Naturalism is the attempt to live with, rather than to dominate, nature. Naturalism strives for the appearance of a “happy accident of nature.” Method to achieve this are as artificial as in “formalism.”

China
Antithesis of Egyptian gardens
Chinese lovers of natural scenery abundant in China
Gardens developed into romantic, ideal landscapes
Natural Elements
Rocks, weathered wood, water
Deer parks
Pavilions (tent like buildings, from the word for butterfly)

Idealized Chinese Landscape, 16th century
Lien-Tschen
Chinese Philosophy Regarding Naturalism in Gardens

The art of laying gardens consists in an endeavor to combine cheerfulness of aspect, luxuriance of growth, shade, solitude and repose in such a manner that the senses may be deluded by an imitation of rural nature.

Diversity, which is the main advantage of natural landscape, must therefore be sought by a judicious choice of soil, an alternation of chains of hills and valleys, gorges, brooks and lakes covered with water plants.

Symmetry is wearisome, and ennui and disgust will soon be excited in a garden where every part betrays constraint and artificiality. (Wright 1934, p. 139)

Chinese Imperial Gardens

Originated 3000 years ago around palaces for worship, recreation, living, and administration.
Highest level in the Qing Dynasty (1644–1911)
Gardens located in Beijing and Chende
Gardens are considered magnificent, glorious, and mysterious.
“Better than Nature though from Nature”
Water Pavilion in the summer resort, Chengde

Landscape Features in Imperial Gardens

- Beauty of Harmony
- Symbolic Meaning
- Poetic Feeling and Picturesque Composition
- Borrowed Landscape
- Framed Landscape
- Leaking Landscape
- Blocking Landscape
- Facing Landscape

Beauty of Harmony:
Landscape of the Summer Resort in Beijing
Beauty of Harmony: Stones in Qianlong Garden, Forbidden City, Beijing

Symbolic Meaning: Five Dragon Pavilion, Beijing

Poetic Feeling and Picturesque Composition: Summer Palace, Chengde
Borrowed Landscape: Summer Palace, Beijing

Framed Landscape: Moongate at the Summer Resort, Chengde

Leaking Landscape: Summer Palace, Beijing
Japanese gardens arose from Chinese culture via Korea.
Developed into an abstract art form.
One of the fine arts of Japan.
Traditional Chinese elements but organized in a new form emphasizing symbolism.
In 10th century influenced by Zen, religious and philosophical movement.
Great use of wood, stone, and sand (sand often raked into patterns).
Love of aged, deformed trees.
Use of moss and native plants.
Ryoanji Temple, Kyoto, Japan

Moss Garden

Moss Garden
Near Kasuga Shrine, Nara

Near Kasuga Shrine

Deer Park, Nara

Lanterns at Kasuga Shrine

Japanese Horticultural Arts

Ikebana: Flower arrangement based on symbolic use of flowers
Bonsai: Miniature tree specimens
Sakai: Miniatures landscapes

Ikebana Shrine, Kyoto
Ikebana Shrine

Scroll of floral arrangement

Origin of Ikebana
Modern Ikebana

Bonsai

Apple Bonsai, Kamakura  Oak Bonsai, Kamakura
Bonsai collection, Kamakura

Bonsai expert

Sakai: miniature landscape

Bonsai class, Kamakura
Modern Japanese Gardens

“Zoo-park” at Natural History Park, Izu

Globe, Izu

Entrance to “Globe” Greenhouse of Prof. Kondo, Izu

Pyramid greenhouse at Natural History Park, Izu

Enoshima tower, Kamakura lighthouse
Fusion of Formalism and Naturalism
Mild, marine climate permits great variety of plants
Long springs and mild winters despite northern location (>50°N)
Up to 1750s gardens laid out according to esthetics which saw beauty only in symmetry
Geometric patterns made by circular pools and intersecting straight lines of avenues, allées, terraces, hedges
Lancelot Brown (1716–1783)
Lancelot “Capability” Brown changed formalism into more natural landscape
Asymmetrical arrangements of sinuous curves
Trees planted in loosely scattered informal groups

Badminton House
Blenheim Palace
Grand Bridge

Grounds at Compton Verney
Introduction of Romanticism and “Kitsch”

- Fake ruins
- Wishing wells
- Herbaceous borders
- Bridges
- Curved walks
- Artificial plants

Romanticism

Arkadia fake ruins, Poland

Kew Gardens, England
Garden Kitsch

Modern Gardens
Artistic expression through combination of many art forms
Meaningful design for living
Uses formal and natural concepts
Theme parks
Golf courses
Interiorscapes: use of plants within environmentally controlled structures such as malls and arcades
Green roofs
History of Horticulture: Lecture 42

Theme Parks

Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen

Interiorscape

Parking garage, Brazil

Roof garden, Atlanta

Green Roof, Chicago City Hall