

Creating an Japanese Garden

A Step-by-Step Guide

Whether you are hiring a landscape designer or designing your Japanese garden yourself, use this comprehensive guide to help you create the perfect Asian retreat.

- Step 1: Determine the purpose of the space.**
 - Japanese gardens are intended for peaceful contemplation and connecting with nature.

- Step 2: Walk your property.**
 - Think about where to place rocks and structures, such as a bridge or pavilion.
 - Determine how and where a pathway will move through the garden.

- Step 3: Start a wish list.**
 - Build a file of design ideas, products and ideas that you like.
 - Visit photo sharing websites like flickr or houzz and search for Japanese gardens.

- Step 4: Go window shopping.**
 - Visit a retail showroom for outdoor products and do some browsing.
 - Go online and look up the products you are considering. Read manufacturer information and customer reviews.

- Step 5: Think from the ground up.**
 - Select a natural color of exposed aggregate concrete.
 - Design the paving with a free-form organic shape (no straight lines).
 - Break up an expanse of concrete with intersecting lines of moss or gravel.

- Step 6: Make a plan.**
 - Sketch out your vision – include pathways, rock groupings, water features, garden structures, and a furniture area.

- Step 7: Find a professional contractor.**
 - Visit ConcreteNetwork.com to find a local contractor that can install your exposed aggregate concrete pathway and patio.

- Step 8: Add patio furniture.**
 - Designate an area for patio furniture that is distinctly separate from the rest of the garden.
 - Patio furniture should be simple, with clean lines, and made of natural materials (stone, bamboo or teak). Stay away from bright colors.

- Step 9: Accentuate with landscaping.**
 - Install evergreens in a variety of sizes, shapes and textures.
 - Consider black pine, hosta, ferns, Japanese sweet flag, and lots of moss.

- **Step 10: Add the final details.**
 - Add a stone lantern, a rain chain, or wind chimes to complete your Japanese garden.

A Word of Advice

Don't be overwhelmed by all there is to do. Take your outdoor living project one chunk at a time. You can even space the work out over a few years.