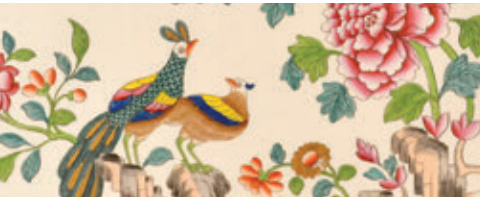


The Making of a  
**Japanese Garden**  
in Iowa



*Photographs and images are identified on pages 34 – 37 in the back of this booklet.*



# A New Home at 1314 Mulberry

Laura Musser McColm and her husband Edwin McColm moved into their new home at 1314 Mulberry Avenue at a time when wealthy Americans built country estates. Completed in 1908, the 12-room house was situated on 2.72 acres. As the daughter of a lumber baron and the wife of a local department store owner (and later, as an officer of the store), Laura was one of Muscatine's trendsetters in the first decades of the 1900s.

Her installation of a Japanese garden around 1930 reflected the cultural interests of her time. Because her home served as a venue for many gatherings and descriptions of her garden were printed in local newspapers, Laura's Japanese Garden inspired others in Muscatine to incorporate Japanese features in their own gardens.



# A Young Woman Captivated by Japan

In her youth, Laura, like others in her social position at the turn of the century, was introduced to an array of cultural experiences. Some of these experiences sparked an enthusiasm for Japanese-inspired fashion, home décor, operas, and gardens.

*Laura's formal training included Grant's Seminary, a Chicago boarding and day school for artistic young women. Laura developed her fine mezzo-soprano voice at Grant's and graduated in 1896. She then traveled to Europe in 1897-98, studying under a noted vocal teacher in Paris.*



---

Miss Laura Musser is fast becoming one of Muscatine's leading soprano, and she is sure to delight every one with her solo in the Y. M. C. A. concert, March 27th.

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*Clifton R. Musser, Laura's cousin's son, built a collection of furniture, ivory carvings, tea sets, vases, and other porcelain wares from Japan and China. These objects date to the late 1800s and early 1900s and are now part of the collection of the Muscatine Art Center.*

*This dress belonging to Sarah Elizabeth Berger Musser dates to the 1870s to 1880s and features etched pagoda images on the buttons. Sarah was the second wife of Richard Musser, brother of Peter C. Musser.*

*Gift of the Lorraine W. & John C. Stevens Family*

Laura's generation was not the first to be captivated by Japan. In the second half of the 1800s, American and European consumers were drawn to Japanese culture, art, fashion, and design, as goods from Japan began to flow to the West following two centuries of highly limited trade.

Although Laura's first exposures to Japanese culture are not documented, her experiences at the 1893 and 1904 World's Fairs kindled an interest in Japanese design that she further developed over many decades. This interest culminated around 1930 with the installation of the Japanese Garden.





# 1893 World's Fair, Chicago

As a teenager, Laura was one of the more than 27 million people to attend the 1893 World's Fair "Columbian Exposition" in Chicago. Laura's interest in Japanese style may have begun with her experiences at the fair which included a Japanese pavilion named "Ho-o-den" ("Phoenix Hall") and a Japanese Tea House.

*World Expositions, starting with the 1851 "Great Exhibition" in London, brought together countries from around the world, spotlighting innovations and new technologies while fostering cultural exchange. From the 1873 "Vienna Exposition" and onward, Japan was among the largest exhibitors. While other nations tended to build modern pavilions, Japan constructed historical-style buildings and gardens that emphasized tranquility, tradition, and beauty.*



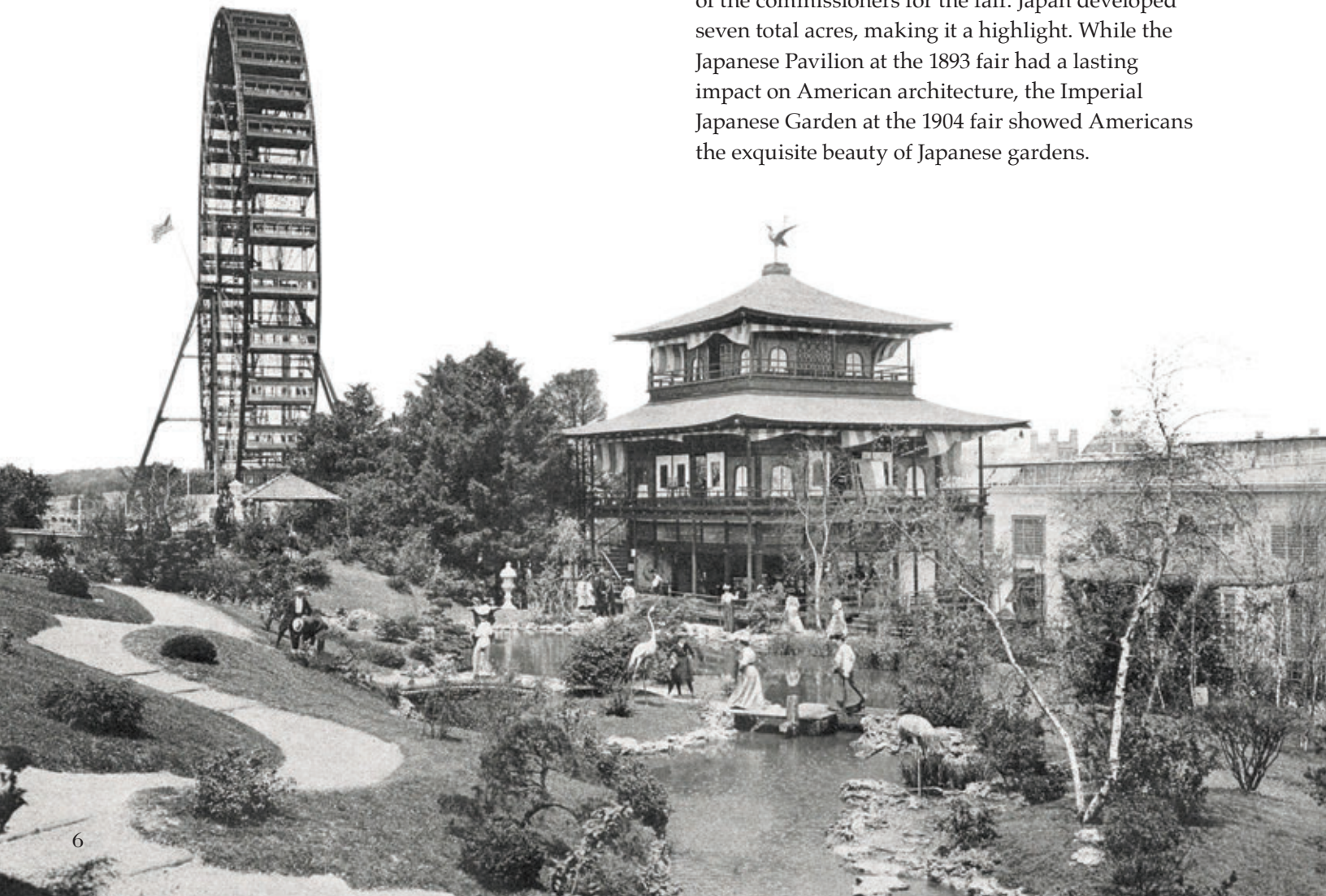
*The Japanese “Ho-o-den” pavilion buildings deeply influenced American architects, particularly Frank Lloyd Wright who had recently arrived in Chicago.*

*The Japanese Tea House and Garden provided a place to rest, purchase refreshments, and experience a new culture.*



# 1904 World's Fair, St. Louis

In 1904, Laura and her husband Edwin McColm attended the "Louisiana Purchase Exposition" in St. Louis. Her brother-in-law, Charles H. Huttig, a bank president and resident of St. Louis, was one of the commissioners for the fair. Japan developed seven total acres, making it a highlight. While the Japanese Pavilion at the 1893 fair had a lasting impact on American architecture, the Imperial Japanese Garden at the 1904 fair showed Americans the exquisite beauty of Japanese gardens.







The Imperial Japanese Garden (opposite page) was a pond garden with bridges, hills, stone lanterns, and twisted bonsai. The garden captured the imagination of many, including Laura's sister and brother-in-law. The couple had a Japanese-style garden installed by George E. Kessler (landscape architect for the 1904 World's Fair) at their home in St. Louis in 1907.

*"Fair Japan" enticed visitors with its 150-foot-tall Japanese-style gate. Operated by a private vendor, fair goers paid a fee to access tea rooms, restaurants, gardens, a large theater, and a Japanese village.*



THE MUSCATINE JOURNAL THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1914

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THE BEST IS  
THE CHEAPEST.

**ONLY A FEW MORE DAYS**  
GREAT BARGAINS IN JAPANESE HIGH ART

An Opportunity not  
to be Missed.

---

## Exceptional Offer Made to Muscatine People

---

THE FAMOUS JAPANESE BAZAAR, WHICH ATTRACTED THOUSANDS OF VISITORS AT THE ST. LOUIS AND PORTLAND EXPOSITIONS HAS BEEN OPENED IN MUSCATINE, AT 105 W. SECOND STREET

---

**A MAGNIFICENT COLLECTION**

---

of Japanese Wares, such as Embroidered Screens, Satsuma Ware, Cloisonne and hand-painted China, and recently unpacked Teak-wood Stands, Inlaid Screens, Carved Chairs, etc., etc., has been placed on sale to be turned into cash regardless of cost.

---

**PRICES ARE THE VERY LOWEST**

---

Because of our determination to dispose of these goods and knowing their true value and worth, we are confident that the people of Muscatine never had such an opportunity to purchase this opportunity and select here-a-while for the cottage or for the most beautiful home in the city. Extra accommodations for the ladies who attend these sales.

---

Sale every afternoon at  
2:30 and every evening  
at 8:00

# The Japanese Bazaar

Come in any time and inspect  
our  
Large Stock.

---

WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO THE JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

---

## Japanese Imports and Culture in Midwestern Homes

While visitors to the World's Fairs and other Expositions directly experienced the wonders of Japanese culture, exposure to Japanese style reached the general American public through newspaper and magazine advertisements for Japanese-inspired fashion, home décor, and landscaping.

*One of Laura's "souvenirs" from the 1904 World's Fair was a commissioned portrait painted by Thomas Riss, completed circa 1907. Austrian-born Riss exhibited at the St. Louis World's Fair where his work earned a gold medal.*

*Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore.*

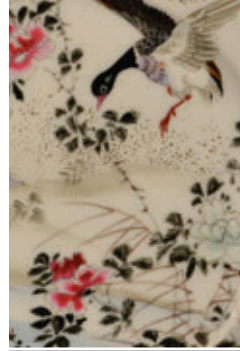




Over time, Laura acquired a variety of objects inspired by Japanese culture. As she established herself as a married woman with a home of her own, she selected furnishings, fabrics, trims, decorative objects, and carpets laden with Japanese motifs. Laura's fondness for *Japonisme* inspired her over a period of many decades.

# McColm & Company

As the wife of the President of Muscatine's leading department store, McColm & Company, Laura's tastes were reflected in the store's merchandise. In 1917, the store opened in a new location in downtown Muscatine. During the grand opening, McColm & Company promoted a "Japanese Reception" with Japanese men in native costume. The *Muscatine News-Tribune* described the store's third floor as "a maze of Oriental beauty" displaying the "delicate artistry of Japan". Oriental rugs, Japanese embroidered panels, furniture made of hand-carved teak, tapestries, and Japanese parasols could be purchased.



Announcing  
The  
Grand Formal  
**OPENING**  
And Reception  
of  
**McColm & Company's**  
beautiful new store, acknowledged the finest in Iowa. Enhanced by every new feature in equipment and system that twentieth century genius can devise.

Four Big Days of Welcome

**TUESDAY** October Ninth—Afternoon and Evening  
**WEDNESDAY** October Tenth—Afternoon and Evening  
**THURSDAY** October Eleventh—Afternoon and Evening  
**FRIDAY** October Twelfth—Afternoon and Evening

**Living Models**  
The Grandest Showings from the Chicago Manufacturer—American Style—Here. In inspiring fashion outfits.

**Jap. Reception**  
An occasion extraordinary. Mutual Japanese in ceremonial reception, signaling the sale of Japan in national goods.

**Apparel Displays**  
Exquisite displays of ultra-fashionable latest wearing apparel, selected only in the exclusive style centers.

**Floral Tokens**  
These floral tokens will be given each lady entering our store—come today—there "a few steps down"—a beautiful introduction.

**Grand Musicale**  
By Large Concert Orchestra  
All Artists

Best Shows (in the Nation yet) Prices For Your Convenience. Parades, Ball Games, Etc., Closed Free.

Special Attractions On Every Floor During The Opening  
Worth Coming Miles To See

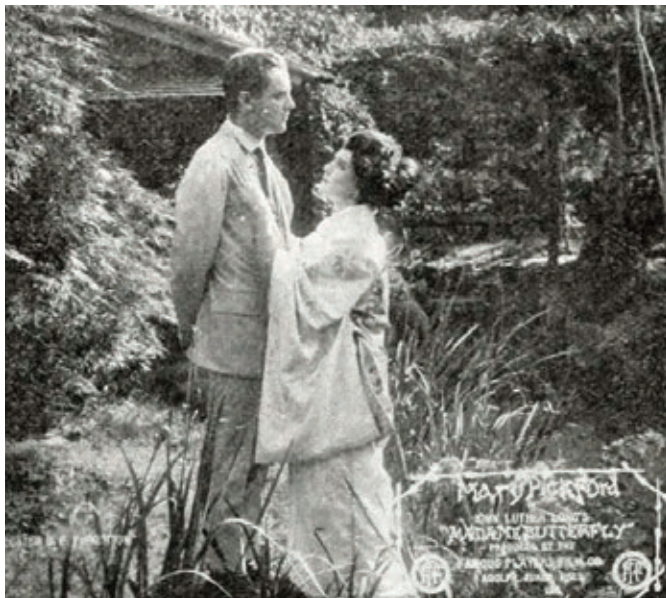
**McCOLM & COMPANY**  
"Where Fashion Reigns Supreme"  
MUSCATINE, IOWA



*The store's suppliers, Marshall Field & Company, as well as A. A. Vantine & Company of New York, advertised Japanese wares.*

The McCole & Co. store was a seven-story structure named "The Laurel Building," combining the first four letters of Laura's name with Edwin's first and middle initials. Laura served as the store's Secretary and Treasurer (and later, President following Edwin's death in 1933).





## Japanese Culture on Stage

As a vocal performer, Laura's taste in music was documented in her collection of sheet music and through newspaper accounts of her performances. Laura was particularly fond of Puccini's opera, *Madame Butterfly*, which was set in Japan and premiered on stage in several versions between 1904 and 1907. Laura gave multiple performances of musical pieces from *Madame Butterfly* such as the 1917 singing of "One Fine Day". The *Muscatine Journal* described her performance as "a remarkable one, plaintive, appealing, and joyous by turn leading to the dramatic climax with a tonal power and melody which swept the audience."



*The opera inspired at least one evening gown in Laura's wardrobe. A black, beaded garment with sheer "wings" dates to around the time of Laura's performance and was perhaps worn during the 1917 concert.*

*Gift of Betty Spies*



The Muscatine community displayed an eagerness for Japanese-inspired goods and culture. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Muscatine hosted a Japanese Garden Fete at the Grand Opera House in 1912. Then, in 1916, Muscatine residents presented *The Mikado*, a Gilbert and Sullivan musical set in Japan. *The Mikado* premiered in 1885 in London.

## How to Entertain Economically

It is the desire of every hostess to entertain in an impressive and delightful manner. To do that in one's home is sometimes difficult—had you ever thought of using the facilities offered by this hotel? Too expensive you think—read these prices and then check them against what a similar party would cost in your own home. You'll find them less with the labor and worries eliminated.

Card parties served in Gold Room, \$10.00  
service charge

Card parties served in Jap Room, \$5.00  
service charge

For all parties of 25 or more at \$1.25 per person. Other than card parties there will be no service charge in Gold Room or Jap Room.

Entertain here—the service will please you, will save time, worry and money.

## The Hotel Muscatine

The Hotel Muscatine offered card parties in the Jap(anese) Room in 1926.





## Japanese Gardens in the Midwest

The American fascination with all things Japanese sparked the creation of hundreds of Japanese-style gardens on both private and public grounds. The West Coast, where Japanese immigrants tended to settle, had the largest number of Japanese-style gardens. However, some of the earliest Japanese-style gardens were constructed on the East Coast in the 1890s.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, the Japanese Garden in Como Park was one of the first public Japanese Gardens in the Midwest. The garden incorporated the Japanese trees and plants from the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair and relied upon the expertise of the landscape architect of the fair's Imperial Garden. Laura may have visited the garden on one of numerous journeys to her brother's home in Little Falls, Minnesota.





The first Japanese-style garden in the Midwest was likely installed by John Bradstreet at his Minneapolis boarding house in the late 1880s. American-born Bradstreet had traveled to Japan to immerse himself in Japanese garden design.

Bradstreet later established the Minneapolis Crafthouse with studios and a showroom for imported Asian antiques and furniture of his own design. It became a tourist destination, and visitors explored the Japanese garden located on the grounds. Laura may have been familiar with the Crafthouse or one of the handful of private gardens designed by Bradstreet.





# Gardens by T. R. Otsuka

During their Chicago trips for McColem & Company to buy from Marshall Field's, Laura and her husband may have heard about or personally visited one or more Japanese gardens. One Midwestern Japanese garden builder, T. R. Otsuka of Chicago, created numerous gardens in Illinois and surrounding states.

Around 1915, Harlow D. Higinbotham, whose father was a partner with Marshall Field's, hired Otsuka to install a Japanese-style garden at his home in Joliet, Illinois. The McColems may have visited the publicly open Fabyan gardens located outside of Chicago in Geneva, Illinois. Otsuka constructed that garden between 1910 and 1920.

*T. R. Otsuka was born in Japan, where he self studied rock garden and pond design. He arrived in Washington state in 1897, and by 1909, lived in Chicago, operating a successful garden business.*



## **JAPANESE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**

**TWENTY-FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE**

*in Japanese Garden Construction. Made in all styles, with a speciality to harmonize American Ground. A true service and economy of time are the marked features. Get ready for next spring.*

**T. R. OTSUKA, 414 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. Room 307, 621 Broadway, New York**



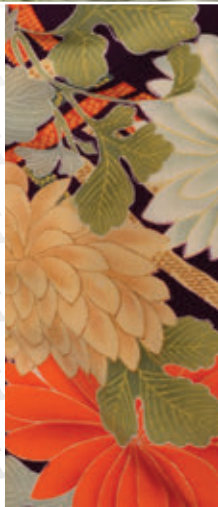
*Otsuka advertised widely in numerous magazines and newspapers. He represented his work at the widely attended Chicago Garden and Flower Show in 1928.*





## Japanese Gardens near **Muscatine**

In the 1910s and 1920s, two Japanese-style gardens were located within fifty miles of Muscatine. One at the Rock Island Arsenal included a naturalistic rock-edged pond and a Japanese-style tea house, constructed in 1919. The Commandant's residence at the Arsenal also served as a venue for social events including a concert and garden party for the National Federation of Musical Clubs in 1921. Perhaps Laura was among the 250 guests at the garden party or at another event held over the years.

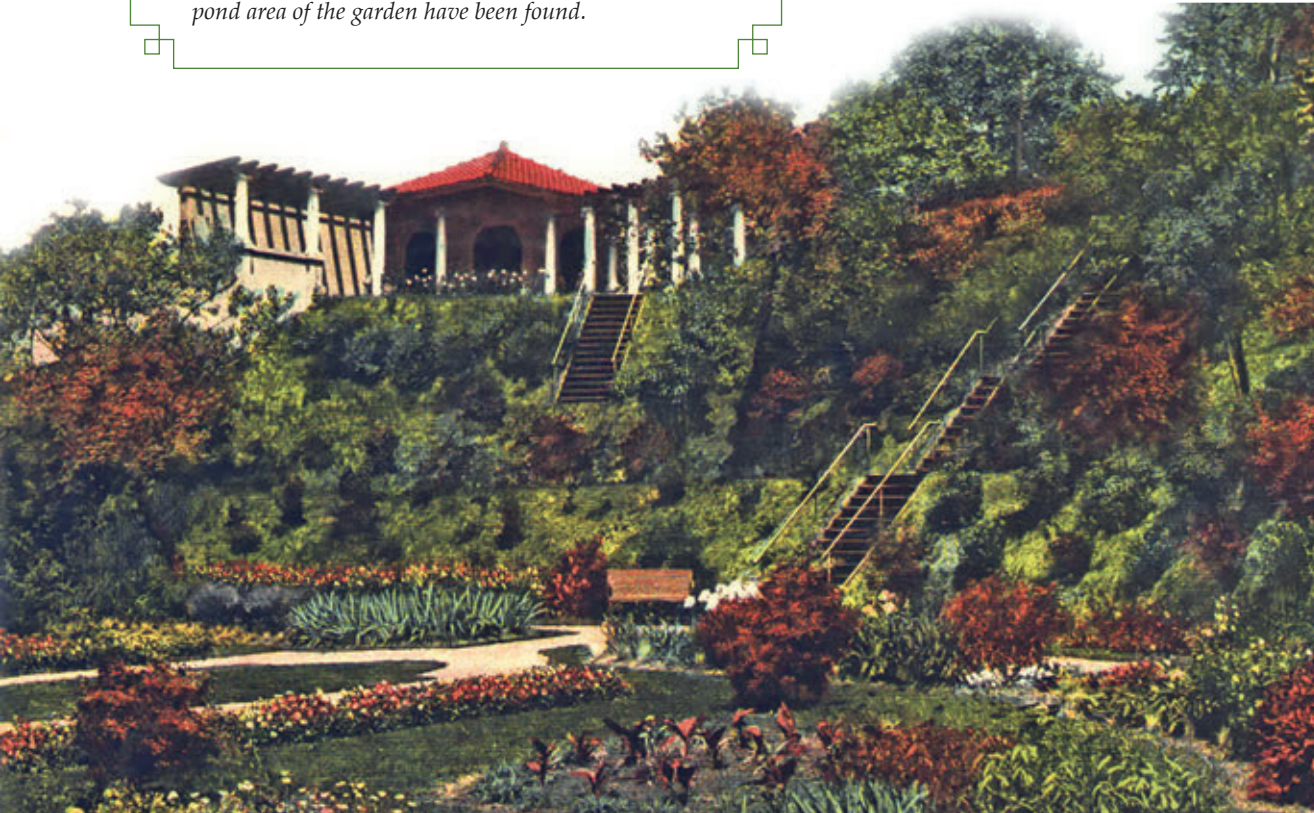


Another nearby Japanese-style garden was built around 1912 for E. P. and Millie Eastman in Burlington, Iowa. Eastman owned a large furniture factory and showroom in Burlington, and the McColms may have been familiar with his furniture business. The garden constructed for the Eastmans was described in the March 1913 issue of *The House Beautiful* magazine.

*Description from the March 1913 issue:*

*“In Mr. Eastman’s garden, a miniature torrent flows down the hillside over stones arranged naturally for its bed. It is cleverly supplied by water-works, and empties into a miniature lake.... The tiny lake is edged with rocks, with overhanging iris.”*

*The garden no longer exists, and no photographs of the pond area of the garden have been found.*



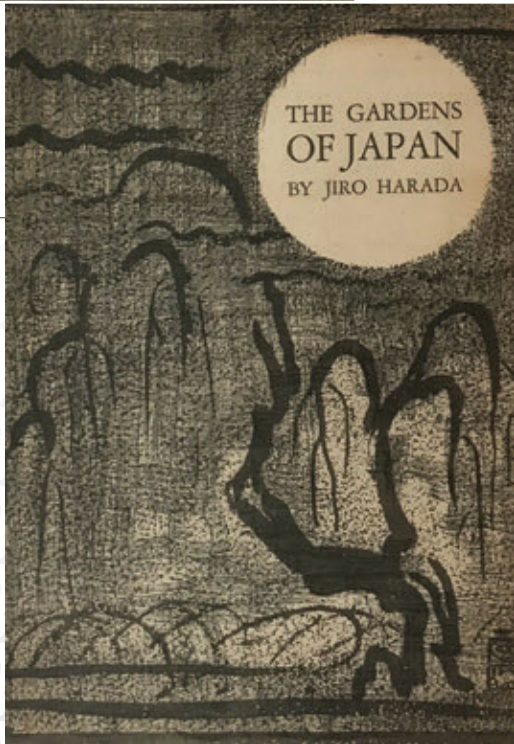
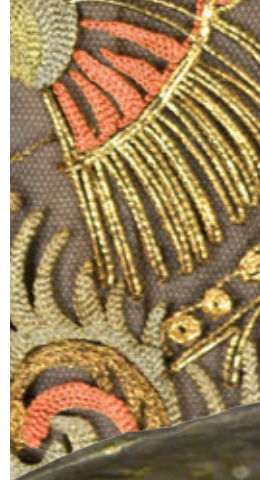


# Garden Inspirations and Unknown Origins

By the time Laura had her garden constructed around 1930, she had likely been considering a garden with Japanese-style features for some time. Laura's garden was a place to express horticultural interests, remind owners of their travels, and provide settings for collections of sculpture and objects. The garden was a point of pride and a place for creative expression.

For many private gardens like Laura's, records have not been found to directly link a landscape designer to a specific garden.

*In the 1920s, home gardening became a phenomenon. Groups of women formed garden clubs, and by the late 1920s, at least 50 local garden clubs were established in Iowa. The Muscatine Garden Club formed in 1928, and documents suggest Laura joined in 1929. During this time, women's magazines and publications dedicated to gardening featured Japanese gardens. In 1928, just prior to the construction of Laura's garden, Jiro Harada released the book, *The Gardens of Japan*.*

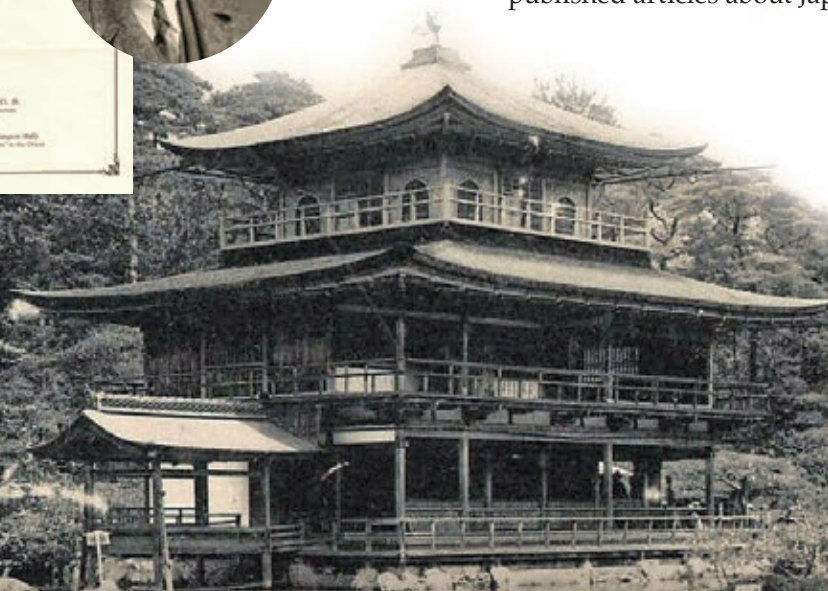
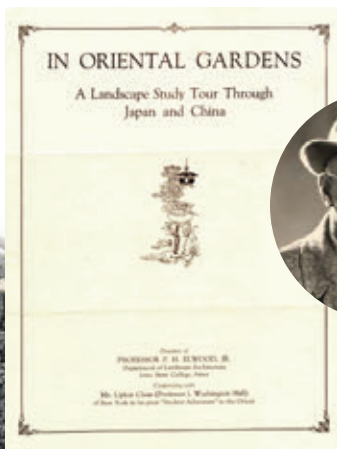


THE GARDENS  
OF JAPAN  
BY JIRO HARADA



# Iowa State Landscape Professor and Students Explore Japan

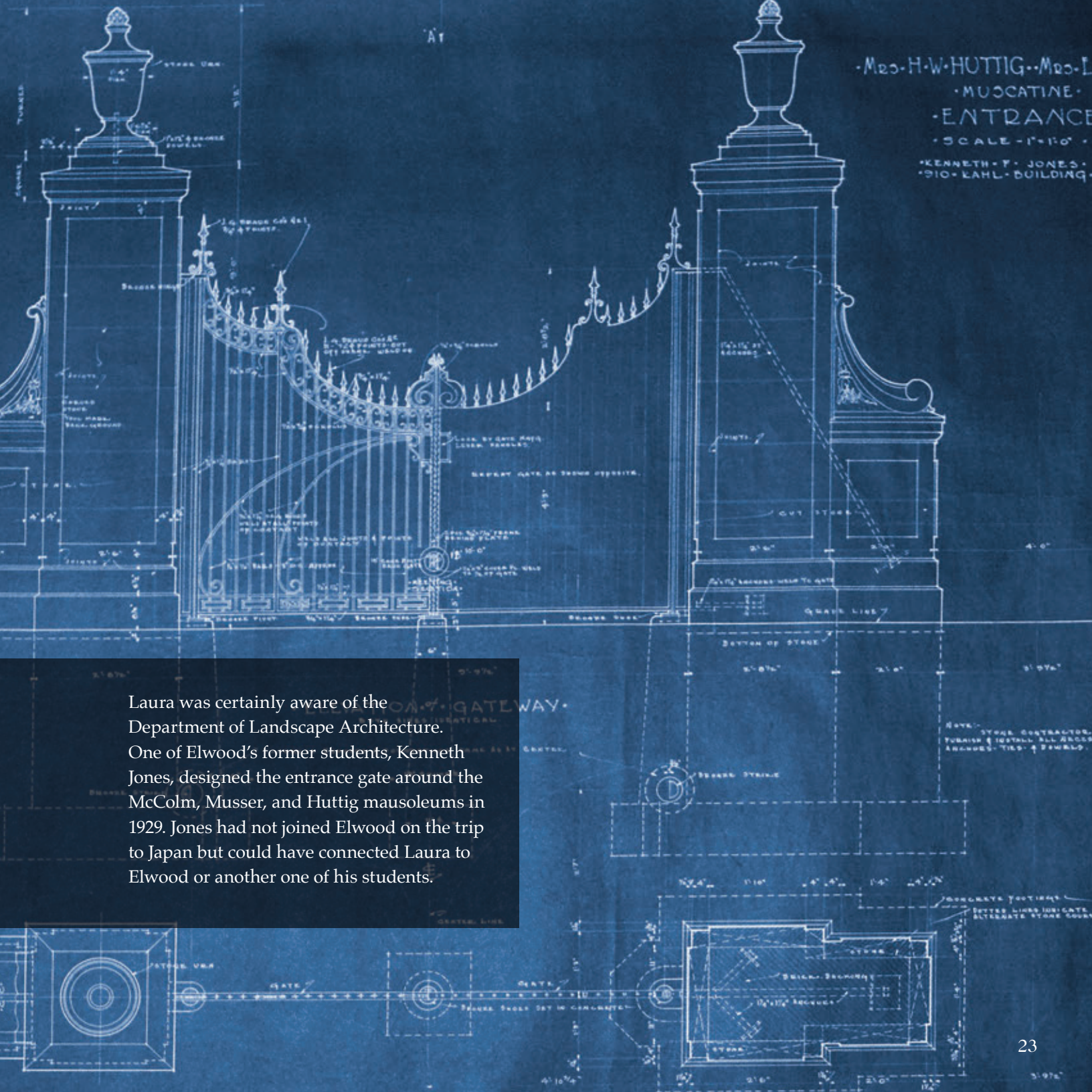
Professor P. H. Elwood, the first professor dedicated to landscape architecture at Iowa State University, began teaching there in 1923. By 1924, he had organized student travel groups to view gardens in the United States and Europe. During the summer of 1929, Elwood took four students on a tour of gardens in Japan, Korea, China, and Formosa (Taiwan). In Japan, the group explored private and public gardens in Tokyo, Nikko, Nara, and Kyoto. Upon returning to Iowa, Elwood gave talks about his travels, showed his films from the trip, and published articles about Japanese garden design.



## Prof. P. H. Elwood To Conduct Tour to Study Garden Art of China, Japan

An Asiatic tour, which will have Tokio university on "American for its principal aim the study of Landscape Design."





Laura was certainly aware of the Department of Landscape Architecture. One of Elwood's former students, Kenneth Jones, designed the entrance gate around the McColm, Musser, and Huttig mausoleums in 1929. Jones had not joined Elwood on the trip to Japan but could have connected Laura to Elwood or another one of his students.



# A Japanese Garden for Entertaining

Documents such as blueprints have not been located for Laura's Japanese Garden, but a description in a local newspaper suggests 1930 as the year of installation. In May 1931, the *Muscatine Journal* provided details about the garden which was the setting for a meeting of the Muscatine Garden Club:

*The garden, started last year, is at its full glory now, with the iris in bloom, and the flowers and shrubbery grown among the rocks to make a woodland scene. Even the bridges crossing the waterfalls and stream are representative. The stone lanterns are of Japanese make. The tour of the garden was highly interesting and pictorial, in view of the study of the club.*

*Laura was involved in several clubs and organizations, and her home was the location for many club events. In 1930 Laura's friend, Mrs. G. R. Titus of Muscatine, presented her "moving pictures" of "gardens from the Orient". Also in 1930, Laura hosted a garden party for the Twentieth Century Club, of which she was a member, at her home. During the party, some members of the club presented a short play set in a Japanese garden.*





The Japanese Garden occupies half an acre on the southeast side of Laura's house. The garden reflected Japanese garden traditions where ponds, streams, hills, stonework, trees, and paths are used to imitate natural scenery. A rustic Torii gate marked the entrance to the upper level of the garden. Stepping stones led past the upper pond and across a miniature bridge to a Buddhist shrine, the size of a small dollhouse, which contained a small Buddha statue and a metal bowl for burning incense to honor ancestors.

Original landscape features and ornaments currently installed in the garden include four ponds, one stream, two waterfalls, volcanic rock in and around the pond and waterways, some original plantings, and four cast concrete Japanese lanterns on cast concrete bases. Other small features, including statuary, have been moved inside the Muscatine Art Center.



# Construction and Care of the Japanese Garden

Archives maintained by the Muscatine Art Center document the historic appearance of Laura's Japanese Garden, but there are no records connecting a specific landscape architect to the design of the garden. The garden reflected Laura's tastes and interests, but it also depended upon the labor of gardener Drew Nagel to maintain the garden. In 1925, Laura hired Drew Nagel, the son of an immigrant farmer, to maintain her property. Drew, along with his wife and two small children, lived on the top floor of the carriage house located at 1314 Mulberry.

As the gardener during the installation of the Japanese Garden, Drew likely helped install the garden and would have spent time with the landscape designer, ensuring that he understood how to care for the new plants, prepare the garden for winter, and maintain the water feature and pump. Drew worked for Laura until July 1937.





Photo comparisons highlight similarities among features in Laura's garden and in those built by T. R. Otsuka. The larger photographs show areas of Laura's garden. The smaller photographs show gardens installed by Otsuka.





# Bringing the Japanese Garden Trend to Muscatine

Laura's garden was a source of inspiration for gardeners in Muscatine and beyond. The Japanese Garden was the setting for gatherings of several clubs such as the Twentieth Century Club, the Fortnightly Literary Club, the Women's House Missionary Society, and the Muscatine Garden Club. Laura hosted the National Chairman for the Federated Garden Clubs and opened her garden as part of an organized tour of private gardens in Muscatine. The Japanese Garden was described in several newspaper articles, further expanding the community's awareness of the garden and its features.

## GARDEN PARTY CLOSES YEAR FOR STUDY CLUB

A garden party, the final meeting of the year for the members of the Twentieth Century study club, was held Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. L. McColm, 1314 Mulberry avenue.

Following the installation of officers and other business, a supper was served on the lawn.

A short playlet, with the setting in a Japanese garden, was offered at dusk by members of the club, under the direction of Mrs. Frank Giesler.

Meetings will be resumed in the early fall, at which time the new club year opens.

## Mrs. McColm Hostess to Club Women

Mrs. E. L. McColm, 1314 Mulberry avenue, had as guests in her home Monday afternoon 25 members of the Fortnightly literary club of West Liberty.

The women were taken through her rock garden, and then into the music room where the hostess sang a group of songs accompanied by Mrs. Gibson at the piano. Mrs. Frank Giesler contributed a group of readings. Both the music and readings pertained to flowers and gardens.

A tea was enjoyed at the conclusion of the afternoon, with Mrs. McColm and Mrs. F. H. Little pouring.





In the late 1930s and early 1940s, escalating conflict between the United States and Japan, followed by war, caused many Americans to neglect, vandalize, dismantle, or rename Japanese-style gardens throughout the country. While public Japanese gardens can be found in other Iowa communities, the oldest among these gardens date to the 1970s, making the Musser-McColm Japanese garden unique in Iowa. It is a rare surviving example of a pre-World War II Japanese-style garden in the United States.

*The Japanese-inspired rock garden and pond of Mrs. Fred Ziegler, 811 Cedar Street, no longer exists.*



## A Rare Surviving Example of Pre-World War II Japanese Gardens

Laura's personal circumstances likely played a role in saving her garden. After her first husband passed away in 1933, Laura remarried in 1938 and joined her second husband in Kansas City. While she retained ownership of her home in Muscatine and returned for short visits, Kansas City remained her main residence. Maintained by a series of gardeners until her death in 1964, the garden underwent only minor changes during Laura's lifetime.







*Many of the historic photographs taken in Laura's Japanese Garden were kept by her domestic servants. Without these photographs, the Muscatine Art Center staff would have little documentation for restoring the garden. Over the years, several former employees have provided oral histories that give details about the people who worked for Laura as well as their job duties.*



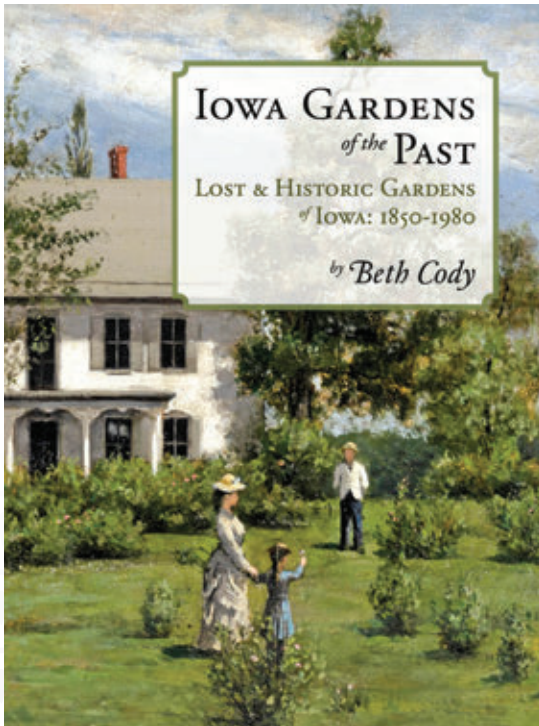
# Returning the Garden's Historic Character

In 2020, Muscatine Art Center initiated a project with Associate Professor Heidi Hohmann from Iowa State University's Landscape Architecture Department. Hohmann developed the Historic Landscape Preservation Plan for the garden, analyzing historic photographs, surveying current conditions, and providing a series of recommendations to return the character defining features to the historic garden.

Grant funding to implement the project was awarded through the Paul Bruhn Historic Preservation Program, a federal grant fund administered in Iowa through the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs, and through the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust.

The Historic Landscape Preservation Plan takes a comprehensive approach to the garden with the goal of bolstering the garden's historic integrity while making the space more accessible to the public.

# Researching the Garden



This booklet contains a portion of an extensive research project undertaken by Beth Cody, author of the book, *Iowa Gardens of the Past*. The Muscatine Art Center staff was awarded a grant from Humanities Iowa to contract with Cody for the purpose of better understanding the circumstances surrounding the installation of the Japanese Garden.

Over summer 2021, Cody, developed a series of eight papers exploring various topics connected to Laura Musser McColm's garden. Cody's extensive writings and research are now part of the Muscatine Art Center's permanent files on the Japanese Garden. The papers, as well as access to other archives, are available upon request.



*Humanities Iowa provided grant funding to support the research and writing for this booklet.*

# Image Descriptions

## Front Cover:

- Torii Gate detail, photograph of Laura Musser McColm's Japanese Garden, c 1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- Photograph of Laura Musser McColm's Japanese Garden, c 1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore

## Page 1:

- Laura Musser McColm at the back of her home at 1314 Mulberry Avenue, photographed by Oscar Grossheim, 1910, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- Photograph taken from the Japanese Garden with Carriage House in background, 1966

## Page 2:

- Laura Musser, photographed by Oscar Grossheim, September 4, 1900, Courtesy of Musser Public Library

## Page 3:

- Satsuma Porcelain Vase, c 1880-1900, Gift of the Clifton R. Musser Estate
- Satsuma Porcelain Snuff Bottle, c 1900, Gift of the Clifton R. Musser Estate

## Page 4:

- Bird's Eye View of the World's Fair Chicago, 1893, from the *Official Views of the World's Columbian Exposition* by Arnold & Higinbotham, published in 1893

## Page 5:

- Front View of the Ho-o-den (Phoenix hall) from the pamphlet, *An illustrated description of the buildings erected by the Japanese government at the World's Columbian Exposition*, published in 1893
- Japanese Tea Garden from the *Official Views of the World's Columbian Exposition* by Arnold & Higinbotham, published in 1893

## Page 6:

- View of the Imperial Japanese Garden from *The Forest City: Photographic Views of the Universal Exposition in Saint Louis, 1904*, Smithsonian Libraries

## Page 7 (clockwise from top left):

- "Fair Japan" advertisement, *World's Fair Bulletin*, Vol. 5, no. 6, April 1904, University of Missouri Digital Library
- *The World's Fair in colortypes and monotypes: official publication*, Louisiana Purchase Exposition Co., 1904, Library of Congress.
- View of the Japanese-style gate marking the entrance to "Fair Japan" from *The Forest City: Photographic Views of the Universal Exposition in Saint Louis, 1904*, Smithsonian Libraries

## Page 8:

- Advertisement in the *Muscatine Journal*, April 11, 1907

**Page 9 (clockwise from top left):**

- Mahogany Corner Cabinet from the home of Laura Musser McColm, c 1915, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- Sancai Foo Dog from the home of Laura Musser McColm, ceramic, c 1910-1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- Folding Hand Fan belonging to Laura Musser McColm, c 1910, Gift of Sarah King Wilmer
- Temple Vases - Famille Rose Medallion, porcelain, 19th century, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- Japanese Porcelain Luncheon Plates, c 1920, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore

**Page 10:**

- Advertisement in the *Muscatine News-Tribune*, October 6, 1917

**Page 11:**

- McColm & Company store image from *Muscatine Journal*, October 10, 1917
- Front Catalog Cover, A. A. Vantine & Co., 1917

**Page 12:**

- *Madame Butterfly* Title Image, 1915, IMDb
- Program for *Madam Butterfly* Opera by Giacomo Puccini, staged at the Columbia Theatre, Washington, D.C. on October 15th, 1906, printed by Boosey & Co., New York

**Page 13:**

- Muscatine cast of *The Mikado* photographed by Oscar Grossheim, May 1916, Courtesy of Musser Public Library
- *The Mikado* poster for the Royal Lyceum Theatre, 1870-1900, National Library of Scotland

**Page 14:**

- "Japanese Garden, Como Park, St. Paul, Minn. Postcard." T.W. Ingersoll, 1908, Collection of Beth Cody

**Page 15 (from top to bottom):**

- Photograph of the John Bradstreet's Japanese-style pond at the Minnesota Craffthouse from *Country Life in America*, March 1909
- Photograph of the Bradstreet & Co. Craffthouse, 327 South Seventh, Minneapolis, Minnesota, c 1918, Collection of the Minnesota Historical Society

**Page 16:**

- Postcard of the Fabyan Garden in Geneva, Illinois, designed and built by T. R. Otsuka between 1910 and 1914, Preservation Partners of the Fox Valley Collections
- Advertisement for Japanese Landscape Architect in *Keith's Magazine on Homebuilding*, December 1914

**Page 17:**

- Postcard of Lily Pond in Japanese Garden, French Lick Springs Hotel, French Lick, Indiana, undated, Collection of Beth Cody
- T. R. Otsuka's display at the 1928 Chicago Garden and Flower Show appeared in an advertisement for the catalog, *Hill's Evergreens*, D. Hill Nursery Company, 1929

**Page 18:**

- Garden on Rock Island Arsenal, photographed in 1919, colorized c 1924, Courtesy of the Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science
- Tea House on Rock Island Arsenal, photographed in 1919, colorized c 1924, Courtesy of the Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science

**Page 19:**

- Postcard of E. P. Eastman Garden, Burlington, Iowa, undated, Collection of Beth Cody
- Postcard of E. P. Eastman Flower Garden, undated, Collection of Beth Cody

**Page 20:**

- Laura Musser McCole's Japanese-style Garden, c 1930, Gift of William Atkins McWhirter

**Page 21:**

- Front Cover of *The Gardens of Japan* by Jiro Harada, published 1928, Collection of the Muscatine Art Center
- Original Bronze Cranes from Laura Musser McCole's Japanese Garden c 1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore

**Page 22:**

- Travel Brochure, *In Oriental Gardens*, printed in 1929, Iowa State University Special Collections Department
- Photograph of Philip Homer Elwood, undated, Iowa State University Digital Scholarship & Initiatives
- Newspaper article, "Professor P. H. Elwood to Conduct Tour," *Ames Tribune*, January 26, 1929
- Postcard of Kinkakuji, undated, Collection of Beth Cody

**Page 23:**

- Blueprint for the Entrance Gate, Greenwood Mausoleum Site of Mrs. H. Huttig, Mrs. E. L. McCole & Mr. C. R. Musser, designed by Kenneth Jones, July – August 1929, Gift of Dick Maeglin

**Page 24:**

- A Torii Gate marks the entrance to Laura Musser McCole's Japanese Garden, photographed c 1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- Bridge and "Snow-Viewing" Lantern, Laura Musser McCole's Japanese Garden, photographed c 1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- View of the rock formations (including the volcanic rock) and statuary, Laura Musser McCole's Japanese Garden, photographed c 1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore

**Page 25:**

- View of Laura Musser McCole's Japanese Garden looking uphill towards Mulberry Avenue, photographed c 1935, printed from originals loaned by Bob and Dave Dietrich
- Sumac Trees in Laura Musser McCole's Japanese Garden, photographed c 1930, Gift of William Atkins McWhirter

**Page 26:**

- Drew Nagel in Japanese Garden, photographed c 1935, Gift of Genevieve Hicks

**Page 27:**

- Unknown child seated on a bridge in Laura Musser McColm's Japanese Garden, photographed c 1930-35, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- Pedestal Lantern in Laura Musser McColm's Japanese Garden, photographed c 1930-1935, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore
- T. R. Otsuka's display at the 1928 Chicago Garden and Flower Show appeared the *Hill's Evergreens catalog*, D. Hill Nursery Company, 1929
- Pedestal Lantern pictured on postcard of Japanese Garden at Laura Bradley Park in Peoria, Illinois, undated, Collection of Beth Cody

**Page 28:**

- Newspaper article, "Private Gardens of City Thrown Open to 200 Women for Interesting Tour," *Muscatine Journal*, June 29, 1935
- Newspaper article, "Garden Party Closes Year for Study Club," *Muscatine Journal*, June 11, 1930
- Newspaper article, "Mrs. McColm Hostess to Club Women," *Muscatine Journal*, May 17, 1935

**Page 29:**

- Garden of Mrs. F. M. Ziegler, photographed by J. A. Chamberlin, c 1930, Gift of Brian and Kay Walter

**Page 30:**

- Photograph of Laura Musser McColm's Japanese Garden, 1966, Collection of the Muscatine Art Center
- Laura Musser McColm's "Snow-Viewing" Lantern, c 1930, Gift of Mary Catherine Atkins McWhirter and Mary Musser Gilmore

**Page 31:**

- Linda Allmandinger in uniform in the Japanese Garden, photographed c 1935, printed from originals loaned by Bob and Dave Dietrich
- Elizabeth ("Toots") Carlson in uniform, seated on steps in Japanese Garden, c 1932, printed from originals loaned by Linda Coder

**Page 32:**

- Drawing of the Japanese Garden plan created by Iowa State University Graduate Assistant Asif Khan who worked with Associate Professor Heidi Hohmann on the Historic Landscape Preservation Plan, completed in September 2020

The logo for the Muscatine Art Center features the word "MUSCATINE" in a serif font at the top. Below it, the word "ART" is written in a large, bold, serif font, enclosed within a black square with a white border. At the bottom, the word "CENTER" is written in a serif font, similar to "MUSCATINE".

**MUSCATINE**  
**ART**  
**CENTER**

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[www.muscatineartcenter.org](http://www.muscatineartcenter.org)

**Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 1 - 5 p.m.

Admission is FREE.