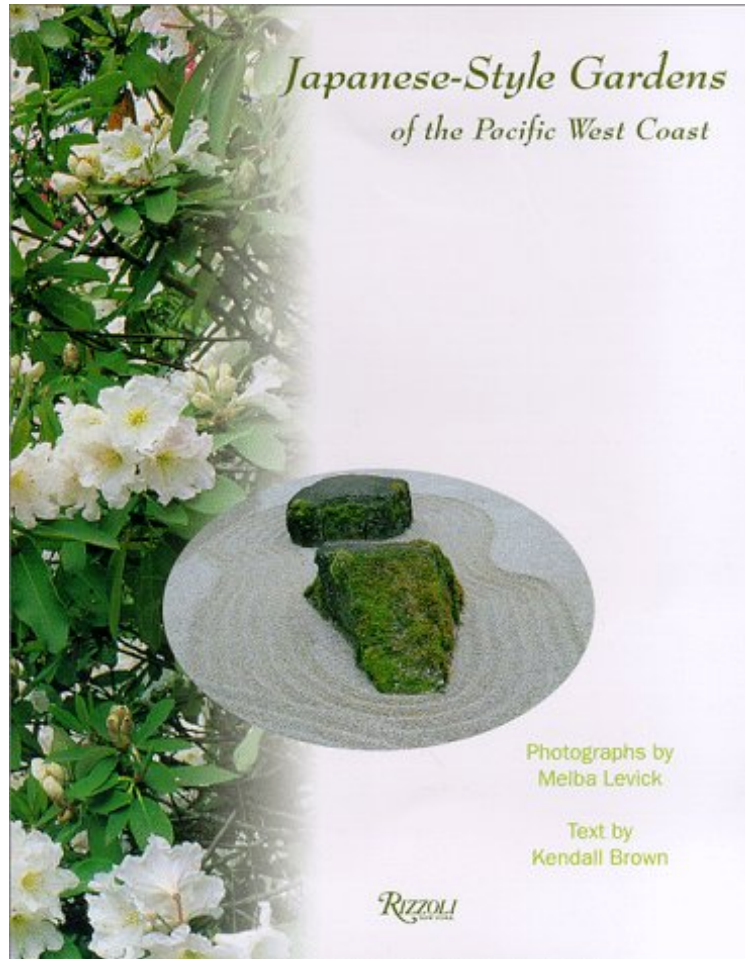


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Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast

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Melba Levick, Kendall Brown : Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Are Japanese Gardens in the U.S. fakes? By Richard W. Amero Kendall H. Brown begins his history of Japanese-style gardens with a quote from James Rose to the effect that Japanese gardens outside of Japan are fakes. Brown's attitude is, however, more ambiguous than ambivalent. He seldom says he doesn't like something. His liking may be found between the lines. At the end of his history, Brown concludes that Japanese-style gardens are meant for play. It is pleasant to think of people having a smiling time in Japanese-style gardens . . . the wistaria, azalea, carp and waterfalls call for that. Nevertheless, Japanese in Japan are as out of touch with their past traditions as are Americans with their's. There is pleasure in knowing the symbolic uses of gardens in Japan and in their transplanted versions in the United States. Gardens in both countries should be more creative as is the case with "California Scenario" by Isamu Noguchi, the last garden Brown describes. (It is popular

with skateboarders!) "Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific Coast" is a splendid book and the only book extant that gives the historical background of West-Coast Japanese-style gardens. Melva Levick's photographs whet the desire to see the gardens, if for no other reason than to see which is better . . . the photographs or the gardens. A small objection: If Brown had included acreages, one might be better able to compare the problems and successes of the individual gardens. 8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful work
By Linda Pellecchia
This book is one of the few books on US Japanese-style gardens which compares and contrasts the real gardens of Japan with efforts to recreate the essence of their beauty in the western US. Beautiful Photos

Captures the quiet splendor of Japanese-style gardens.

From Booklist
This elegant book begins with Brown's absorbing history of Japanese-style gardens in North America. He explains that in the twentieth century, more large-scale public Japanese-style gardens were built outside of Japan than within; the bulk of these were built in North America, particularly along the Pacific coast. As Melba Levick's stunning color photographs show, the elements of these 20 gardens are stone lanterns, torii gates, arched and zigzag bridges, rocks, sand, ponds, and flowers. The gardens are in California, Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. They range from the oldest, the Japanese Tea Garden at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco and the Japanese Friendship Garden at Balboa Park in San Diego, to those in private retreats and to those sponsored by universities and corporations. Each is explained in terms of its place in the evolution of the Japanese-style garden and the relation of its function to its design. George Cohen