

# Design Analysis of Chinese Classical Gardens

Yutong Yang  
yang4160@umn.edu

UROP Mentor: Prof. Arthur Chen  
chenx121@umn.edu  
CDES: School of Architecture

# Design and construction

## Daoist: native philosophy

desires to obtain peace of mind through connection with nature.

Pine, bamboo and chrysanthemum are three vital plants that symbolize a scholar's ambition to be noble, staunch, incorruptible. water (*Yin*) is arteries of the earth, mountains (*Yang*) is the skeleton.

## Confucian: traditional philosophy

regulation and social hierarchy.

## Buddhism: religious

religious and spiritual framework

new form of architecture (temples, pagodas, monasteries)

## Five contributors of design:

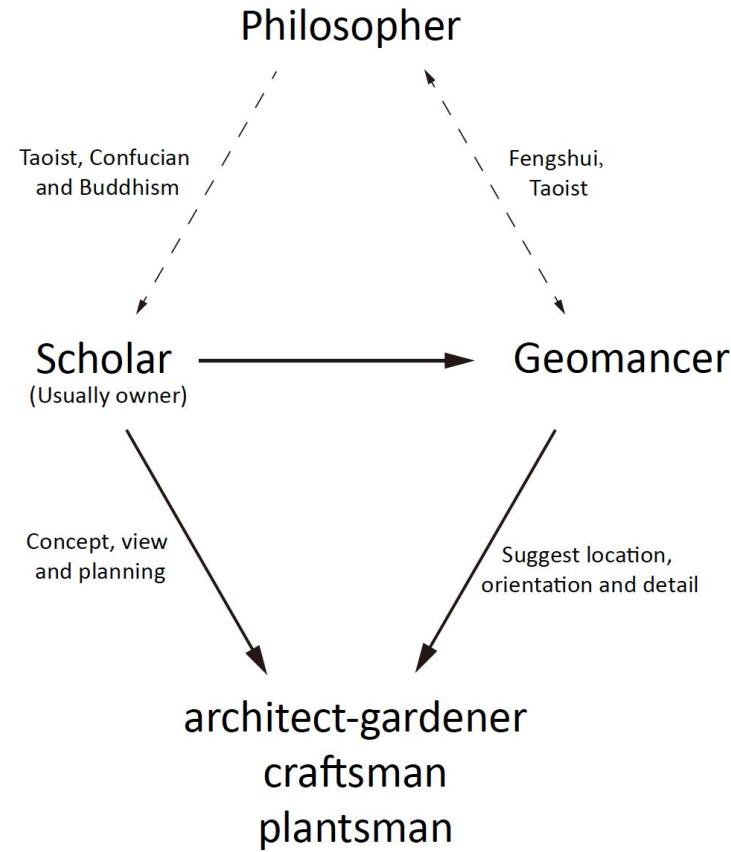
Scholar (ideas and motifs)

Architect-gardener (conceptual design of a garden)

Master craftsman (schematic design and construction)

Plants man (landscape and vegetation)

Geomancer (Feng Shui)



# Garden- South and casual

## Design principles:

- Develop from the nature and abstracts the nature.
  - Picturesque gardens- a designed wilderness.
  - Landform and hydrological as fundamental elements and trees and architecture as ornamental elements.
- Architecture and natural scenes intertwine within limited spaces.
  - Scale of architecture responds to that of vegetations.
  - Zigzag corridors add to the fluidity of space.
  - Pavilions define designed scenes
  - Bridges emphasize topography and water.
- Emphasize on the beauty in paintings and in literatures
  - Mountain-and-water paintings and poets are early concept and design guides.
  - Scenes are perfectly frames as paintings.
  - Various beauties when people view them statically in pavilion and walking in corridors.



## *Yuan Ye:*

園 (Yuan, means garden) was written in a combination of 5 vital components of the garden. The outer edge 土 represents walls, the earth 土 represents architecture and structures, the smaller 土 represents water and ponds, the 衣 represents stones and plants.

# Garden- North and formal

## **Beijing and surrounding areas**

Developed in Ming and Qing Dynasty.

Design under the strict regulation of social hierarchy.

### **Sihe Yuan: traditional residential housing.**

Traditional housing in the Beijing are mostly built on the four sides of a courtyard.

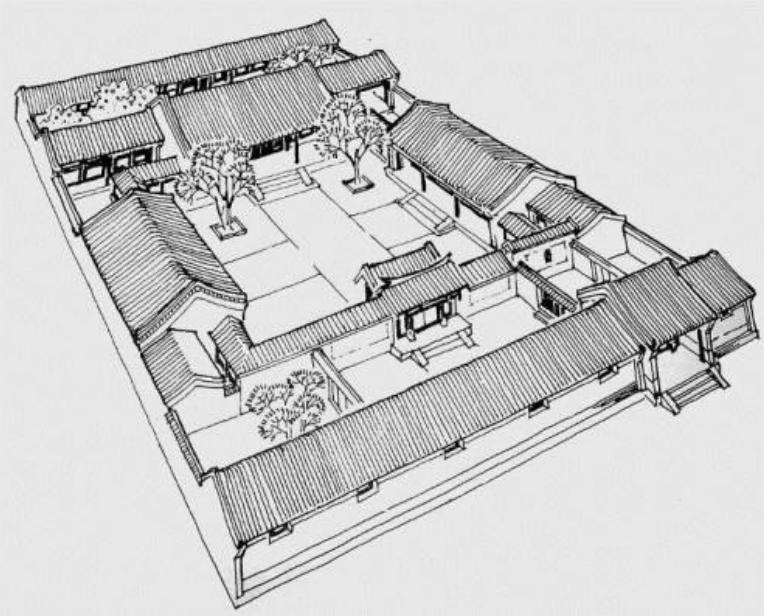
Symmetrical arrangement along the central axis.

The layout and sizes are designed based on regulation of the family centered patriarch system, feudal ranking system, moral rules and Feng Shui.

### **Gardens:**

Learning from Gardens in the south and combine with local dwelling designs.

The size, use of ornaments are applied based on owners' social status.



# Master of Nets Garden (Wangshi Yuan)

## History:

1140 (Southern Song Dynasty): built by Shi Zhengzhi,  
Named Wanjuan Tang.

1765 (Qing Dynasty): Renovated by Song Zongyuan,  
Named Wangshi Yuan.

1917: Owned by Zhang Xiluan, Named Yi Yuan

1940: Name changed back to Wangshi Yuan

1950-58: renovated by the government and open to the  
public



# Master of Nets Garden (Wangshi Yuan)

Pounds at the center with edges defined by artificially picked stones.

Covered corridors as major circulation:

They connect buildings, pavilions and designed scenes into a system.

Different scenic stages on each side of a corridor:

The inner side faces the lake and the designed wilderness. A therteric moment of wilderness and people through the picture frames defined by light weight wood columns.

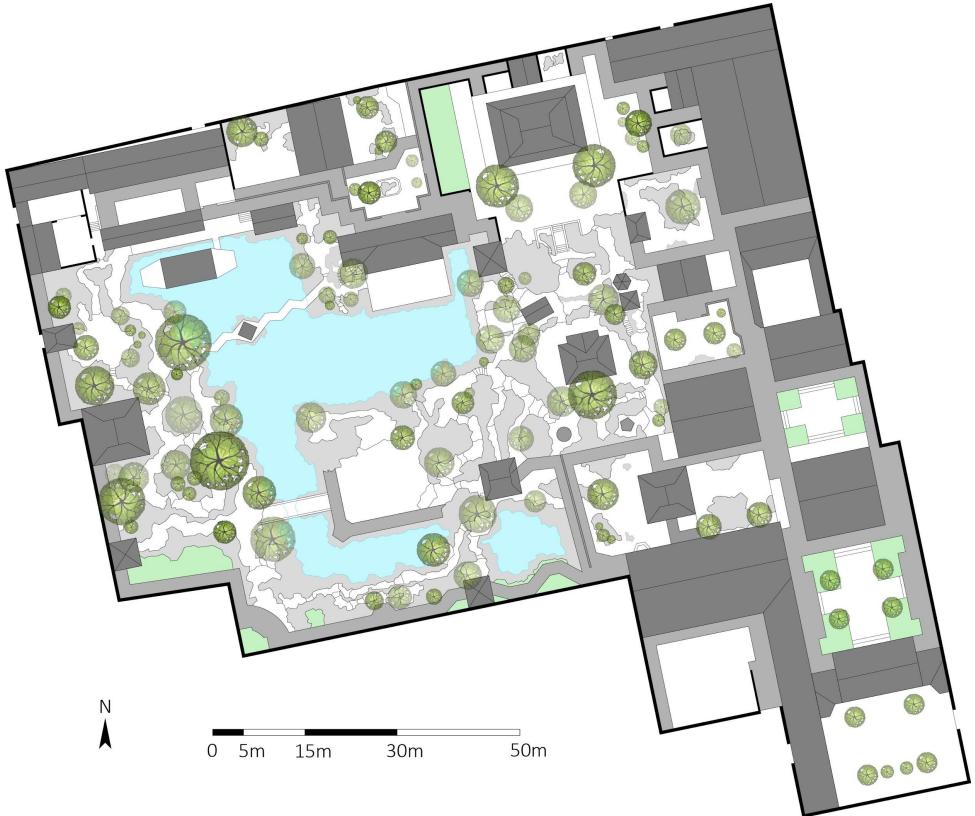
The outer side faces small scenic stage gardens that only available at special angle or through a designed openings.



# Lion Grove Garden (Shizi Lin)

## History:

- 1342: Built as backyard to Lion Grove Temple in memory of Tianru Zen Master. (Pronounce similar to mentor and student)
- 1589: Become Personal garden, named She Yuan.
- 1917: Bought and renovated by Bei Runsheng.
- 1954: Given to the government and open to the public.



# Lion Grove Garden (Shizi Lin)

## Picked and crafted stones

A harmonious combination of religious belief and garden design

## Covered corridors are attached to walls:

Corridors have wide openings facing water and smaller framed views facing architecture

The inner side faces the lake and the designed wilderness.

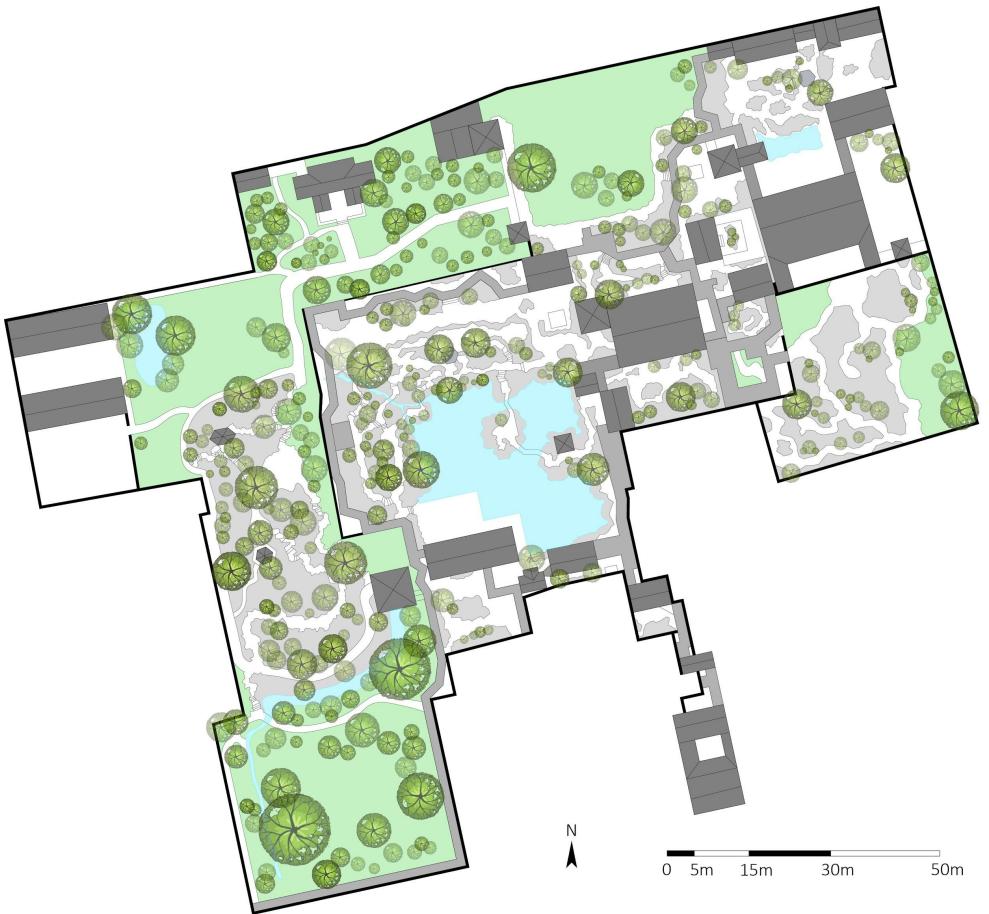
The outer side faces small scenic stage gardens and interior.



# Lingering Garden (Liu Yuan)

## History:

- 1593: Designed by Zhou Shichen for Xu Taishi. Named East Garden.
- 1798: Rebuilt based on existing garden named Hanbi Zhuang. (Liu's Family)
- 1823: Open to the public but lack of cares and renovation.
- 1876: Renovated and name changed to Liu Yuan.
- 1954: Renovated by the government and open to the public.



# Lingering Garden (Liu Yuan)

## Open wilderness area-west

Supporting spaces with wider view and more open green area.

## Main garden-center

Classical garden with water at center and surrounded by stones and architecture.

Corridor with view directed to water are major paths.

## Scenic stone garden-east

Small space that attached to the main garden

Casual and detailed in stone design.



# Humble Administrator's Garden (Zhuozheng Yuan)

## History:

1500s (Ming Dynasty): Built by Wang Xianchen,  
Named Zhuozheng Yuan.

1530s: Owned by Xu Family. (Guixuantianju-east part)

1648: Renovated by Chen Zhilin.

1680s: Sold and separated into 2 gardens. (Fu Yuan-middle part, Shu Yuan-west part)

1809 (Qing Dynasty): Rebuilt as Fu Yuan

1952-60: 3 parts are combined and renovated by the government and open to the public



# Humble Administrator's Garden (Zhuozheng Yuan)

## Large pound and flourish trees

Water took % of entire garden and provide large open space

Trees and flowers are dominated character.

Islands and pavilions as landmarks

## Limit architecture and corridors

Provide more open view to wilderness

Geometrical ornaments and patterns



# Prince Gong Mansion (Gong Wang Fu)

## History:

- 1776: Built at He Shen's Mansion
- 1799: Given to Prince Qing and his family.
- 1850: Renovated and given to Prince Gong
- 1914: Sold to Furen University
- 1982-2008: Comprehensively renovated by the government and open to the public



# Prince Gong Mansion (Gong Wang Fu)

A combination of Garden from North and South.

**Mansion:** Formal residence and office

A highly regulated, symmetrical dwelling system.

An expanded Sihe Yuan

Use bright red and green instead of white and gray.

**Garden:** Casual Southern Garden

Keeping the central axis.

Similar orientation of Jiangnan Gardens.

Added Western stone ornaments and gates in late Qing.



# The Imperial Garden

## History:

1420: Built as part of Ming Forbidden City, Named GongHou Yuan.

1678-1735(Young Zheng): Name changed to Imperial Garden.

1959:- Renovated by government and open to the public.



# The Imperial Garden

Private Garden for the imperial families.

Symmetry planning and regulated geometry

Located on the Central axis of The Forbidden City.

Formal symmetrical planning that direct view from north looking to south.

Formal building on axis and casual pavilions along the wall.

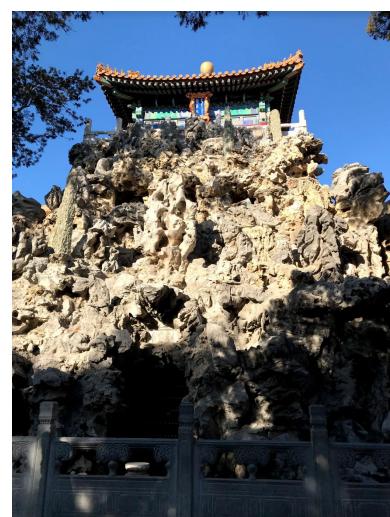
Learning from Zuzhou Gardens

Picturesque scenes used in smaller scale along the wall.

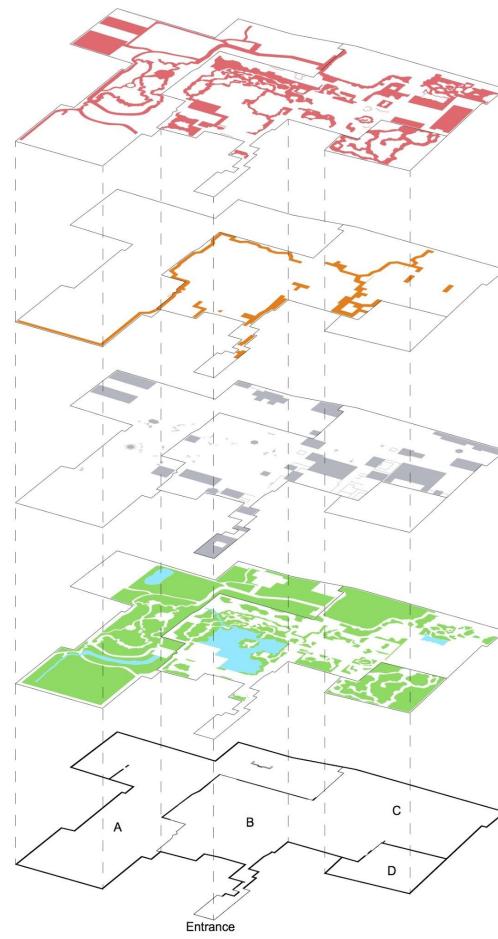
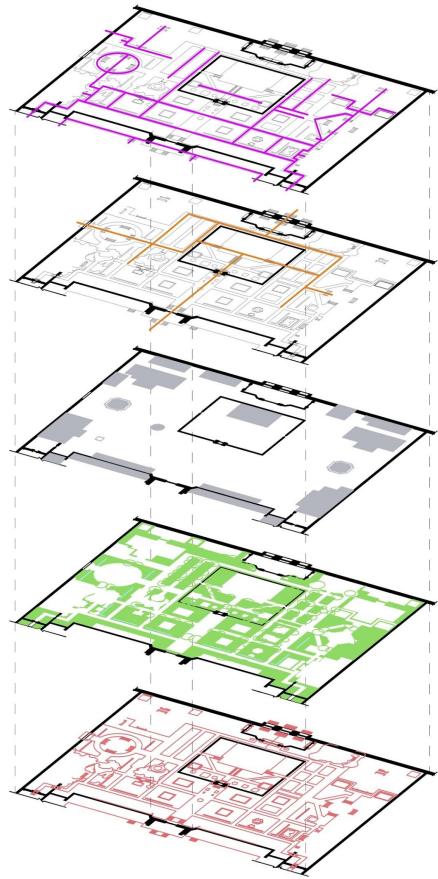
Use stones as ornamental elements around pavilion.

Water becomes minor elements due to difference in climate.

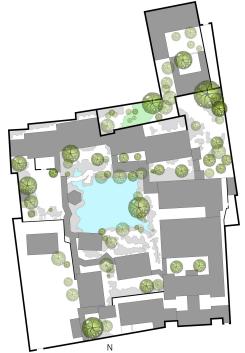
Pavement of vegetation, stories and animals.



# Layers from North and South



# Plans of same scales



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