

GARDEN HISTORY IMAGE DATABASE

This project focuses on the applications of digital technology and its application in teaching, learning and research in landscape architecture and promoting good design solutions through the presentation and sharing of outstanding projects from around the world. The project includes collecting and cataloging images of historic gardens and landscapes and assembling them into a digitally interactive format for the purpose of supporting lectures and presentations in the study of landscape architecture. In addition to historic gardens and landscapes, this project documents a number of successful contemporary gardens and landscapes.

Landscape can be viewed as a visual means of interpreting history, much the same way as a written statement or a painting. Historic landscapes as symbols of human kind and nature are an important part of our cultural heritage. Studying garden history helps us to understand past people and periods. It reflects concurrent man/ nature relationships, values of a particular culture, and ordering of the environment according to an image of the ideal world. Historic gardens provide us with a vocabulary of design on which recent practice of landscape architecture has been based. To a professional (student or practitioner), studying garden history provides a profound and meaningful view of the garden/landscape, the role of landscape design and its contribution to the creation of healthy and productive human environments, and its evolution throughout the history and how social, political, and economic factors influence the shaping of man's physical landscapes. Garden history can be a source of technical assistance and inspiration for scholars, students, and professionals.

Historic gardens and landscapes from ancient civilizations to the present with emphasis on French, Spanish, Italian, English, Japanese, and Chinese gardens, parks, and urban spaces of nineteenth and twentieth centuries in Europe and the USA is being explored. The principal theme of each garden, its major influences on today's garden design theory and how it relates to visual arts, material palettes, climate, ecology, cultural and social issues is emphasized. The database includes over 4000 images and is being expanded to include less-studied gardens and landscapes such as those in South and Central America and Eastern Europe.