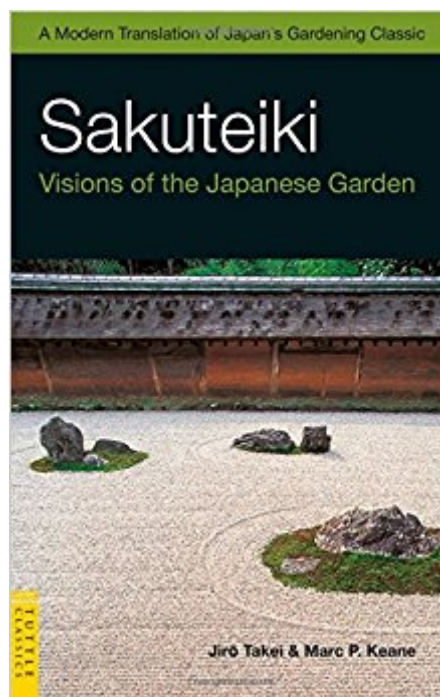




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# Sakuteiki: Visions Of The Japanese Garden: A Modern Translation Of Japan's Gardening Classic (Tuttle Classics)



## Synopsis

Learn the art of Japanese gardening with this classic, fascinating text. The Sakuteiki, or "Records of Garden Making," was written nearly one thousand years ago. It is the oldest existing text on Japanese gardening—or any kind of gardening—in the world. In this edition of the Sakuteiki the authors provide an English-language translation of this classic work and an introduction to the cultural and historical context that led to the development of Japanese gardening. Central to this explanation is an understanding of the sacred importance of stones in Japanese culture and Japanese garden design. Written by a Japanese court noble during the Heian period (794-1184), the Sakuteiki includes both technical advice on gardening—much of which is still followed in today's Japanese gardens—and an examination of the four central threads of allegorical meaning, which were integral features of Heian-era garden design. For those seeking inspiration to build a rock garden or just better understand the Japanese stone garden, the Sakuteiki is an enduring classic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jiro Takei, professor emeritus of the Kyoto College of Art, taught a course on the Sakuteiki for many years. Throughout his long and distinguished career, he has been deeply involved in the study of Japanese gardens, as the Chairman of the Japanese Garden Academic Society (Nihon Teien Gakkai), regional chief of the Gardening Academic Society (Zoen Gakkai), and chief researcher of

the Research Center for Japanese Garden Art (Nihon Teien Kenkyu Senta). Marc P. Keane is a garden designer, artist, and author based in Ithaca NY. Having lived in Kyoto Japan for nearly 20 years, his work is deeply influenced by the aesthetics and culture of Japan. Keane is the author of 7 books including, "Japanese Garden Design" (an introduction to the history and design of Japanese gardens), "The Japanese Tea Garden" (the history, design and aesthetics of the Japanese tea garden), "The Art of Setting Stones" (essays for the philosophical gardener, or the gardening philosopher), and "Dear Cloud" (a meditation on nature from the perspective of a unique traveler). More about his work can be seen at [mpkeane.com](http://mpkeane.com).

This is THE BOOK to get for the Japanophile in your family. Not only does the book have the actual translation of this 900 year old classic work about gardening, but it is also a look into the aesthetic philosophy of garden beauty. The authors' commentary goes into nature, geomancy and taboos and other matters about the classic work. The book has index, glossary and ample footnotes. A quote to make you chuckle states, "When a stone from the mountains or riverbeds is set in the manner of deities, it will become a 'demon stone', there are many cases throughout the country of trouble stemming from doing this". I will treasure this book forever.

Very concise but detailed information, meant for serious Japanese garden enthusiasts

Esoteric and fascinating. And relaxing. The art of placing stones.

splendid! ... helps to understand cultural context behind gardening design.

Required for my course. I tried to get a cheap and relatively new one. This is it. Great. I would recommend this.

This book has made an enjoyable read, although it is more philosophical than practical. Nevertheless, the book provided insights into meanings and symbolic understandings of plants, rocks, boulders, flagstones, etc. as they are used in gardens in Japan. I will cherish this book as I go about creating a small garden at my desert home in California.

Sakuteiki Visions of the Japanese Garden provides a foundational context for understanding many perspectives on Japanese Gardening. It begins with Visions of the Garden including the context of

life in the period it was written. The emphasis on Nature, Geomancy, Buddhism and Taboos. In the words of the author on page 37 of the text: "By examining each of these interpretations, we hope to set the stage for a deeper understanding of this ancient Treatise as well as to offer, to gardeners and garden designers alike, possibilities of enhancing their own work." So foundational common principles and context for garden design they are too numerous to list in a review. A single example: Nature: Shotoku no Senzui from page 39: "Select several places on the property according to the shape of the land and pond, and create a subtle atmosphere, reflecting again and again on the memories of wild nature"

This is a very interesting & in-depth book. It isn't for anyone who just wants to have a general idea of gardening in Japan. You have to enjoy history to really be able to love this book. Not that it's a "history book" as such, but it follows gardening in Japan in the same way a book detailing life under the Tudors might be written. You learn to see gardening connected to the social climate, as well as learning about gardening techniques.

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