Первый японский сад в сердце Азии
Место, где Восток встречается с Западом/

Рассказывается о создании в Иркутске настоящего японского сада, участка японского культурного наследия, благодаря партнерскому сотрудничеству двух университетов-побратимов и длительной дружбе между обществами «Россия – Япония» обеих стран. Японский сад был заложен в оранжерее Ботанического сада Иркутского государственного университета в 2012 году с целью создания нового междисциплинарного этноботанического и культурного объекта для студентов и местного сообщества. Сад дает возможность посетителям, не покидая Иркутска, лучше узнать об одной из величайших форм садового искусства в мире.

Ключевые слова: японский сад, Иркутск, Сибирь, университет, ботанический сад, оранжерея, ландшафтный дизайн, садовое искусство./

This article, through words and pictures, tells the story of how and why a small piece of Japanese cultural heritage – a genuine Japanese garden – was established in the heart of Asia in Irkutsk through a partnership between two sister-universities and a long lasting friendship between Russo-Japanese communities in both countries. The first Japanese garden was created in the greenhouse of the Botanic Garden of Irkutsk State University in 2012 to provide a new cross-disciplinary ethnobotanical and cultural facility for students and the local public. The 35-sq.m garden (7m x 5 m) was developed to provide an opportunity for visitors to experience one of the great horticultural art forms of the world without leaving Irkutsk.

Key words: Japanese garden, Irkutsk, Siberia, university, botanic garden, greenhouse, plants, landscape design, art, horticulture

Иркутск является одним из исторических мостов, соединяющих европейские и азиатские цивилизации, связывающих культуры России, Японии, Китая, Кореи и других стран [1, 2]. Здесь издавна мечтали соорудить несколько различных этноботанических садов, чтобы у жителей региона была возможность, даже не выезжая из Иркутска, непосредственно ознакомиться с природным и культурным наследием соседних стран [3]. Именно поэтому идея построить японский сад была здесь хорошо воспринята и поддержана. Искусство устройства японских садов, начиная с VII века, считается одной из самых важных частей японской культуры.

Традиционные японские сады, благодаря чистоте линий и простоте комбинирования базовых элементов из растений, воды и камней, создают особую атмосферу спокойствия и мира. Глубинная сущность такого сада, как считается, передается метафорой, заключенной в японском слове Митате (見立), которое на русский язык может быть приблизительно переведено как «лечебный, оздоравливающий дух». Живописный райский пейзаж здесь представлен с помощью растений и камней.

^ Общий план Японского сада в стиле Карэ-сансуи, состоящего из двух основных скалистых групп и Цукубаи в окружеии маленьких растений и белого мраморного песка. / Plan view of the Japanese Garden of the Kare-sansui style consisting of two main rock formations and Tsukubai surrounded by dwarf plants and white marble sand
The city of Irkutsk is one of the historical bridges connecting European and Asian civilizations, linking cultures of Russia, Japan, China, Korea, and other neighboring countries (Kuzevanov, Sizykh, 2006; Kuzevanov, 2012). There was a dream for years to create several ethnobotanical gardens in Irkutsk to give local people an opportunity to get acquainted with the natural and cultural heritage of neighboring countries without leaving the city (Ljapin, 2014). That is why the idea to build a Japanese garden was very well accepted in Irkutsk. Since the 7th century, the art of Japanese gardens has been considered to be one of the most important parts of Japanese culture. To create a tranquil retreat, the traditional Japanese garden combines the basic elements of plants and water with rocks with simple, clean lines. The essence of a garden is said to be in a metaphor called "Mitate" in Japanese, expressing the landscape of paradise and scenic spots by plants and rock formations. The typical styles of Japanese gardens are the following: Ike-niwa (池庭, Waterscape garden), which expresses the landscape of paradise; Kare-sansui (枯山水, Dry garden), which, without water, uses white sand to express waterscapes, such as seas, lakes, rivers, and waterfalls; and the Cha-riwa (茶庭, Tea garden) (Okazaki, 1974). While extremely popular and numerous in Western countries, where 432 Japanese gardens have been confirmed outside of Japan, in Russia, only two Japanese gardens – in Moscow and Vladivostok – have been built during the last two decades (Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture, 2006).

The idea became a reality when two professors from Hokkaido University, Tetsuya Kondo and Hajime Matsushima, visited Irkutsk in 2011 driven by the motivational forces of friendship and partnership between Irkutsk State University (ISU) and Hokkaido University. That is how a brilliant concept was born to create a miniature, all-season, Japanese garden under the roof of a large subtropical educational greenhouse in the Irkutsk Botanic Garden of ISU. The professors have proposed to build a Japanese garden of the Kare-sansui style (枯山水, dry gardens, rock gardens). This style was developed in the later Kamakura period (1185–1333) of Japanese history. Such a minimalistic Japanese garden style symbolically reflects nature and has simple lines (Tonder, Lyons, 2005). It is a traditional gardening style in Japan allowing the garden to stay beautiful in any season, because it has carefully constructed structures based on rocks, sand and stones that never change. Such elements, combined with dwarf plants, make the garden attractive at any given time.

First Japanese Garden in the Heart of Asia 
A place where East meets West
One of the most salient characteristics of Japanese architecture and design is the fact that the garden and its physical surroundings are inseparable entities (Petrova et al., 2014). For this reason, the chosen location of the Japanese garden among the rich plant collections in the greenhouse of the Botanic Garden of ISU met many of the needed requirements.

After a whole year of planning and exchange of ideas between partners, the final consensus was to design the Kare-sansui style Japanese garden because it is easy to maintain without any special skills. During the next summer season in 2012, the preparatory work and construction materials were completed in time for the visit of Prof. Hajime Matsushima along with the well known Japanese gardener Takuhiro Yamada, and six students from Hokkaido University who came to Irkutsk to work collaboratively with the staff and students of the Irkutsk Botanic Garden of ISU as well as students of the Irkutsk Technical University, the Irkutsk Linguistic University and the Irkutsk Agricultural University.

Mr. Takuhiro Yamada brought the unique skill and art of Japanese gardening from 150 years of expertise from his family profession led by certain principles and rules including aesthetic qualities such as asymmetry, tranquility, simplicity and naturalness that have been practiced since ancient times. As a result, the art of this particular Japanese garden emphasizes the visual beauty of bilateral asymmetry and simple segmentation in design, which consists of two main rock formations (two lands) on the base of white marble sands symbolizing the water surface. The white sand is a metaphor for the sea, while the rock formations are a metaphor for the land. The entire garden has been modelled as a miniature and powerful symbolic representation of the link between Russia and Japan - the left cluster of flat rocks is a symbol of Russia and the right vertical ones is a symbol of Japan. These two main rock formations are connected by a narrow land bridge as a symbol of friendship between two countries. Although this is a Kare-sansui style garden, a “Tsukubai” (蹲踞) was constructed as a distinctive Japanese type feature, which is a small water basin made out of a big stone usually installed in tea gardens for visitors to purify themselves by the ritual washing of hands and rinsing of the mouth. The arrangements of the stones and other miniature elements reproduce natural landscapes, including mountains and natural water elements, islands and a waterfall in a more abstract way by using stones and marble sand, in order to evoke deeper meaning and inspiration for visitors. Larger rocks are partially buried.

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Плотина - это длинная мостовая, служащая символом дружбы между двумя странами. Хотя это сад в стиле Kare-sansui, "Tsukubai" (蹲踞) был построен как дистинктивное японское типовое феномен, которое является маленькой водой бассейн сделан из большого камня обычно установленный в чайных садах для посетителей очиститься руками и промыть рты. Схема камней и других миниатюрных элементов воспроизводить природные парки, включая горы и естественные водные элементы, острова и водопад в более абстрактный способ, используя камни и мраморный песок, в порядке, чтобы возвести бо́льший смысл и вдохновение для посетителей. Большие камни - это были частично погребены.
As if they have been in place forever. All rocks, marble sand and stone materials are of local production, collected in the Lake Baikal region in Siberia; further-
more, the garden uses the natural stones without any artificial processing. Only the bamboo pipes used in Tsukubai were brought from Japan. Mondo grass (Ophiopogon japonicus cv. Kyoto dwarf, mäßiga, Ophiopogon jaburan (Siebold) Hort. Lodd., Ardisia japonica (Thunb.) Blume, Reineckia carnea (Andr.) Kunth., and ferns, Humata tympaniflora T. Moore, Arachnoides simplicior ‘Variegata’ are planted around rock formations as a metaphor for forest and green areas. The living plants in this garden were chosen for their beauty, hardness and similarity to plants used in the gardens of Japan. They were acquired and introduced in living plant collections of the Irkutsk Botanic Garden of ISU years ago from sources of origin in Japan and East Asia that have growing conditions similar to those in the greenhouse in Irkutsk. Each element has been carefully placed in a certain position in order to draw the eye and to add to the beauty of the authentic Japanese garden according to the creative mind of the gardener Takuhiko Yamada and meeting the historical guidelines of Japanese garden design. The designer used various optical approaches to give the garden the illusion of being larger than it really is by using miniature grasses and rock positioning to create the illusion that they are far away and they look much larger than they are, and the reflection of a bright white color of the marble sand makes the effect even more impressive (Nitschke, 2003). The Japanese garden design was created in such a way that the existing scenery becomes the part of the total layout of the gorgeous plant collections in the greenhouse.

All stages of development and construction are presented here in simplified form (see photos). The configuration of rocks and stones plays a very complex role in the multilayered mental perception of this miniature garden which is something to be seen and not just as a place to exercise or relax in. Actually the garden’s panoramic scene resembles the 3D-landscape paintings and gives the perception of the off-limits quality of its space, which leads visitors from everyday life to a calm, serene, reflective communication with nature, culture, and science.

As a result, after the opening ceremony on August 17th, 2012, this first authentic Japanese garden – a piece of culture and nature of Japan in Siberia – created collaboratively by Japanese and Russian students, gardeners and scientists in the heart of Asia in Irkutsk represents a unique place of peace and quiet.

Reference


A panoramic view of the Japanese Garden just completed on August 17th, 2012. / Церемония открытия сада состоялась 17 августа 2012 года. Этот первый аутентичный японский сад как часть природы и культуры Японии в Сибири, созданный совместными усилиями японских и российских студентов и ученых, представляет собой уникальное место мира и теплой красоты в окружении растений в оранжереи. Все этапы его развития и строительства представлены в упрошенном виде на фотографиях.
and warm beauty within the university Botanic Garden's plant collections in a greenhouse designed for quiet contemplation and appreciation of natural beauty throughout the seasons in the severe Siberian climate. This original Japanese garden in the Baikal region of Siberia is being used as a multipurpose display and a cross-disciplinary educational tool for university students and schoolchildren as well as an exhibition for excursions for local visitors and tourists.

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