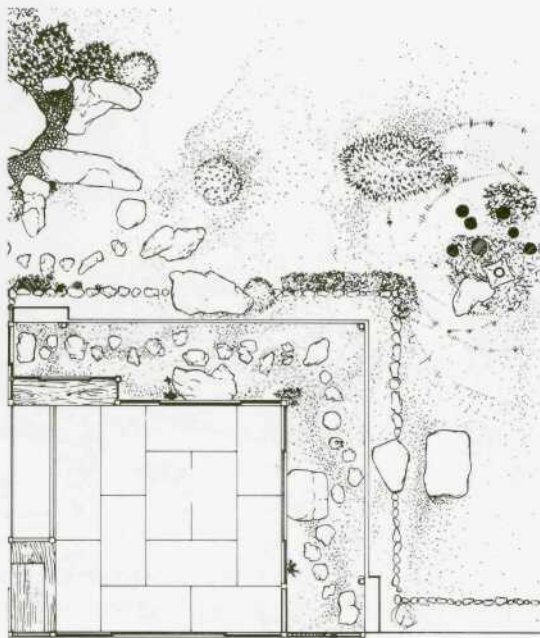


A photograph of a traditional Japanese garden. In the foreground, a path of flat, grey stones is set in a bed of vibrant green moss. The path leads towards a large, rounded bush with green leaves and clusters of small, bright pink flowers. The background is filled with more lush greenery, creating a sense of depth and tranquility.

THE GARDENS OF JAPAN

text by Teiji Itoh



photograph, located in the old castle town of Kanazawa on Japan's north coast. The typical wooden veranda has been replaced by an earthen corridor with plantings, moss, and low-lying stepping stones. Again, climate provides a clue to this construction. In Kanazawa the winter snows can be heavy. The outer railing between the main garden and the corridor can be fitted with doors to seal off the house, leaving this green zone for the enjoyment of family members. ● The Japanese garden moves fully into the house in the next photograph. In a narrow courtyard of the

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Kuwata Residence in Hiroshima, designer Shigemori Mirei has built an expansive universe. Swept white gravel represents the sea, while stones thrust up their bulk in imitation of forested mountains. This garden has enormous motion, so much so that a long slab of cut stone has been placed in the foreground, like a bass accompaniment, to steady the rhythm. The slab consciously imitates the line of the veranda, and by this technique funnels the energies of the garden directly into the home. A composition like this can be overpowering. It intrudes on the mind and the spirit. Built in 1957, this microcosmic space is the culmination of a long tradition of garden-making designed to



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