
History of Gardening

Introduction

Lecture 2

History of establishing garden and greenery in our planet may go back to almost 3000 years B.C. All believe that people in Mesopotamian were a pioneer in this respect. They applied different methods of irrigation, punctures and broaching for gardens till Hammurabi's legislation in 2000 B.C.

Since ancient civilizations, the picture of a garden composition included the use of all the positive features of vegetation, reservoirs, relief in the territory organization, round palaces, temples, villas, most well-to-do part of population. Landscape gardening of Ancient times, the Middle Ages, Baroque, the Renaissance and Modern landscape art.

Below we will consider the basic lines of landscape gardening of different countries during the different historical periods, most characteristic of the presented stages of development in landscape gardening art.

Ancient Gardens 2000 BC–1000 BC

Mesopotamia

In the same period landscape gardening appears on territory of Mesopotamia, better known under its later name as Kurdistan. Unlike the Egyptian gardens, the gardens of Ancient Asia did not have such strict composition, they were divided into quadrangles and plantations were located more freely. This period is marked with such works of landscape gardening art as the Hanging gardens of Semiramida or (Queen Amytis) they were the prototype of city gardens, when it was necessary to place plenty of plants on quite a small area (see Figure 1). This is a park Babylon which is now located on territory of present Iraq. Besides in this period the first tendencies in creation of pleasure and hunting parks and forests appeared. It should be mentioned that the first prototypes of zoological and botanical gardens appeared right here.

The hanging garden, also called the roof garden, generally refers to the garden greening system out of the ground. In a narrow sense, the hanging garden means the garden built on

the top of the building, while in a broad sense, it refers to the garden built on the top of the building, on the roof, balcony, walls and etc.. Unlike the garden on the ground, the hanging gardens can be affected by a lot of factors, such as the bearing capacity of the building, the waterproofing and the drainage, the soil cushion and the wind. The design and the construction of the hanging garden is an integrated and specialized field for making the sustainable urban ecological development. It also plays as a basic platform for improving the living environment of the urban citizens.

The landscape gardening of Mesopotamia in respect to hanging garden of botanical which was regarded as one of the seven wonders of the world had the followings characteristic features:

- 1) Garden design was not only performed not only on the haves of longitudinal axis composition, but it integrated with transversal development of space with the land scope approach.
- 2) Performing of artificial hills and lops in parks with an arbour on a top.
- 3) Establishing of «hanging gardens» and artificial terraces.
- 4) First collections of flora and fauna – the prototypes of botanical gardens and parks.
- 5) Establishing of forests for walks and hunting.

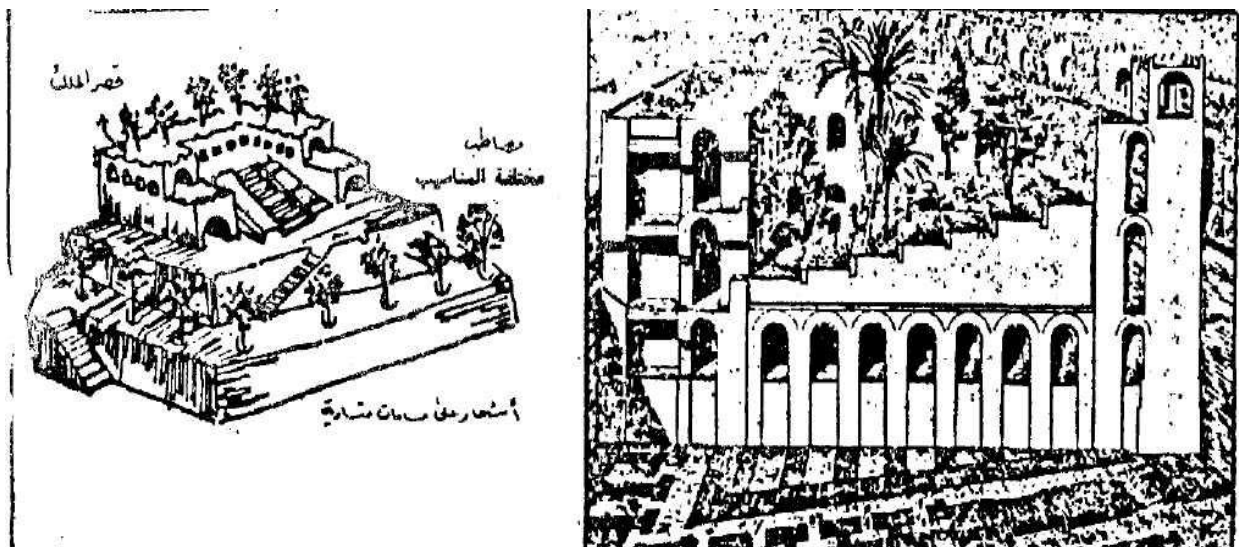


Figure 1: The Hanging gardens of Babylon.

Hanging gardens of Babylon is one of seven wonders of the Ancient World. It is mentioned that these gardens were constructed at the ancient city of Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar II, who ruled between 605 and 562 BC. The gardens were mentioned in the Roman and Greek historians' writings and descriptions of height were given. The gardens were surrounded by a strong wall with staircases connected with stairs surrounded by arches and filled with trees and flowers (Figure 2). The gardens were irrigated from Euphrates through manmade pumps. There are no cuneiform texts mentioning these gardens, however, they are the only wonder based on this legendary information.

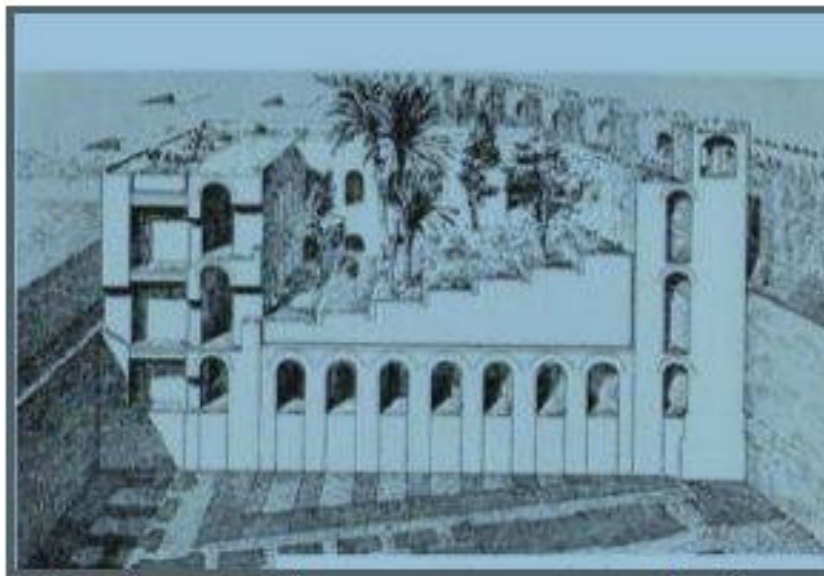


Figure 2: Reconstruction Hanging Gardens in light of the excavations.

In light of the historians describe the Greeks and Romans gave (Martin Heemskerk) in the 16th century depicting Default. The last of the Hanging gardens of Babylon (Figure 3) was not detected so stone pillars in Babylon.

The Babylonians and Assyrians planted gardens in cities, palace courtyards, and temples, in which trees with fragrance and edible fruits were prominent for re-creating their concept of Paradise. The famous Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of late antiquity, have finally been identified as the palace garden of the Assyrian king Sennacherib, constructed not at Babylon but at Nineveh, which was also known as 'old

Babylon', around 700 B.C.

Assyrian established garden across mountains along with temple walls and fences. They used holy plants around the gardens such as *Salix*, *Pinus*, *Myrtus* and others. Whereas throughout Babylon period gardens was quite similar to that of Assyrian, they gave more attention to ornamental plants and flowering ones, they separate tree orchards from vegetable garden they established Hanging Garden also.



Figure 3: Depicts the fabled Heemskerk for Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Ancient Egypt (Egyptian Gardens)

The first nomads to reach the Lower Nile found an extraordinary paradise: a green-blue ribbon running in a deep valley through a yellow-brown desert (Figure 4). The valley was lush and sheltered. Even the desert was a source of good things: safety, precious stones and wild animals. A great river came from the heart of Africa. The oldest records of designed gardens date from c.2000 BC. Since Egypt is the most popular field in ancient archaeology, the material has been studied by many scholars.



Figure 4: The valley of the Nile was a blue-green conduit through a red-yellow desert.

In Egypt, the earliest documented gardens derive from the period of the Old Kingdom (c.2575–c.2150 BC). These were enclosed gardens laid out around a rectangular pool. A fragmentary wall painting from the Theban tomb of Neba-mun (18th Dynasty, c.1350 BC) now in the British Museum (see Plate 1) shows such a garden pool, which is of a size sufficient to accommodate water-fowl and tilapia. Plants include lotus in the pool, papyrus at its edge, and rows of trees and shrubs (date palms, doum palms, sycamore figs, and mandrakes). The surrounding wall afforded privacy and security but, then, as in modern Egyptian gardens, it also formed a bulwark against desert wind and sand. Within the walls, there was no ground cover; plants were irrigated individually, and between the plants there was bare and dry earth.



Plate 1: Egyptian wall-painting of an ornamental pool, from the tomb of Nebamun at Thebes, c.1350BC, British Museum.

Pharaonic periods were used to flourish general temples and royal ones. Printing on the walls that reflect the garden shape, design and plant type, that still have been left and sustained up to nowadays. It's worth to refer that garden in this period was geometrical in appearance, characterized with straight lines.

Five Egyptian garden types can be distinguished:

- Fruit and vegetable gardens
- Small domestic gardens
- Palace gardens
- Temple gardens
- Plant and animal gardens.

Temples were surrounded by gardens, outside the wavy wall. Productive gardens had orchards, pools, vineyards, vegetables and flower gardens. Ornamental gardens were located on processional routes.

Animals with symbolic significance were kept in temple and palace gardens. Carved lions decorated the king's throne and live lions were kept in cages at the entrance to the gardens at Karnak. Paintings show pharaohs being presented with giraffes, monkeys and tigers. Plants with symbolic significance were grown.

One of the first countries where an art of creation of gardens and parks originated from is considered to be Egypt. The Landscape gardening art of Ancient Egypt was formed with clear plan-composition canons:

- 1) A regular plan with use of symmetry and axial construction of a composition.
- 2) Presence of reservoirs as an integral part of a garden.
- 3) Use of rhythm as a composition method.
- 4) Application of the drill planting.
- 5) Use of strange plants in the assortment of the wood planting.
- 6) Combination of different types of art, including the landscape one in the design of ensembles.
- 7) Forming of the closed compositions in connection with climatic conditions.