A Cultural History of the Radical Sixties in the San Francisco Bay Area* Anthony Ashbolt, 2015-10-06 The San Francisco Bay Area was a meeting point for radical politics and counterculture in the 1960s. Until now there has been little understanding of what made political culture here unique. This work explores the development of a regional culture of radicalism in the Bay Area, one that underpinned both political protest and the counterculture.

golden gate park history: *San Francisco - A History of the Pacific Coast Metropolis, Vol. 2* John Philip Young, 2017 Although the period of active life of San Francisco has been a short one, as historical periods go, it has been crowded with incident. Enough of the latter could be found to present a vivid picture of the career of the metropolis of the Pacific coast, but in this work something more has been attempted than a mere recital of occurrences. It has been the purpose of the author to trace the causes of the growth of the City, and to describe the manifold activities of its citizens. This is volume two out of two of one of the most thrilling and detailed histories of San Francisco.

golden gate park history: *Golden Gate Park* Richard M. Gibson, 1901 History of the development and a description of Golden Gate Park. Well illustrated.

golden gate park history: *Dictionary of United States History* John Franklin Jameson, 1908

golden gate park history: *Garden History Reference Encyclopedia* Tom Turner, The Garden History Reference Encyclopedia is in pdf format with over 10,000 hyperlinks both internal and external, to sites of garden history interest. The text is twice as long as the Bible and is fully searchable using the free Adobe Reader found on most computers. For full details of the contents

please see GHRE page on Gardenvisit.com. The Encyclopedia was available as a CD from 2002 to 2012 and is now supplied as a pdf file. It received an American Society of Landscape Architects ASLA Merit Award in 2003 and a UK Landscape Institute award in 2004. Contents of the Garden History Reference Encyclopedia eTEXTS: The 100+ eTexts in the Encyclopedia are listed below BIOGRAPHY: there is an alphabetical index with links to biographies of famous designers, writers and patrons who have guided the course of garden design history GLOSSARY: there are explanations of garden history terms, with links to examples of their use in the eTexts STYLES: there are diagrams of 24 key garden types and styles TIMELINE: a combination of the 24 style diagrams with links to key persons and key examples General histories of garden design Garden History Guide. An overview of garden history from 2000 BC to 2000 AD (by Tom Turner). It introduces the subject and serves as a guide to the other resources in the Encyclopedia (approx 2,500 pages, 1.5m words and 2,000 illustrations). Tom Turner Garden Design in the British Isles: History and styles since 1650 (1986, 2000) The Encyclopedia edition has been revised, with additional illustrations and hyperlinks to garden descriptions. Marie-Luise Gothein History of garden art (English edition, 1928) Gothein's book, originally published in German (*Geschichte der Gartenkunst*, 1914), provides by far the best and by far the most comprehensive account of garden history from antiquity up to the start of the twentieth century. eTexts relating to Ancient Egypt Egyptian Book of the Dead (excerpts) Herodotus journeyed to Egypt and down the Nile in the 5th century BC and included valuable information on sanctuaries, gardens, groves and statues. A journey down the Nile in 1902, with romantic paintings of the people and the landscape A visit to the Estate of Amun in 1909, with paintings capturing the mood of the ancient monuments A journey down the Nile in 1914, with photographs of the monuments before they were restored and details of how the author's family hired a house boat and 'sailed away into a lotus land of sunshine and silent waters for five or six months' eTexts relating to Ancient West Asia The Song of Solomon from Old Testament of The Bible (also known as the Song of Songs). The greatest erotic love song in Western literature, making the association of gardens and love. It has been a profound influence on western thinking about gardens. 'The entire world, all of it, it not equal in worth to the day on which the Song of Songs was given to Israel.' Excerpts from The Bible relating to gardens. The Garden of Eden was thought to have been in West Asia. Excerpts from The Koran relating to gardens. Because gardens were so often used as a symbol of paradise, there are more references to gardens in The Koran than in The Bible. eTexts relating to Ancient Greece Plato's discussion of 'imitation' (mimesis) is explained and discussed. Book X of The Republic (c370 BC) is in the Encyclopedia . Plato's Theory of Forms led to the aesthetic principle that 'Art should Imitate Nature' which had a profound influence on western art in general and garden design in particular. Homer, excerpts from the Iliad and Odyssey relating to gardens Sir James Frazer's The Golden Bough (1890). The chapter in the Encyclopedia describes 'The Ritual of Adonis'. It is written by the founder of modern anthropology and helps to explain the Adonis Cult, which provides evidence of plants being grown in Greek courtyard gardens, and of the spirit in which sacred groves were made in Ancient Greece. eTexts relating to The Roman Empire Vitruvius Pollio on landscape architecture and garden design (27 BC) from *de Architectura*. Vitruvius was a Roman and wrote the oldest western book on design to have survived. It lays down the principle that places should have 'commodity, firmness and delight'. Book 1, Chapters 1-7, are in the Encyclopedia . Excerpts from Ovid's Metamorphosis (1-8 AD) and Art of Love (1 BC). Ovid's poetry provided a rich source of imagery for garden designers and for the artists who made garden sculpture. Pliny the Younger's letters describing his own gardens (c100 AD). These letters are the best surviving descriptions of Roman gardens and of how their owners used them. Pliny owned many gardens and 500 slaves. Cicero, excerpts from his letters relating to gardens Virgil's Aeneid, sections relating to gardens Life of St Martin The first outstanding monastic leader in France was St Martin of Tours (c316-397). His account of how he destroyed the sacred groves of the pagan religion does much to explain why Europe has such scanty remains of this type of outdoor space. Ibn Battuta's account of Constantinople c1300 eTexts relating to Medieval Gardens Charlemagne's 'chapter' (capitulary) on gardens gave detailed instructions for the plants to be used in the royal

gardens and for the management of his lands. They are key texts for the study of medieval gardens, c800 AD. A note on 'Irmensul', the sacred tree of the Saxons, destroyed by the Christians. Guillaume de Lorris' Romance of the Rose or Roman de la Rose (c1250). This is an allegorical poem, inspired by Ovid, in which gardens and roses are associated with romantic love ('Full many a time I smote and struck the door and listened for someone to let me in') Excerpts from Boccaccio's Decameron (1353), with classical descriptions of medieval garden scenes. The tales are famed for their sexual intrigue and this aspect is more prominent than garden scenery in the illustrations in the Encyclopedia .

Albertus Magnus advice on how to make a pleasure garden (1206) Walafrid Strabbo's poem Hortulus. This is the literary classic of medieval garden literature, celebrating the delight of plants in monastic life and giving detailed information on the culture and uses of plants. The Life of St Anthony, relating to the origin of monastic gardening The Life of St Philbert, relating to the origin of the European monastic cloister. He was Abbot of Jumièges in France c750. A set of quotations from The Bible which make reference to gardens.(61 No) eTexts relating to Islamic Gardens A set of quotations from The Koran which make reference to gardens (151 No) The Spanish Ambassador's visit to Samarkand, in 1404, with his descriptions of Mughal gardens Babur's Memoir, Babur admired the gardens he had seen and, after founding a Mughal Empire, made gardens he made in India Persian gardens were in better condition in 1900 than in 2000, and better still in 1700. This gives a particular importance to past travellers descriptions of their use and form. There sections from the following accounts of visits to Persian gardens in the Encyclopedia (and engravings, to capture the flavour of Persian gardens as they were) Montesquieu's Persian letters (1721) contained little information on Persian gardens but did much to awaken interest in seraglios and the 'romance of the East'. Washington Irving, the 'father of American literature' published a famous account of the Alhambra in 1832. He was a friend of Sir Walter Scott and has the same interest in welding history with imagination. This provides a glimpse of the Alhambra and Generalife when they were, beyond question, the finest gardens in Europe. eTexts relating to Renaissance Gardens Plotinus The Enneads Eighth Tractate: 'On the Intellectual Beauty'. Plotinus (205-270AD) was 'rediscovered' during the renaissance, in the Platonic Academy founded at Careggi, and came to have a profound influence on renaissance design methods St Augustine's conversion took place in a garden in Milan (described in his Confessions) and was often chosen as a frontispiece to editions of his work. Augustine is regarded as the greatest Christian thinker of antiquity, the transmitter of Plato and Aristotle to medieval and renaissance Christianity. Leon Battista Alberti On Garden Design (1485) from De re aedificatoria libri X (Ten Books on Architecture). Drawing from Pliny and Vitruvius, the humanist scholar set forth the principles for the design of renaissance villas. They were taken up by Donato Bramante and guided the course of garden design for two centuries. Vasari's biographical note on Leon Battista Alberti describes his multi-faced genius. Leonardo da Vinci note on the design of a water garden (from his Notebooks) with a reference to his interpretation of Vitruvius Andrea Palladio's I Quattro Libri dell'Architettura (The Four Books of Architecture) (1570) is one of the most influential design works ever published. The quotations in the Encyclopedia relate to the placing of buildings and Neoplatonism. Michel Eyquem de Montaigne's diary accounts of Italian Gardens (1580-1) let us view many still-famous Italian gardens through the eyes of a French renaissance traveller and writer. Montaigne invented the 'essay form'. William Shakespeare's mention of gardens (30 No.) tell much of the gardens he knew. Despite his dates (1564-1616) these gardens are medieval, with only the slightest renaissance accent. Francis Bacon's Essay 'On Gardens' (1625). This famous essay, by a philosopher and scientist, in Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's words 'magisterially lays down the fundamental principles of gardening'. It begins with the words 'God Almighty first planted a garden' and praises wildness in gardens. John Evelyn's diary accounts of gardens in France and Italy visited between 1644 and 1685. As with Montaigne's diary, they provide contemporary descriptions of French and Italian parks and gardens. Andrew Marvell's The Garden (c1650) celebrates the delights in the symbolism of seventeenth century enclosed gardens. Marvell's Upon Appleton House, to my Lord Fairfax contains some garden description. The Garden by Abraham Cowley 'I never had any other desire so strong, and so like to covetousness, asthat I

might be master at last of a small house and large garden Sir Thomas Browne's essay on The Garden of Cyrus deals with the history of gardens, as viewed from 1658 (an extract is in the Encyclopedia)

eTexts relating to Enlightenment Gardens René Descartes Descartes did not write either on aesthetics or on garden design, but historians continue to speak of the 'Cartesian Garden', by which they mean a geometrical garden. The Encyclopedia contains the text and a comment on his Discourse on the method of rightly conducting the reason, and seeking truth in the sciences.(1637)

This short book laid the foundation for the philosophy of the Enlightenment and for Neoclassical aesthetics. John James Theory and Practice of Gardening was published in 1712, based on A J Dezallier d'Argenville and Le Blond. It became the standard book on laying out a French baroque garden and provides a fascinating insight into how this was done. James also 'introduced the concept of the ha-ha and anticipated Pope's famous dictum on the genius of the place'. The Encyclopedia has 3 chapters, 4 plates and a discussion of James' book. Alexander Pope's and his Essay on Criticism (1711) Epistle to Lord Burlington (1731). The former summarises contemporary attitudes to gardens and the latter summarises contemporary (rationalist-Neoclassical) aesthetic theory: based on Reason, Nature and the Genius of the Place. John Serle's plan of Alexander Pope's garden at the time of his death, and his description of Pope's grotto (+ photographs of the grotto and its setting) Sir Joshua Reynolds Discourses were delivered at the Royal Academy in London between 1769 and 1790 embody 'The basic ideas of neoclassical theory in the fine arts were set forth in definitive form, with clarity and grace'. The Encyclopedia contains relevant quotations. eTexts relating to Romantic Gardens William Temple's essay 'Upon the Gardens of Epicurus: or Of Gardening' (1685) is extravagantly praised by Nicholas Pevsner. He claims this essay 'started a line of thought and visual conceptions which were to dominate first England and then the World for two centuries.' The full text is in the Encyclopedia . Josphe Addison's Essay 161 made the key association of natural scenery with liberty and freedom. Essay 37 describes a perfect garden in which reason and nature go hand in hand. Essay 414 sees the works of nature as more delightful than artificial arrangements. Essay 417 supports Locke's theory of knowledge. Essay 477 describes Addison's own garden at Bilton. William Shenstone A description of The Leasowes. This was one of the landscape gardens most admired in continental Europe, partly because it was the work of a poet and partly because it combined use and beauty - a ferme ornée. The full text of his publisher's description is in the Encyclopedia . William Shenstone 'Unconnected thoughts on gardening'. The invention of the term 'landskip gardening' is attributed to Shenstone. Edmund Burke An essay on the sublime and beautiful (1757). Taking an empiricist approach, Burke attacks Vitruvian and rationalist aesthetics. He also discusses garden design, praising Hogarth's 'line of beauty' (which Brown followed) and comparing 'smooth streams in the landscape' with 'in fine women smooth skins'. Quotations from Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, describing the principles on which he worked. Horace Walpole's essay 'On Gardening' (1780). The most brilliant and influential essay ever written on the development English park and garden design. Thomas Jefferson's descriptions of English gardens John Claudius Loudon's biography of Humphry Repton (1840). After Repton's own writings, this is the primary source of information on Humphry Repton's life and work. Jean-Jacques Rousseau one of the letters from La Nouvelle Héloïse deal's with Julie's garden. It is a romantic treatment of an ancient theme, making the association between women, sex and gardens (see above references the Song of Solomon, the Romance of the Rose and Boccaccio. Also the reference below to Goethe). Uvedale Price On the Picturesque (1794) Excerpt from Chapter 1 and Chapter 4. Price was a widely respected authority on picturesque taste in gardens. Humphry Repton 'A letter to Mr Price' (1795) Humphry Repton Sketches and Hints (1795) This is Repton's first theoretical statement on his chosen professional (Introduction and Chapter 1 on Encyclopedia) Humphry Repton Fragments on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening (1816) The Fragment reproduced (No 27) comes from the Red Book for Ashridge - a favourite project and the occasion for Repton's advocacy of what became the Mixed Style of garden design. eTexts relating to Nineteenth Century Gardens Johann Wolfgang von Goethe Elective Affinities (1809). Like Rousseau, Goethe admired 'natural' gardens. He also drew gardens and designed gardens. The section reproduced in the Encyclopedia deals with

the design of a romantic garden. Jane Loudon's life of her husband John Claudius Loudon (1843). Jane was a novelist and her memoir is as touching as it is important as the key source of information on her husband - who was the most influential garden writer of the nineteenth century. Loudon's influence was particularly important in America. Edward Kemp How to lay out a garden (1864 edn). Excerpts giving his views on styles of garden design and describing two gardens which he designed. It presents a somewhat depressing picture of the confusion which reigned in the mid-nineteenth century garden aesthetics - and continues to reign in many of the world's municipal parks departments.. Sir Walter Scott, excerpt from Waverley and from The Quarterly Review on gardens. Scott's remarks can be read in conjunction with those of his friends, Gilbert Laing Meason and Washington Irving. They introduced a romantic-historical dimension to garden design and appreciation. Gustave Flaubert Bouvard and Pécuchet. Flaubert satirizes the bourgeois taste in garden design displayed by the characters whose names form the title of his last novel. Famous Parks and Gardens of the World - the book was published anonymously and provides a good illustration of European gardening opinion in 1880. The Preface and Chapter 10 are in the Encyclopedia . Ludwig II of Bavaria: the romantic gardens of the 'Mad King' were rich in historical associations. eTexts relating to the History of Landscape Architecture Guide to the History of Landscape Architecture, by Tom Turner Gilbert Laing Meason. The full text of Meason's On the Landscape Architecture of the Great Painters of Italy (London 1828). Meason was the 'inventor' of the term Landscape Architecture, which has since come to be used by a world-wide profession, represented by the International Federation of Landscape Architects, by the American Society of Landscape Architects, by the UK Landscape Institute and numerous other national associations. Only 150 copies of his book were printed and its contents are not well known. This is the first time the book has been re-published. It is accompanied with an analysis of the text by Tom Turner. A clear appreciation of how landscape architecture began is regarded as central to comprehension of the modern profession. Notes on the Top twenty theorists and designers in the history of landscape architecture and on the question What is landscape architecture? John Claudius Loudon's included comments on Meason in his Gardener's Magazine (1828) and in his Encyclopedia of Architecture (1833). These comments transmitted the term to Andrew Jackson Downing and, later, to Frederick Law Olmsted - setting the course of American landscape architecture. Andrew Jackson Downing's Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening. (Section 1, Section 2 and Section 9). Downing was 'the first American writer on landscape architectural topics' (Norman T Newton in Design on the Land) and an 'incalculable' influence on American garden design and landscape architecture (Oxford Companion to Gardens). Loudon's writings were his starting point. Frederick Law Olmsted's description of his winning design for the Central Park, New York, competition (1858). Olmsted 'the father of American landscape architecture' entered the profession as a result of the Greensward Plan for Central Park, done in partnership with the English architect Calvert Vaux. Norman T Newton's account of the scope of landscape architecture, from Design on the land. Geoffrey Jellicoe's account of the scope of landscape design, from the Landscape of Man Ian McHarg: notes and links on the twentieth century's outstanding landscape planner. eTexts relating to Arts and Crafts Gardens William Morris' essay on Hopes and fears for art in which he criticises carpet bedding and makes the point that gardens should be works of art and of craft. Thomas Huxley's discussion of Evolution and ethics (1859), in which he views his own garden as a 'work of art' in contrast to the 'state of nature' which existed before it was made. William Robinson The Wild Garden (1881 edn Chapters 1-5, originally published by John Murray and reproduced with their permission). Robinson is described by Jekyll (in the reference below) as 'our great champion of hardy flowers'. He urged the use of hardy plants, instead of subtropical plants and carpet bedding, in garden design. He had a sharp dispute with Blomfield (below). John D Sedding Garden craft old and new (1891) introduced his book with a chapter on The Theory of the Garden. There are 2 chapters in the Encyclopedia . Reginald Blomfield's The Formal garden in England (1901 edn, originally published by MacMillan and reproduced with their permission). A contemporary review in The Times said 'Mr. Blomfield's historical sketch of the art of gardening in England is full of interest and

instruction, and his polemic against the so-called landscape gardeners is vigorous, incisive, and to our mind convincing.' The book is undoubtedly polemical, but commendably scholarly. Blomfield was the son of a bishop and had a hatred of modernism. Gertrude Jekyll's account of garden design (from *Wall water and woodland gardens*, 1901, originally published by *Country Life* and reproduced with their permission). Jekyll was the most influential writer on planting design in the twentieth century. This chapter is the clearest statement of her views on the history and theory of garden design.

eTexts relating to Design Methods Design methodology: an overview by Tom Turner Surface water drainage and management (from *Landscape Design* October 1985) arguing for 'privileging' water in the design procedure Wilderness and plenty: construction and deconstruction (from *Urban Design Quarterly* September 1992) arguing that the professional structure of the construction industry would benefit from deconstruction. 'Feminine' landscape design: a tale of two tragedies (from a Sheffield Spring School lecture, April 1993) arguing for the 'way of the hunter' to be balanced by the 'way of the nester' Postmodern landscapes (from *Landscape Design* May 1993) arguing for landscape and garden designers to take account of postmodern ideas and theories in their work Pattern analysis (from *Landscape Design* October 1991) arguing for a design method based on pattern analysis, instead of the modernist Survey-Analysis-Design (SAD) method taught in most of the world's landscape and garden design schools. *Revolutions in the garden* (from Tom Turner's *City as landscape*, Spon 1996). After looking at the design revolutions which have taken place in the 1690s, 1790s, and 1890s this essay finds the seeds of a fourth design revolution in the work of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, Charles Jencks, and Ian Hamilton Finlay. *The flowers of garden design theory* (from *Garden Design Journal* Autumn 1999, published as 'Timeless with delight') this article suggests a design method which integrates knowledge drawn from various fields, including the fine arts, philosophy, the natural and social sciences. PAKILDA: Pattern Assisted Knowledge Intensive Landscape Design Approach (from *Landscape Design* May 2001). Developing the method outlined in the *Garden Design Journal*, this article recommends a design method for landscape design and planning. Design history and theory (from a lecture delivered at the University of Uppsala in April 2002) this article relates the PAKILDA method to the set of design objectives outlined by Vitruvius in the first century: *utilitas* (Commodity), *firmitas* (Firmness) and *venustas* (Delight). eTexts relating to Twentieth Century Gardens There are histories of American Garden Design in the *Encyclopedia*, written in 1834, 1928 and 2001. Geoffrey Jellicoe: a collection of information on his work, including an essay by Tom Turner on: Geoffrey Jellicoe, the subconscious and landscape design (1998) *Garden Revolutions*: an essay in which it is argued that 'structuralism can infuse gardens with post-Postmodern ideas and beliefs. It is a layered approach to garden making. '

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