

Study on the Influence of Japanese Traditional Garden and Culture on Japanese People's Perception of Residential Garden

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Background

Japan has a relatively small capita housing area, but many residents live in detached houses and have private gardens. For such choices, we believe that, besides economic considerations, we believe that Japanese are carrying on the tradition of their ethnic culture and customs.

A Japanese detached house has a total area of about 126 square meters per house. In addition, it is defined by the Urban Planning Act to protect the environment as a residential area and differs depending on the area. In the case of residential areas, the building coverage is about 60%, and 40% in the lower areas. A single-family house with a total area of 126 square meters stands on the second floor with a building coverage of 60% and has a garden of 42 square meters. Therefore, we think that houses with private gardens are not uncommon in Japan.

Japanese-style private gardens are handed down to the present age with the flow of history, but there are many private gardens such as Scandinavian, American and modern styles. Private gardens are usually designed in the style of a building but may be decided by the person. However, compared with other countries, we can feel small but Japanese design aesthetic in private gardens. We think this difference is related to Japanese culture.

So, our research purpose is to explore the influence of Japanese culture in private garden of Japanese residents and analyze the characteristics of landscape and culture in Japanese gardens under the background of global cultural blending.

Study Method

This research is a group cooperation study in method of questionnaire survey. Questionnaire includes three aspects, personal information, residential condition and landscape factors grading of residential garden. Fifty questionnaires were collected from volunteers of Japanese nationality.

In order to find out how much influence have Japanese traditional garden and culture put on modern residential garden, we selected eighteen landscape factors for volunteers to grade, six of them are typical elements in Japanese traditional garden. Each factor has five options of different degrees in importance, then we digitalized options into numbers from 1 to 5, 1 is negative elements, 2 is not important, 3 is normal, 4 is important and 5 is strongly important. The collected data was analyzed by software excel and SPSS.

Results

The results of questionnaire survey show that 54% of volunteers live or once lived in a house with garden

and Japanese style is most common, 33.3% of those gardens are Japanese style.

However, each factor with strong Japanese garden's characteristic gets an average point low than 3 except garden pine of 3.02. We also find that all six Japanese garden factors are highly associated, which means if one individual volunteer gives one factor a low point, it's more possible that he gives other five factors low points.

In result, although Japanese garden style is most common style now, volunteers didn't give positive assessment on traditional garden's elements. Some volunteers gave all six Japanese garden factors 1 or 2 point. Traditional garden doesn't meet people's demand in modern times.

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