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## Exploring the Rich Tapestry of Gardens and Parks: A Journey through History, Education, and Artistic Expressions

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### ABSTRACT

Gardens and parks have long been cherished spaces where nature and human creativity intertwine. This article embarks on a captivating journey through the history, types, education, and artistic expressions of these remarkable outdoor sanctuaries. We delve into the origins of gardens, explore the diverse styles and designs that have evolved from time to time, and appreciate the artistic elements that make them truly enchanting. Join us as we unravel the secrets and unveil the beauty of these green oases that have captivated the human imagination for centuries.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The allure of gardens and parks transcends time and culture. These meticulously designed spaces serve as a testament to humanity's profound connection with nature. This article sets out to delve into their historical significance, examine the various types of gardens and parks, and uncover the artistic elements that have shaped their evolution (Alamada *et al.*, 2022).

Long-valued places where nature and human ingenuity converge are gardens and parks. Here, the history, different kinds, educational opportunities, and creative expressions of these exceptional outdoor sanctuaries are explored in this article. We examine the history of gardens, the various types and patterns that have developed over time, and the artistic components that contribute to their overall allure. Join us as we reveal the beauty and secrets of these lush oases that have captured people's imagination for so many years.

## 2. METHODS

This article is a literature survey, in which all data were obtained from Internet sources, specifically articles from international journals. Data was collected and compared to current situations to create this article.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1. Origins of gardens

#### 3.1.1. Ancient origins

The origins of gardens can be traced back to ancient civilizations that recognized the intrinsic connection between humans and the natural world. In ancient Mesopotamia, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon stood as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Created by King Nebuchadnezzar II, these magnificent gardens were said to have been constructed to please his wife, who longed for the lush greenery of her homeland. Ancient Egypt also boasted impressive gardens, where plants and water were intricately intertwined. The gardens of ancient Egypt served both practical and symbolic purposes. They provided sustenance through the cultivation of crops and showcased the abundance of life along the Nile River. The temple gardens of Karnak and Luxor were particularly notable for their grandeur and spiritual significance.

#### 3.1.2. Classical gardens

The influence of ancient Greece and Rome on garden design is evident in the development of classical gardens. These gardens were inspired by the belief in the harmony between humans and nature, emphasizing order and symmetry. In ancient Greece, gardens were an integral part of private residences. They featured geometric layouts, well-manicured lawns, and meticulously pruned trees. Greek philosophers, such as Plato and Aristotle, viewed gardens as places of contemplation and philosophical discussions. The Romans further expanded on Greek garden designs, creating opulent villas with elaborate gardens. The Villa of Hadrian in Tivoli, Italy, is a prime example of a Roman garden. It incorporated architectural elements, terraces, water features, and carefully planned vegetation to create a harmonious and visually stunning landscape.

#### 3.1.3. Islamic gardens

Islamic gardens, influenced by Persian and Arabic traditions, emerged as unique expressions of beauty and spirituality. These gardens were often designed as enclosed

paradises, offering respite from the arid desert surroundings. Islamic gardens were characterized by geometric patterns, flowing water, and lush greenery. The gardens of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, exemplify this style. They featured intricate water channels, reflecting pools, and meticulously landscaped courtyards adorned with vibrant flowers and fragrant herbs. Islamic gardens aimed to evoke a sense of tranquility and spiritual harmony, reflecting the Islamic belief in paradise as a garden.

#### **3.1.4. Renaissance gardens**

During the Renaissance period, gardens underwent a significant transformation, inspired by the revival of classical ideals and humanist philosophy. Renaissance gardens became expressions of wealth, power, and artistic sensibility. Italian Renaissance gardens, such as the Boboli Gardens in Florence, emphasized symmetry, perspective, and geometric precision. These gardens incorporated statues, fountains, and terraces to create a theatrical setting that celebrated human creativity and control over nature. In contrast, French Renaissance gardens, like those found in the Château de Fontainebleau, embraced grandeur and spectacle. They featured extensive parterre designs, elaborate water features, and carefully sculpted hedgerows. French gardens sought to impress visitors with their majestic scale and meticulous craftsmanship.

#### **3.1.5. Enlightenment influence types of gardens and parks**

The Enlightenment era brought a shift in garden design philosophy, emphasizing a more naturalistic approach. Influenced by the ideas of philosophers such as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, gardens began to emulate the beauty and wildness of untouched landscapes. English landscape gardens emerged as a response to Enlightenment ideals. These gardens, like Stourhead in Wiltshire, England, aimed to create a picturesque and romantic atmosphere. They incorporated rolling hills, meandering paths, serene lakes, and strategically placed architectural follies. English landscape gardens sought to evoke emotions, invite contemplation, and provide a seamless integration with the surrounding natural environment. The ancient origins of gardens laid the groundwork for the diverse styles and designs that followed throughout history. Each civilization and era brought its unique interpretation of gardens ([Theophilus, 2023](#)).

#### **3.1.6. Formal gardens**

Formal gardens are meticulously designed outdoor spaces characterized by their symmetrical and structured layouts, precise geometric shapes, and careful arrangement of plants, pathways, and decorative elements. They are known for their elegance, orderliness, and the sense of grandeur they bring to a landscape:

- (i) **Design Principles:** Formal gardens are often inspired by classical architectural styles and principles, such as those found in Renaissance, Baroque, or French formal gardens. They typically adhere to the following design principles:
  - Symmetry:** Formal gardens emphasize symmetry, with elements arranged in a mirror-like fashion on either side of a central axis. This creates a sense of balance and harmony within the overall design.
  - Geometric Shapes:** Straight lines, right angles, and geometric shapes, such as circles, squares, and rectangles, play a crucial role in formal garden design. These shapes are used to define the layout of paths, flower beds, hedges, and other elements.
  - Hardscape Elements:** Formal gardens often incorporate hardscape features like fountains, statues, urns, and geometrically shaped ponds or pools. These elements serve as focal points and add to the garden's formal atmosphere.
  - Box Hedges and Parterres:** Low, tightly

clipped boxwood hedges are a common feature in formal gardens. They are used to create divisions, borders, and patterns, such as parterres, which are intricate geometric designs formed by different colored plants or flowers. Axial Views and Sightlines: Formal gardens make use of axial views and sightlines to draw the eye towards specific focal points, such as a central statue or an architectural feature. These vistas create a sense of depth and perspective within the garden. Formal Planting Schemes: Plant selection in formal gardens is often carefully controlled. Flower beds are meticulously maintained and feature plants with uniform heights, shapes, and colors. Symmetrical patterns of flowers or shrubs are commonly used to create visual interest.

- (ii) **Notable Formal Gardens:** Versailles Gardens (France): The gardens of the Palace of Versailles are among the most famous formal gardens in the world. Designed by André Le Nôtre, they showcase the grandeur and opulence of French formal garden design. Boboli Gardens (Italy): Located behind the Pitti Palace in Florence, the Boboli Gardens feature an impressive collection of sculptures, grottoes, and terraces, all arranged in a formal layout. The gardens have influenced garden design throughout Europe. Gardens of the Palace of Queluz (Portugal): The formal gardens of the Palace of Queluz near Lisbon are known for their intricate geometric patterns, ornate tilework, and elegant water features. They represent the finest examples of Portuguese garden design. Villa d'Este Gardens (Italy): Situated in Tivoli, near Rome, the Villa d'Este Gardens are famous for their terraces, fountains, and water features. The garden's cascades and jets of water create a stunning visual spectacle. Peterhof Palace Gardens (Russia): The gardens of Peterhof Palace, located near St. Petersburg, are a prime example of formal garden design. The grand cascade, numerous fountains, and meticulously manicured hedges make it a must-visit attraction. Formal gardens continue to inspire and captivate visitors with their timeless beauty and carefully crafted designs. They offer a sense of tranquility and elegance, providing a space for contemplation and appreciation of nature's artistry.

Formal gardens can be classified into several distinct types, each with its own unique characteristics and design elements. Here are some of the most common types of formal gardens:

- (i) **Parterre Gardens.** Parterre gardens feature intricate, symmetrical patterns formed by low hedges, flower beds, and pathways. They often resemble a tapestry or carpet design when viewed from above. The patterns can range from geometric shapes to ornate floral motifs. Parterre gardens are typically found in front of grand estates or palaces. French Formal Gardens: Inspired by the garden designs of André Le Nôtre, French formal gardens are renowned for their grandeur and symmetry. They feature extensive axial paths, perfectly aligned vistas, geometrically shaped ponds or canals, and precisely clipped hedges. The Palace of Versailles is a prime example of French formal garden design.
- (ii) **Italianate Gardens.** Italianate gardens are influenced by Italian Renaissance design principles. They often incorporate terraces, balustrades, and elaborate fountains. Italianate gardens focus on creating a sense of harmony between architecture and nature. The Boboli Gardens in Florence and Villa d'Este Gardens in Tivoli are notable examples.
- (iii) **Knot Gardens.** Knot gardens are characterized by intricate patterns formed by low hedges or plants. The patterns often resemble interwoven knots or labyrinths when viewed from above. Knot gardens were popular during the Tudor and Elizabethan eras in England, and they are still seen in formal garden designs today.

- (iv) Topiary Gardens. Topiary gardens showcase the art of shaping plants, typically evergreen shrubs, into geometric forms, animal shapes, or other artistic designs. The plants are meticulously pruned and maintained to maintain their desired shapes. Topiary gardens add a whimsical and sculptural element to formal garden designs.
- (v) Zen Gardens. While typically associated with a more minimalist and contemplative style, Zen gardens can also incorporate formal elements. These gardens often feature carefully raked gravel or sand to represent water or waves, strategically placed rocks, and minimalist plantings. They create a serene and harmonious atmosphere, inviting contemplation and meditation.
- (vi) English Formal Gardens. English formal gardens combine elements of symmetry and structure with a more relaxed and naturalistic approach. They often include formal flower beds, neatly trimmed hedges, and geometrically shaped ponds or lakes. English formal gardens strike a balance between formal design principles and the beauty of nature.
- (vii) Spanish Colonial Gardens. Spanish colonial gardens, found in regions influenced by Spanish architecture and design, such as Spain itself and Latin America, showcase a blend of formal and informal elements. They often feature courtyards, arcades, and fountains, with lush plantings and colorful tiles. Spanish colonial gardens evoke a sense of warmth and Mediterranean charm. These are just a few examples of the many types of formal gardens that exist. Each type offers its interpretation of formal garden design principles, reflecting the cultural influences and historical contexts in which they developed.

### 3.1.7. Urban parks

Urban parks are green spaces specifically designed and created within urban areas to provide recreational, social, and ecological benefits to the surrounding community. They serve as oases of nature amidst the concrete jungle, offering a wide range of activities and amenities for residents and visitors alike. Urban parks are essential for promoting physical and mental well-being, fostering community engagement, and enhancing the overall quality of urban life. Here are some key aspects and benefits of urban parks:

**Green Space and Nature:** Urban parks provide a respite from the urban environment by offering lush greenery, trees, flowers, and open spaces. They serve as important habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife, contributing to biodiversity within cities.

**Recreation and Leisure:** Parks offer a variety of recreational opportunities, such as walking and jogging trails, sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and cycling paths. These activities promote physical fitness, encourage active lifestyles, and provide spaces for families and friends to gather and socialize.

**Cultural and Community Events:** Urban parks often serve as venues for cultural events, festivals, concerts, and community gatherings. These events foster a sense of community cohesion, celebrate diversity, and promote cultural exchange.

**Health and Well-being:** Access to green spaces and nature has been linked to improved mental health, reduced stress levels, and enhanced overall well-being. Urban parks provide a peaceful and serene environment for relaxation, meditation, and escape from the hustle and bustle of city life (Coyoca *et al.*, 2022).

**Environmental Benefits:** Urban parks contribute to environmental sustainability by improving air quality, reducing the urban heat island effect, and mitigating stormwater runoff. They absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen, and help regulate temperature in densely populated areas.

**Education and Learning:** Many urban parks feature educational facilities, interpretive signage, and nature trails that offer opportunities for environmental education and awareness (Maryanti & Asjjari, 2022). Parks can serve as outdoor classrooms, teaching visitors

about local ecosystems, flora and fauna, and sustainable practices. Social Equity and Inclusivity: Well-planned urban parks play a crucial role in promoting social equity and inclusivity by providing accessible and inclusive spaces for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. They contribute to the democratization of green spaces and ensure equal access to recreational opportunities for all community members. Economic Impact: Urban parks can have positive economic effects on surrounding neighborhoods. They enhance property values, attract visitors and tourists, and stimulate local businesses, such as cafes, restaurants, and recreational equipment rentals (Maheshvari, 2022). Notable Examples of Urban Parks: Central Park - New York City, USA Hyde Park - London, UK Stanley Park - Vancouver, Canada Ueno Park - Tokyo, Japan Tiergarten - Berlin, Germany Golden Gate Park - San Francisco, USA Retiro Park - Madrid, Spain Millennium Park - Chicago, USA Urban parks are vital components of sustainable and livable cities, providing valuable recreational and ecological spaces within urban environments (Suryani & Hamdu, 2021). Their design, amenities, and programming are tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of the communities they serve, making them invaluable assets for urban dwellers.

### **3.1.8. City parks**

City parks are public green spaces located within urban areas that offer recreational, cultural, and social benefits to residents and visitors. These parks are an integral part of urban planning and contribute to the overall livability and well-being of cities. City parks come in various sizes and designs, ranging from small neighborhood parks to large, expansive green areas. Here are some key features and benefits of city parks: Recreation and Leisure: City parks provide opportunities for outdoor activities and recreation. They offer amenities such as walking and jogging paths, sports fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, and skate parks. These facilities encourage physical fitness, active lifestyles, and social interaction among community members. Green Spaces and Nature: City parks serve as vital green oases in urban environments, providing a connection to nature. They feature trees, lawns, gardens, and sometimes even lakes or ponds. These natural elements contribute to improved air quality, reduce noise levels, and create a sense of tranquility within the bustling cityscape. Social Gathering and Community Engagement: Parks act as community gathering spaces, bringing people together from diverse backgrounds. They provide a venue for social events, picnics, barbecues, and cultural celebrations. City parks foster social cohesion, strengthen community bonds, and promote a sense of belonging. Children's Play and Family Time: Many city parks have dedicated playgrounds and play areas designed for children. These spaces offer a safe and engaging environment for kids to play, explore, and interact with their peers. City parks also provide families with opportunities for quality time and outdoor recreation. Events and Festivals: Parks often host a range of events, including concerts, festivals, art exhibitions, and farmers' markets. These events contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the city and attract both locals and tourists. Parks become hubs of entertainment, creativity, and community engagement during these occasions. Health and Well-being: Access to city parks has a positive impact on public health and well-being. They provide spaces for physical activity, relaxation, and stress reduction. Spending time in nature-rich environments has been associated with improved mental health, reduced stress levels, and increased overall well-being. Environmental Benefits: City parks play a significant role in urban environmental sustainability. They help mitigate the heat island effect, improve air quality by absorbing pollutants, and support urban biodiversity by providing habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Parks also contribute to stormwater management and groundwater recharge. Educational Opportunities: Many city parks feature educational programs, interpretive

signage, and nature trails. They provide learning opportunities for children and adults alike, promoting environmental education, ecological awareness, and appreciation for the natural world. Notable Examples of City Parks: Central Park - New York City, USA Hyde Park - London, UK Golden Gate Park - San Francisco, USA Millennium Park - Chicago, USA Yoyogi Park - Tokyo, Japan Parc de la Ciutadella - Barcelona, Spain Vondelpark - Amsterdam, Netherlands Grant Park - Chicago, USA City parks are essential components of urban infrastructure, offering residents and visitors a space to connect with nature, engage in recreational activities, and foster community spirit. They contribute to the overall quality of life in cities and enhance the urban environment by providing accessible and inclusive green spaces.

### **3.1.9. Botanical gardens**

Botanical gardens are specialized gardens that display a wide variety of plants, both native and exotic, for educational, scientific, and aesthetic purposes. These gardens are often run by universities, research institutions, or dedicated organizations with a focus on the study, conservation, and promotion of plant diversity. Botanical gardens serve as living museums, offering visitors the opportunity to explore and learn about plant species from around the world. Here are some key features and functions of botanical gardens: Plant Collections: Botanical gardens house extensive collections of plants, ranging from common species to rare and endangered ones. These collections may include trees, shrubs, flowers, herbs, ferns, succulents, and more. Plants are often organized according to their taxonomy, geographical regions, or specific themes. Education and Research: Botanical gardens play a crucial role in plant-related research and education. They offer educational programs, workshops, and guided tours for visitors of all ages. Botanical gardens also contribute to scientific research, studying plant taxonomy, conservation, ecology, and other areas of botanical study. Conservation and Biodiversity: Many botanical gardens actively participate in plant conservation efforts. They maintain living collections of endangered plant species, conduct research on plant conservation techniques, and collaborate with other institutions to preserve biodiversity. Botanical gardens may also have seed banks or participate in international conservation networks. Display Gardens: Botanical gardens feature various types of display gardens that showcase plants in aesthetically pleasing arrangements. These gardens often include themed areas like rose gardens, rock gardens, water gardens, tropical gardens, or desert gardens. Display gardens allow visitors to appreciate the beauty and diversity of plants from different regions and climates. Greenhouses: Botanical gardens commonly have greenhouses that provide controlled environments for growing delicate or exotic plants. Greenhouses allow the cultivation of plant species that may not thrive in the local climate. They provide visitors with a chance to explore tropical, subtropical, or arid environments within the garden. Interpretive Centers and Exhibits: Botanical gardens frequently have interpretive centers or visitor exhibits that provide information about plants, their ecological importance, and their cultural significance. These centers may include interactive displays, herbarium collections, botanical art, or multimedia presentations to engage and educate visitors. Community Engagement and Recreation: Botanical gardens often host events, workshops, and community activities, such as plant sales, art exhibitions, or gardening classes. They serve as gathering places for gardening enthusiasts, nature lovers, and families seeking recreational and leisure activities in a natural setting. Aesthetics and Inspiration: Beyond their scientific and educational functions, botanical gardens are also appreciated for their aesthetic beauty. They provide serene and visually appealing landscapes, combining various colors, textures, and fragrances. Botanical gardens offer inspiration to gardeners, artists, and anyone seeking solace in nature. Notable Botanical

Gardens: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew - London, the UK New York Botanical Garden - New York City, USA Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden - Cape Town, South Africa Singapore Botanic Gardens - Singapore Jardim Botânico - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney - Sydney, Australia Keukenhof Gardens - Lisse, Netherlands Missouri Botanical Garden - St. Louis, USA Botanical gardens provide valuable resources for plant enthusiasts, researchers, and the general public. They serve as important centers for botanical knowledge, conservation, and appreciation of the natural world. Visitors can explore diverse plant collections, engage in educational activities, and find inspiration in the beauty and wonder of the plant kingdom.

### **3.1.10. Contemporary gardens**

Contemporary gardens, also known as modern gardens, are a popular style of garden design that emphasizes clean lines, simplicity, and harmonious integration with the surrounding environment. These gardens are characterized by their sleek, minimalist aesthetics, innovative use of materials, and focus on functionality. Here are some key features and elements commonly found in contemporary gardens: Minimalism: Contemporary gardens often embody the principle of "less is more." They embrace simplicity and clean lines, avoiding excessive ornamentation and clutter. Minimalist plantings and a limited color palette contribute to the overall sense of calm and order. Structural Design: Contemporary gardens often incorporate geometric shapes and structures, such as rectangular or square beds, pathways, and water features. These elements create a sense of order and provide a strong visual impact. Additionally, contemporary gardens may include architectural features like pergolas, decks, and outdoor seating areas. Materials: The choice of materials plays a crucial role in contemporary garden design. Common materials include concrete, steel, glass, and wood. These materials are used for paving, decking, walls, and furniture. They are often selected for their clean, sleek appearance and ability to withstand the elements. Plant Selection: In contemporary gardens, plantings are typically kept simple and well-maintained.

The focus is often on foliage rather than flowers, with an emphasis on architectural plants, ornamental grasses, and evergreen shrubs. Large, bold foliage with contrasting textures can create striking visual interest. Outdoor Living Spaces: Contemporary gardens are designed to be functional outdoor living spaces. They often include seating areas, outdoor kitchens, fire pits, and entertainment zones. These spaces are carefully integrated into the overall design, creating a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor living. Lighting: Thoughtful lighting is an important aspect of contemporary garden design. Well-placed lighting fixtures can enhance the atmosphere, create focal points, and extend the usability of the garden into the evening hours. LED lighting is often used for its energy efficiency and flexibility in achieving different effects. Sustainability: Many contemporary gardens incorporate sustainable practices and eco-friendly features. This may include rainwater harvesting systems, permeable paving to reduce runoff, native or drought-tolerant plantings, and the use of organic fertilizers. These elements align with the growing focus on environmental responsibility and conservation. Artistic and Sculptural Elements: Contemporary gardens often incorporate art and sculpture as focal points or as a way to add visual interest. These installations can be abstract, modern, or conceptual, serving as unique features within the garden. Contemporary gardens offer a fresh and streamlined approach to outdoor spaces, combining functionality, aesthetics, and sustainability. They provide a harmonious and tranquil retreat that is in tune with the modern lifestyle.

### **3.1.11. Healing gardens artistic expressions in gardens**

Healing gardens often incorporate artistic expressions as a way to enhance the therapeutic and sensory experience for visitors. These artistic elements can contribute to creating a peaceful and calming environment that promotes healing, relaxation, and well-being. Here are some common forms of artistic expression found in healing gardens:

**Sculptures and Installations:** Sculptures and art installations can be strategically placed throughout the garden to provide focal points and evoke emotional responses. These artworks can be abstract, representational, or symbolic, and they often blend harmoniously with the natural surroundings. Sculptures made from natural materials like stone or wood can create a sense of connection with the environment.

**Water Features:** Water features such as fountains, cascades, or reflective pools are not only visually appealing but also add a soothing element to healing gardens. The sound of flowing water can create a calming atmosphere, mask noise pollution, and promote relaxation. Water features can be enhanced with artistic elements like sculptural water jets, mosaic tiles, or decorative aquatic plants.

**Mosaic Art:** Mosaic art is a popular choice for adding color, texture, and visual interest to healing gardens. Mosaic tiles can be used to create murals, pathways, seating areas, or decorative accents on walls and structures. The intricate designs and vibrant colors of mosaics can stimulate the senses and create a sense of enchantment and beauty.

**Garden Structures and Architecture:** Architectural elements within healing gardens, such as pergolas, arbors, and gazebos, can be designed with artistic flair. These structures can serve as focal points and provide shaded areas for relaxation and contemplation. Incorporating unique design elements, such as curved lines, latticework, or ornate details, adds artistic expression to the garden.

**Garden Furniture and Accessories:** The selection of furniture and accessories in healing gardens can also contribute to the overall artistic expression. The design and materials of seating arrangements, benches, tables, and plant containers can be chosen to harmonize with the garden's aesthetics. Consideration should be given to the comfort and functionality of the furniture while ensuring that it complements the overall artistic vision.

**Garden Murals and Wall Art:** Walls or fences surrounding the healing garden can be transformed into vibrant murals or decorated with wall art. These artistic expressions can depict scenes from nature, abstract designs, or inspirational quotes. Murals and wall art can provide a visual focal point, create a sense of depth, and enhance the garden's ambiance.

**Sensory Gardens:** In healing gardens designed specifically for sensory experiences, artistic expressions play a crucial role. Elements like wind chimes, kinetic sculptures, interactive installations, or musical instruments can engage visitors' senses of touch, sight, sound, and even smell. These features encourage active participation and provide therapeutic benefits. The integration of artistic expressions in healing gardens offers an opportunity for visitors to engage with their surroundings on a deeper level. Through visual beauty, tactile experiences, and a sense of wonder, art in healing gardens contributes to creating a nurturing and restorative environment for individuals seeking solace and healing.

### **3.1.12. Sculptures and statuary**

Sculpture gardens, also known as statuary gardens, are specialized types of gardens that focus primarily on the display of sculptures and statues. These gardens are designed to showcase and celebrate the artistry and beauty of three-dimensional artworks in an outdoor setting. Here is some information about sculpture gardens:

**Display of Sculptures:** The primary purpose of sculpture gardens is to exhibit sculptures and statues as the main artistic feature. These gardens provide a curated space where visitors can appreciate and engage with a diverse range of sculptures, including works by renowned artists. The sculptures can be made

from various materials such as stone, metal, wood, or even more unconventional materials. **Artistic Integration:** Sculpture gardens are carefully designed to integrate sculptures into the natural landscape. The placement of sculptures takes into account factors such as scale, sightlines, and the surrounding environment. The goal is to create a harmonious relationship between the sculptures and the garden elements, allowing each artwork to stand out while complementing the overall aesthetics of the garden. **Landscape Design:** The landscape design of sculpture gardens is often structured and well-organized to provide a framework for displaying the sculptures effectively. Elements such as pathways, lawns, garden beds, and water features are strategically designed to guide visitors through the garden while providing appropriate spaces for sculptures to be viewed from different angles. **Variety of Styles:** Sculpture gardens can feature sculptures in various styles, including contemporary, abstract, figurative, or traditional. This diversity allows visitors to explore different artistic expressions and experience a wide range of emotions and perspectives. **Interaction and Engagement:** Sculpture gardens often encourage visitor interaction and engagement with the artworks. This can include providing seating areas near sculptures, allowing visitors to touch or even interact with certain sculptures, or providing informational plaques or signs that offer insights into the artists and their works. **Educational and Cultural Significance:** Sculpture gardens often have educational and cultural significance. They can serve as outdoor museums, providing educational opportunities for visitors to learn about art history, sculpture techniques, and the artists themselves. Sculpture gardens may also host temporary exhibitions, artist talks, workshops, or events that further enrich the visitor's experience. **Reflection and Contemplation:** Sculpture gardens offer a tranquil and contemplative environment where visitors can reflect, relax, and appreciate the beauty of art and nature. The integration of sculptures within the garden landscape provides opportunities for introspection and connection with the artworks and the surrounding environment. Sculpture gardens provide a unique and immersive experience for art lovers and nature enthusiasts alike. They offer a chance to explore the fascinating world of three-dimensional art while enjoying the beauty of well-designed gardens (Rahmat, 2022).

### 3.1.13. Water features and fountains

Water features and fountains are popular elements in garden design, adding a sense of tranquility, beauty, and movement to outdoor spaces. They can range from small, simple installations to large, intricate designs. Here's some information about water features and fountains in gardens: **Aesthetic Appeal:** Water features and fountains serve as focal points within gardens, capturing the attention and creating a visual impact. They can enhance the overall aesthetics of the garden, adding a sense of elegance, charm, and sophistication. The sight and sound of flowing water create a soothing ambiance and contribute to a peaceful atmosphere. **Relaxation and Stress Relief:** The sound of water cascading or gently trickling can have a calming effect on the mind and help reduce stress. Water features and fountains provide a natural form of white noise, masking unwanted sounds and creating a tranquil environment. The presence of water in gardens can promote relaxation, meditation, and a sense of well-being. **Wildlife Attraction:** Water features in gardens can attract various forms of wildlife, including birds, butterflies, and frogs. Birds are particularly drawn to water for drinking and bathing, making water features a delightful addition for birdwatchers. The presence of wildlife adds an element of liveliness and natural beauty to the garden. **Variety of Designs:** Water features and fountains come in a wide range of designs, styles, and sizes, allowing for versatility in garden design. They can be formal or informal, contemporary or traditional, depending on the overall theme and style of the garden. Water features can

include ponds, cascades, streams, reflecting pools, or even unique sculptural installations. Integration with Plants: Water features and fountains can be integrated with plants to create a harmonious and cohesive design. Water plants, such as water lilies or lotus, can be added to ponds or shallow areas of the water feature, adding beauty and enhancing the natural ecosystem (Glushchenko, 2022). Surrounding the water feature with aquatic or moisture-loving plants can further enhance the overall aesthetics. Architectural Elements: Fountains, in particular, can serve as architectural elements within the garden, adding structure, height, and grandeur. They can be designed to match the style of the garden or the surrounding architecture, ranging from classical and formal designs to modern and abstract creations. Fountains often become the focal point of the garden, drawing attention and becoming a conversation piece. Lighting Effects: Water features and fountains can be accentuated with appropriate lighting, creating stunning visual effects during nighttime. Well-placed lighting fixtures can highlight the water's movement, create a shimmering effect, or cast dramatic shadows. Lighting also extends the enjoyment of the water feature into the evening hours, adding a magical and enchanting ambiance. When incorporating water features and fountains in gardens, it's important to consider factors such as maintenance, water conservation, and safety. Proper installation, regular cleaning, and appropriate water circulation systems are crucial for their long-term functionality and enjoyment.

### 3.2. Garden architecture

Garden architecture refers to the design and arrangement of structural elements within a garden or outdoor space. It involves the careful planning and integration of various architectural features that enhance the functionality, aesthetics, and overall experience of the garden. Here are some key aspects of garden architecture: Pergolas and Arbors: Pergolas and arbors are popular architectural structures in gardens. They provide shade, define spaces, and add vertical interest. These open structures are often covered with climbing plants, such as vines or roses, creating a natural canopy and adding a sense of romance and beauty to the garden. Trellises and Screens: Trellises and screens serve as architectural elements that provide privacy, act as windbreaks, or help define different areas within the garden. They can be made of various materials, such as wood, metal, or even living plant walls. Trellises and screens also offer support for climbing plants, adding greenery and texture to the garden. Decks and Patios: Decks and patios are functional architectural features that extend the living space into the garden. They provide areas for outdoor seating, dining, and entertaining. These hardscape elements can be constructed from materials like wood, stone, concrete, or composite decking, offering durability and versatility in design. Pathways and Walkways: Pathways and walkways are essential architectural elements that guide visitors through the garden and connect different areas. They can be made of various materials, including stone, gravel, or concrete pavers. The design of pathways can range from straight and formal to meandering and naturalistic, depending on the desired garden style. Walls and Fences: Walls and fences serve both functional and aesthetic purposes in garden architecture. They provide privacy, define boundaries, and help create separate garden rooms. These structures can be made of materials like stone, brick, wood, or metal. Walls and fences can also serve as backdrops for climbing plants or provide spaces for decorative elements like art or mirrors. Outdoor Structures: Garden architecture may include various outdoor structures, such as gazebos, pavilions, or garden houses. These structures provide shelter, seating, and focal points within the garden. They can be designed in different styles, from traditional to contemporary, and offer spaces for relaxation, socializing, or enjoying the garden's views. Retaining Walls and Terracing: In gardens with uneven terrain, retaining walls and terracing

are architectural solutions that help create level areas for planting and enjoyment. Retaining walls can be made from natural stone, concrete blocks, or timber, and they provide structural stability while adding visual interest. Terracing allows for the creation of multi-level gardens, providing opportunities for diverse planting and landscaping. Sculptural Elements: Sculptures and artistic installations can be incorporated into garden architecture, adding a unique and aesthetic dimension to the design (Rahmat, 2021). Sculptures can be placed as focal points, integrated into water features, or strategically positioned within the landscape to create visual interest and evoke emotions. Garden architecture encompasses the careful consideration and integration of these elements to create a harmonious and functional outdoor space. It involves a balance between the natural environment and man-made structures, enhancing the overall beauty and enjoyment of the garden.

### **3.2.1. Ecological awareness and sustainability**

**Ecological Awareness and Sustainability:** Garden architecture can prioritize ecological awareness and sustainability by incorporating environmentally-friendly practices. This may include using native plantings, employing water-efficient irrigation systems, incorporating rainwater harvesting techniques, and implementing organic gardening methods. Green roofs and walls, as well as sustainable materials in construction, are also examples of eco-conscious design elements (Ekamilasari & Pursitasari, 2021).

### **3.2.2. Community engagement and recreation**

**Community Engagement and Recreation:** Garden architecture can play a role in fostering community engagement and providing recreational opportunities. Public gardens and parks, for example, can be designed with spaces for community events, outdoor performances, and social gatherings. Play areas for children, sports fields, and walking trails are examples of recreational elements that promote physical activity and encourage community interaction.

### **3.2.3. Therapeutic benefits and healing gardens**

**Therapeutic Benefits and Healing Gardens:** Garden architecture can be focused on creating therapeutic and healing spaces. Healing gardens are designed to provide solace, reduce stress, and promote emotional well-being. Elements like sensory plants, soothing water features, accessible pathways, and comfortable seating areas are incorporated to offer a calming and restorative environment. Such gardens can be found in healthcare facilities, hospices, and rehabilitation centers.

### **3.2.4. Technological advancements and smart gardens**

**Technological Advancements and Smart Gardens:** Garden architecture can embrace technological advancements to create smart gardens. This involves incorporating automation, sensor systems, and smart irrigation to optimize water usage, monitor plant health, and manage environmental conditions. Integrated lighting systems, wireless connectivity, and interactive elements can enhance the garden experience and provide educational opportunities through digital displays and virtual tours.

By considering ecological sustainability, engaging the community, promoting therapeutic benefits, and incorporating technological advancements, garden architecture can become a dynamic and innovative field, catering to various needs and enhancing the overall experience of outdoor spaces (Aziz, 2019).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Gardens and parks have stood as timeless embodiments of mankind's artistic and harmonious relationship with the natural world. From ancient origins to contemporary innovations, these green sanctuaries continue to captivate and inspire people across the globe. By exploring their rich history, diverse typologies, and artistic expressions, we gain a deeper appreciation for the profound impact they have on our lives and the world around us. As we move forward, it is essential to nurture and cherish these spaces, ensuring they remain as vibrant and cherished as they have been throughout history.

In conclusion, the future of gardens and parks holds immense promise and significance. As our cities continue to expand and technological advancements shape our lives, these green spaces will play a vital role in providing a much-needed balance between urbanization and nature.

Gardens and parks are not merely spaces of beauty and recreation; they are essential for our overall well-being. As more research reveals the benefits of spending time in nature, we can expect a growing emphasis on creating and preserving these sanctuaries in our urban landscapes. In the coming years, we can anticipate innovative approaches to garden and park design that integrate sustainable practices and enhance biodiversity. Vertical gardens, rooftop parks, and urban farming initiatives will become increasingly prevalent, allowing us to maximize space and create green oases within the concrete jungle. Furthermore, technology will likely play a crucial role in the future of gardens and parks. Smart irrigation systems, sensor-based monitoring, and automated maintenance tools will enable efficient resource management and ensure the long-term health of these green spaces. Virtual reality and augmented reality experiences might also be incorporated to enhance visitors' interactions and provide educational opportunities. With the pressing issue of climate change, gardens, and parks will serve as crucial tools for mitigating its effects. Green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and bioswales, will help manage stormwater runoff and improve urban resilience. Additionally, these spaces will serve as important carbon sinks, absorbing greenhouse gases and contributing to climate stabilization.

The future of gardens and parks is bright, with a focus on sustainability, innovation, and the well-being of both humans and the environment. They will continue to be cherished havens, fostering a sense of community, promoting physical and mental health, and reconnecting us with nature. As we look ahead, let us recognize the immense value of these green spaces and strive to preserve and enhance them for generations to come.

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#### 6. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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