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”

The Forbidden City in central Beijing
History of Horticulture: Lecture 42

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
History of Horticulture: Lecture 42

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.
Naturalistic Gardens

Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, Kyoto, Japan

Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion

Waterfall, Kinkakuji
Japanese Horticultural Arts

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

Scroll of floral arrangement

Origin of Ikebana
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
History of Horticulture: Lecture 42

Kew Gardens, England

Introduction of Romanticism and “Kitsch”

Fake ruins
Wishing wells
Herbaceous borders
Bridges
Curved walks
Artificial plants

Romanticism

Arkadia fake ruins, Poland
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