

IJACT 20-3-11

Analysis on Four types of Japanese garden Built in Korea during Japanese Occupation

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Abstract

There are remains of Japanese gardens in Korea which were built during Japanese occupation in 1910-1945. However, systematic database has not been established for location, quantity, nor types of remaining gardens. This study is aimed at defining current status of Japanese gardens built in Korea. By categorizing types of remaining these Japanese gardens, we also aimed to build a systematic data base for Japanese gardens in Korea.

This study was co-conducted by researchers from Korea and Japan. The team identified 17 Japanese gardens remaining in South Korea and categorized them into 4 groups; 1) Japanese garden built by Japanese in modern Japanese house in South Korea, 2) Japanese garden built by Korean in traditional Korean garden and 3) Garden built by Japanese in temples in Korea. (at request by Koreans). This categorization reveals information about the inflow of Japanese gardening culture into Korea and deserves to be an important part of modern gardening History. And the rest are 4) Japanese gardens built at Korean residence, but with much damage and alternation. In this paper, we present the findings to serve as preliminary data for defining Korean traditional gardens and for utilizing Japanese gardens in Korea as historical and cultural infrastructure.

Keywords: *Modern Japanese Garden, Overall Conditions, Typological Classification, Comparison, Maintenance*

1. INTRODUCTION

Traditional gardens of Korea have unique traits that are distinguished from gardens of China and Japan. Palace gardens, summer house gardens and temple gardens of Korea all have unique design elements. However, gardens built during the Japanese colonization period display different traits from traditional Korean gardens in terms of structure and design. In these gardens, Japanese style elements are found. To understand and establish definition of Korean traditional gardens, different traits of gardens built during the Japanese colonization period should be precisely and clearly described [1].

Cultural exchange is not unilateral nor dominated by one side. Rather, culture is developed and matured through mutual interaction. As national borders are becoming less important in modern society, cultural exchange is expanding into various disciplines. In this respect, understanding garden culture of other countries and building foreign gardens in one's own country can further promote friendly cultural exchange.

Manuscript received: January 6, 2020 / revised: January 31, 2020 / Accepted: February 8, 2020

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Recently, there has been a growing interest on building Korean traditional garden in other countries as a way of promoting Korean culture. Studying how to build Korean style gardens in foreign countries is important. Furthermore, observation into how foreign gardens are built in Korea to see if design or certain elements change is also important in terms of promoting further cultural exchange and understanding other cultures [2].

During the Japanese colonial period, the scope of Japanese culture transfer was quite massive that almost all aspects of Korean life style were impacted. Landscape and architecture was no exception. Large cities like Seoul and Busan, plus port cities like Incheon, Gunsan and Mokpo were centers of culture transfer and where most of Japanese style buildings were built [3,4]. Much of these buildings still remain and are preserved today as modern culture heritage. In the field of architecture, there has been much interest and academic research findings on scope and impact of transfer of Japanese culture plus on efforts to protect them as cultural properties. However, in Landscape discipline, efforts are weak and only at primitive stage with no full-scale research on Japanese gardens in Korea yet have been done [5,6].

Due to a lack of research into Japanese gardens in Korea, there is no data collected regarding quantity, location, style, background and purpose of building Japanese gardens remaining in Korea. This study is aimed at 1) building systematic database in terms of locations, design elements, style, historical period, and background information including the owner and purpose of building Japanese gardens in Korea and 2) categorizing these gardens according to types. Also, through co-research of Korea and Japan teams, this study further aims to record landscape history of the Japanese occupation period in Korea in order to distinguish some gardens mistakenly known as “Special types” of Korean gardens [1], establish definition of Korean Gardens, and to strengthen cultural relationship of traditional gardens of Korea and Japan.

2. REASEACH METHOD

Japanese gardens in Korea built during the Japanese occupation are subjects of this study and for accuracy; co-research team was formed by Korean and Japanese researchers. Korean team led overall search and analyzed spatial analysis together with Japanese team. Japanese team conducted comparison analysis between the findings of Korea team’s spatial analysis and local gardens in Japan discovering features of each garden studied.

Korea team conducted research in the following order. Research scope and target areas for data collection was set for all of South Korea and search on literature investigation and internet was done to screen out cultural heritage, temples, traditional villages and old houses with remains of Japanese gardens. Also Japanese buildings were included as target area since these buildings are highly likely to have remains of Japanese style gardens. Historical periods from the end of Chosun dynasty to the era of Japanese colonial period were selected. Aerial photos and street views of target areas on portal websites were referenced to determine whether remains of Japanese garden exist or not. When unsure, on-site search was conducted to confirm and record existence of Japanese gardens. On-site research was conducted with short listed target areas and maps of garden were prepared. Also elements of garden were photographed and recorded. On-site research data was quantified and maps were prepared with a scale of 1/5000 and satellite images.

The Japanese team provided data on basic forms and elements of Japanese gardens and the Korean team conducted analysis and research and shortlisted target areas for on-site research to find out detailed characteristic of gardens in each target area. Through spatial analysis, an analysis on design fundamentals of gardens was done to understand style traits. Also, gardens in Japan were shortlisted for comparison with Japanese style gardens in Korea and on-site research by both Korean and Japanese teams was conducted to understand traits of gardens in more detail.

For the findings, Korean team analyzed quantity, distribution status, overall condition, details of owner and garden designer, purpose and background of Japanese style gardens in Korea. Japanese team did a comparison analysis on design fundamentals between Japanese style gardens in Korea and local gardens in Japan and observed special traits of Japanese colonial period.

3. RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

3.1 The discovery of Japanese Garden in Korea

After on-site research based on literature investigation and internet research, 27 gardens in Korea were shortlisted. Excluding those with severe damage or no remains after on-site research, 20 gardens were identified and 17 gardens were found to be Japanese style.

Table 1. Target area

Name	Location	Form	Cultural Assets	Garden	Note
Shinheungdong Japanese House(Hirotsu)	Kunsan	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Tobiishi, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Ishitoro, etc
Yi Hundong Garden	Mokpo	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Tobiishi, Tsukiyama, Pond, Ishikumi, Taki, Hashi, etc
Haechang Jujochang	Haenam	House/Brewery	Not Registered	O	Pond, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Tree, etc
Ancient house of the Seong Family (Seong-si Gotaku)	Channyung	House/Korean	Registered	O	Pond, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Tree, etc
Konjae House (Oeam Village)	Asan	House/Korean	Registered	O	Pond, Yarimizu, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Tree, etc
Professor House (Oeam Village)	Asan	House/Korean	Registered	O	Pond, Yarimizu, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Tree, etc
Songwha House (Oeam Village)	Asan	House/Korean	Registered	O	Yarimizu, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Tree, etc
Seonamsa Temple	Suncheon	Temple	Registered	O	Pond
Daehungsa Temple	Namhae	Temple	Registered	O	Pond
Wolmyeongdong Japanese House	Kunsan	House/Japanese	Not Registered	O	Yarimizu, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Taki, etc
Shinpongdong Japanese House(Arita)	Kimje	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Tobiishi, Kaiseki, etc
Kumdong Japanese House	Kunsan	House/Japanese	Not Registered	X	Tree
Dodongri Japanese House	Ulrunghdo	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Cannot enter
Jumrankak	Busan	Restaurant	Registered	O	Tobiishi, Tsukiyama, etc
Choryangdong Japanese House	Busan	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Pond, Tree, etc
Yeyangri Japanese House	Janghung	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Tobiishi, Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, Tree, etc
Soljungri Japanese House	Kanghwa	House/Japanese	Registered	X	Tea house, tree, etc
Bobseongri Kikuya ryokan	Yongkwang	Hotel	Registered	X	Tree
Kwajeongdong Police station	Yongcheon	Police Station	Registered	X	
Dongguksa Temple	Kunsan	Temple	Registered	X	
Sagawa Japanese House	Kunsan	House/Japanese	Not Registered	O	Tree, Ishikumi, Café
Samduck Market	Daegu	Market	Not Registered	X	Café
Okcheondong Japanese House	Suncheon	House/Japanese	Registered	X	
Kim Ankyun Japanese House	Ikisan	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Cannot enter
Navy Hospital Director's House	Changwon	House/Japanese	Registered	O	Tobiishi, Ishikumi, etc
Hoejungri Japanese House	Bosung	House/Japanese	Not Registered	O	Tsukiyama, Ishikumi, etc
Park nosoo House	Seoul	House	Registered	O	Ishikumi, Tsukiyama, etc

3.2 Introduction of major cases

(1) Japanese style house of Shinheung-dong in Gunsan (Hirotsu House)

Gunsan opened a port in 1899 and adopted a modern culture quickly. Japanese population in Gunsan, at the time of the opening of the port, amounted to 13 percent, and up to 47 percent in 1914 [4]. Japanese Style House of Sinheung-dong in Gunsan was registered as Cultural Heritage No. 183 in 2005. The area of Sinheung-dong, where the Hirotsu House is located, was a residential area for the wealthy class during the Japanese occupation period and the Hirotsu House was constructed by Hirotsu Geisaburo, a man who ran a linen shop [3]. The house is a typical Japanese two-story timber house, keeping the original forms of its roof, outer walls, inside area and the Japanese style garden which has significant meaning in regards to the architecture history. Not only Ishikumi of a pond remains between the buildings. But, Tobiishi, a stone lantern remains as well.

(2) Yi Hun-dong Garden

It is located in the southeast foot of Yudalsan, and was originally a Japanese-style garden made by Uchitani Manpei, a Japanese garden designer, in 1930's. The largest in personal garden in this area, it is formed of an entrance park, an inner garden, Forest and Stream garden, and a backyard [4]. There are Ishikumi, curved pond, waterfall, and Japanese style stone lantern. There are 113 different species of trees. There are 37 wild Korean species, 69 Japanese species, 25 Chinese species, and 12 other species. This garden was designated as Registered Cultural Heritage in 1988. But some areas are not Japanese style; it was transformed into other structures.

(3) Haechang Joojojang

The brewery of Haechang Joojojang, located in the south edge of Korean Peninsula, Haechang-ri, Hwasan Myeon, Haenam-gun, Jeollanam-do, has 90 years of history producing Makgeolli, a traditional Korean rice wine. It also has a Japanese style house and a garden constructed in the 1920s. This house was built when one Japanese, Kohei Shibata, born in Gunma Prefecture in Japan in 1895, migrated to this town in 1927 [7]. Because his father was timber merchant, he imported timbers via Mokpo and built the Japanese-style house after 3 years of timber drying. The garden was also constructed during Shibata's ownership. Since 1945, the owners of house were changed 2 times, and in 2005, today's owners purchased the premise and conducted reconstruction work. Since 2008, they have started full-scale operation of the brewery until present. In the center of the garden on the south side of the house, there is a gourd-shaped pond with 5 small undulation and mounds surrounding the pond. The water is fed from the mountain behind the garden through the east side of the premise. From west side of the premise, water runs in the form of stream to the north and reaches to the square pond in the western back garden. The picture are remained which had taken at Shibata lived. So we can imagine the prototype of the garden. The building and garden was attempted the register of cultural asset. But it was unauthorized because of the expansion and renovation of the building.



Figure.1 Shinheung-dong



Figure.2 Yi Hun-dong Garden



Figure.3 Haechang Joojojang

(4) Ancient house of the Seong Family in Seok-ri Changnyeong-gun (Seong-si Gotaek)

Seong-si Gotaek is located in Changnyeong-gun in south east of South Korea, 70 kilometers north west of South Korea's second biggest city Busan. Present Japanese garden was constructed around 1929 by Seong Yoonkyung. Seong family was a noble family in Changnyeong-gun since the era of Korean Dynasty. This house consisted of six units of buildings, including main building (Anchae), guest building (Sarangchae), storage building, two entrance building and restroom. This is the modern Korean house that has the compromise of traditional elements of Korean housing, practical elements of wealthy farm house as well as the influence of external constructions in modern time. This house was designated as Registered Cultural Heritage in 2004 [8].

This historical residence, owned privately, was designated as nationally important building, and the restoration work is partly in process. The original building and garden were allegedly designed by the owner, Seong Kyuho. The house building is Korean-style (modern Hanok), while the existing garden is Japanese style. The Japanese garden was constructed by his grandson, Seong Yoonkyung around 1929 during Japanese colonial period. The gardener was unknown. The garden is composed of mound ("tsukiyama"), pond, rock arrangement and garden lanterns, clearly showing the landscape of Japanese gardens. The pond had the shape of Korean Peninsula but it also had Ishikumi, Tsukiyama, and curved shore which is the style of Japanese garden. They created a garden by Japanese style because the garden was built during the Japanese colonial period. This house is a prime example of the Japanese garden built in Korean traditional house.

(5) Oeam Village

Oeam Village, in Asan-si of Chungcheongnam-do is nationally designated cultural heritage. The town of

Chungcheongnam-do was formed approximately 200 years ago and mostly contains traditional Korean-style houses. Although most of buildings are traditional Korean style, there are 3 residential buildings with gardens of presumably Japanese style constructed during Japanese colonial period. In terms of garden style, those 3 gardens show various remarkable differences from traditional Korean gardens. Because the composition of factors and garden styles introduced in those gardens are particularly similar to Japanese gardens. Those gardens are judged as those constructed under the influence of Japanese gardens. The garden, with water features such as ponds and streams, contain distinctive curbed water channel and ponds together with bridges, mounds and ornamental rocks, which are typical elements of Japanese gardens. Additionally, 3 gardens utilize the water from the channels leading water from the adjacent river into the village. Especially, a technique utilizing watercourse in these gardens is not to be found commonly in Korean traditional gardens. Thus, these gardens can be described to be designed with an influence of Japanese garden [9].

1) The Garden of Geonjae Gotaek

The garden characterized by landscaped island resembling “Turtle Island” in the southern garden in front of the building and the stream feeding water to the pond in the eastern side of the building.

2) The Garden of Professor’s Residence

Presently, the garden is severely deteriorated and the original appearance is merely seen. The pond in the south east of the premise remains. The garden bridge made of natural rock and the boat-shaped rock (“Funagata-Ishi”) in upper stream also remain.

3) The Garden of Songhwa’s Residence

The garden characterized by pine forest with low mounds (“Nosuji”) and streams. The back of the stream is of natural rock arrangement.

These gardens are the prime example of the Japanese garden which located in Korean traditional houses as Changnyeong Seok-ri.



Figure.4 Seong-si Gotaek



Figure.5 Geonjae Gotaek



Figure.6 Songhwa's residence

(6) Seonamsa Temple

Seonamsa Temple in Suncheon and Daeheungsa in Haenam is most known to the temple had a lot of Japanese believer during Japanese colonial period. The Japanese garden was located in front of the museum of Seonamsa Temple. It was changed several times, so it is hard to find the original form.

(7) Daeheungsa temple

Daeheungsa is located in Dooryun Mountain which was burnt down once. It was restored by Zen Master Choui, famous for Korean tea and while restoring the temple, he also built Muyeomji [10]. Muyeomji was designed by Uchitani Manpei who is the designer for Yi Hun-Dong garden in Mokpo. Muyeomji has a special trait of curved shore and also projected island-like form is found. A fountain is located in the center of a pond and various species of trees are planted around the shore. But a number of species of tree found in researches of the past has been greatly decreased. Water quality and status of trees call for continuous maintenance.

(8) Japanese style house of Wolmyeong-dong 22-2

House in Wolmyeong-dong 22-2 is a typical medium to large scale residential house in Gunsan during the Japanese colonial period and is known to be Gunsan mayor's office during the Japanese colonial period. In 1960, Gunsan city government used this house as office. There is relatively a large scale garden in the backyard of the house. There are some remains of Yarimizu, waterfall, Ishikumi of pond, etc., but with much damage which makes it difficult to recognize the original form. Currently, the building is used as a restaurant.



Figure.7 Seonamsa Temple



Figure.8 Daeheungsa Temple



Figure.9 Wolmyeong-dong

3.3 Comparison Study Between the Gardens of Korea and Japan

(1) Comparison Study Between the Gardens of Oaem Village and the gardens in Matsushiro, Nagano City

The search of Japanese examples, with similar spatial structure of village with water channel and garden composition to Oaem Village, was conducted. As a result, the group of gardens in Matsushiro in Nagano City is selected for the reason of similar village structure with water channel, taking advantage of mountainous location. Through the site survey of both gardens, significantly similar scenic composition between both gardens are pointed out. Apparently, there are considerable similarities between the gardens in South Korea and Japan.



Figure.10 Matsushiro



Figure.8 Shin-Goten



Figure.9 Yokoda House

(2) Comparison Study Between the Garden of Seong-si Gotaek and Japanese Local House Gardens in Fukuoka Prefecture

The search of Japanese gardens of private residence similar to the gardens of Seong-si Gotaek focuses on the modern Japanese gardens in Fukuoka prefecture, constructed in the same period, and specifically, from the view point of the shape of ponds and the geographical proximity. As a result, the residential gardens of Den-emon Ito and the residential garden of Kurauchi Family, nationally well-known places of scenic beauty, contain ponds with similar bank protection using rock arrangement. This leads to the assumption that Japanese gardens in the southern part of South Korea were constructed under the influence of modern Japanese house gardens of 1920-1930s, in the northern part of Kyushu, including Fukuoka prefecture. However, this theory requires more concrete informative accumulation and consideration.



Figure.11 Den-emon Ito



Figure.12 Den-emon Ito



Figure. 13 Seong-si Gotaek

(3) Comparison Study Between the Garden of Haechang Joojojang and Local House gardens in Gunma Prefecture, Japan

In the case of this garden, the similarity to local house gardens in Gunma Prefecture, the first owner Shibata's hometown, is explored. As a result, a remarkably similar garden was discovered in "Kyu Obata-han Buke-yashiki Matsu-ura-shi Yashiki" in the town of Kanra, Gunma Prefecture. The main building and garden were constructed in Edo era, and since the Meiji period, the size of the premise was decreased and the garden was renovated in late modern period. This place is designated as a historical site in Gunma prefecture, and presently detailed survey and restoration work are in process from 2015. The characteristics of the garden of Matsu-ura-shi premise is the route of water taken from the east side of the oval-shaped pond, to the square pond through the stream of the western side of the garden. With the oval-shaped pond, which also looks gourd-shaped, the layout of this garden is similar to that of Haechang Joojojang. Additionally, another garden with similar layout also exists in "Takahashi Residence Garden" in proximity. Although the consequence is unknown, it is reasonable to consider that Shibata constructed his private garden in South Korea, taking motif from local house gardens of his home town.



Figure.14 Obata-han Buke-yashiki



Figure.15 Obata-han Buke-yashiki



Figure. 16 Haechang Joojojang

3.4 Categorization of Japanese gardens in Korea

Japanese style gardens remaining in Korea can be categorized into 4 groups as explained in the following.

(1) Japanese style garden built by Japanese in modern style Japanese house

Japanese style house of Shinheung-dong in Gunsan, Yi Hun-Dong garden in Mokpo, a garden located inside in Haechang Joojojang in Haenam are Japanese gardens built by a Japanese. Japanese style house of Shinheung-dong in Gunsan and Yi Hun-Dong garden in Mokpo were designated as modern cultural heritage and are in good maintenance. The garden in Haechang Joojojang in Haenam is owned by a Japanese person and is under personal care. The garden in Haechang Joojojang is not designated as cultural heritage.

Japanese style garden built by a Japanese person in his residence is not thought to have direct impact on Korean garden culture. But to certain extent, there was indirect impact since it was built in Korea. Thus, it is considered as indirect transfer of cultural inflow. This is because Japanese claimed the ownership of Korean territory during their occupation and those who immigrated to Korea from Japan reproduced Japanese style

gardens in Korea for personal enjoyment. Thus these gardens are not considered to be built to influence or under influence of another culture.

(2) Japanese gardens built by Korean in Korean traditional house

Gardens in Ancient house of the Seong Family in Seok-ri, 3 house of Oeam Village have Japanese style gardens built in Korean traditional house by a Korean person who frequently travelled to Japan. Owners of these gardens are Koreans living in Korean traditional houses, but embraced Japanese garden cultures well leading to active inflow of Japanese culture and transformation of Korean gardens. This finding proves that these gardens are clearly Japanese style gardens ruling out certain beliefs that these are special formats of Korean style garden since it is built in a Korean traditional house or a combination of Korean and Japanese styles. In such case, gardens are built by Koreans who studied in Japan or someone who admired Japanese culture. Especially, for Geonjae Gotaek in Oeam Village, the owner of this house built Japanese style gardens based on his experience of studying in Japan and his garden style had an impact on the entire village.

(3) Japanese style gardens built in temples by Japanese at Korean's request

Seonamsa Temple in Suncheon and Daeheungsa Temple in Haenam are known to have many Japanese believers in Buddhism. Japanese garden in these temples were built by Japanese garden designer as requested by Korean monks for Japanese believers and they are also thought to be result of fully embracing Japanese culture. What is not clearly known is that whether these gardens were built to recruit more believers or to transform later into Japanese style temple.

Dongguksa Temple in Gunsan is a Japanese style temple, but has no evidence/trace of Japanese style garden in the temple. Dongguksa temple was built by Japanese monks and managed by Japanese people, but no Japanese style garden was built at this temple. A speculation can be made that not all Japanese temples have Japanese style garden. Also for Dongguksa temple, the temple was probably built to recruit Japanese believers.

(4) Others (Target areas with gardens thought to be Japanese style, but with severe damage.)

Wolmyeong-dong Japanese style house and Shinpung-dong Japanese house in downtown Gunsan have Ishikumi and Tsukiyama believed to belong to Japanese style garden, but they are severely damaged, and recovery doesn't seem so easy. There are many Japanese style houses throughout Gunsan and Busan, but most of gardens in these houses are ruined and modified to a point where original forms are not easily identifiable. Most of these gardens existed in small houses and not properly managed due to low value. Gardens found in this area seemed to have features of both Korean style and Japanese style garden design and no clear purpose is identified for building a garden.

4. DISCUSSIONS

Japanese gardens in Korea can be categorized into 3 groups; 1) Japanese style garden built in Japanese style house by a Japanese person in Korea 2) Japanese style garden built in Korean traditional house by a Korean 3) Japanese style garden in temple built by a Japanese designer at Korean's request. For Japanese style gardens in case 1) where a Japanese person built in his house in Korea is not deemed to have significant influence over inflow of Japanese culture although there may have been some influence to environment nearby. However, for Japanese style gardens built at Korean's will are cases where Japanese garden culture was actively embraced. Moreover, those with wealth and power, or who had studied in Japan were among the frontiers who embraced Japanese culture early and built Japanese style gardens in Korea that are thought to be routes of cultural inflow.

There are approximately 500 Japanese gardens built overseas. However, there has been no apparent data

for Japanese gardens built in Korea which is the country with the closest proximity and a historical period of Japanese colonization. Also, the team was able to correct errors for some of Japanese style gardens built in Korea which were previously known as special transformation of Korean style garden. Research on Japanese style gardens in Korea is an essential part of modern landscape history of both countries and systematic data was needed for preservation of Japanese style gardens in Korea as culture heritage. This study provides and defines primary database and will serve as the stepping stone for future researches.

Most important social value/contribution to society is identification of accurate information for those in academia despite some negative perception on these Japanese style gardens in Korea due to a fact that they are heritage from Japanese colonization period. This study contributes values to society by nurturing researchers to think further about preservation and management of these Japanese style gardens as cultural heritage, and direction for future utilization

Modification and damages were observed as on-site research was taking place which called for systematic maintenance by institution with understanding of Japanese style gardens, not by an owner of a garden. Also, negative perception of these gardens as remainder of Japanese colonization period should be replaced with new perspective as modern cultural heritage and better understanding of Korean traditional garden culture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This study was supported by the NRF -JSPS Cooperation program: Open Partnership Joint Research Projects, Korea NRF/Japan JSPS.

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