Sense and Sensibility

The Making of the English Landscape

The Modern World-Europe Context

- English natural or romantic period 1715-1837
- Social context: war with France, the American Revolutionary War; urbanization of population follows industrial revolution; age of enlightenment; social unrest and reform
- Cultural aesthetic evolves from ***formal to informal***
  - John Evelyn's book Sylva or a Discourse of Forest Trees (1664) urged property owners to help reforest the treeless countryside to improve their land
  - The Book The Architecture of Palladio by **Leoni** 1714 generates renewed interest in classicism
  - Authors such as Jean Jacques Rousseau generate interest in return to nature
  - Critical essays and other writings against formal gardens
    - Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, writings in the Spectator, 1712-14, "Nature and art should imitate each other"
    - Alexander Pope writings in the Guardian, 1714
    - William Kent stated in 1730 that "Nature abhors a straight line"
    - William Hogarth stated in 1752 "The waving line is the way to beauty"

- Visits to China by Sir William Temple and Sir William Chambers; asymmetrical design or “occult balance” (Anglo-Chinese or chinoiserie)
- The “Grand Tour” to Roman or Greek Sites
- 16th Century fashion of owning romantic landscape paintings by Claude Lorrain, Nicolas Poussin, and Salvator Rosa; ***principles of painting composition being applied to the design of the landscape***
- Royal cost assessment of maintenance of all royal formal gardens
- Queen Anne declared dislike of the smell of Boxwood
- Parliamentary enclosure acts of the 1660’s enabled wealthy landowners to enclose their open land; stone walls and hedgerows brought about change in scale of rural landscapes; reestablished small game habitats
- England emerges as a world power and is desirous of its own national style as opposed to the French grand style

- Age of enlightenment and increase in scientific endeavors towards nature, which emphasized the character of the indigenous natural countryside; the visual irregularity and beauty of nature; the laws of nature (ecology) as determinants of design composition and elements
- Design Character
  - Creations of natural or picturesque pastoral scenery
  - Borrowed scenery to add to one's own landscape
  - Landscape components-open meadows, ponds, trees in masses
- Creation of soft romantic landscape scenery was frequently done at the expense of pre-existing formal gardens, thousands were removed
- Rejection of geometric formal style meant corresponding excesses of the new fashion; palatial rural mansions left to sit amidst pastureland.

Romanticism and the Arts

Philip James De Loutherbourg, *An Avalanche in the Alps*, 1803

Philip James De Loutherbourg (English, 1740-1812), *The Battle of the Nile*, 1800

English Country Estates

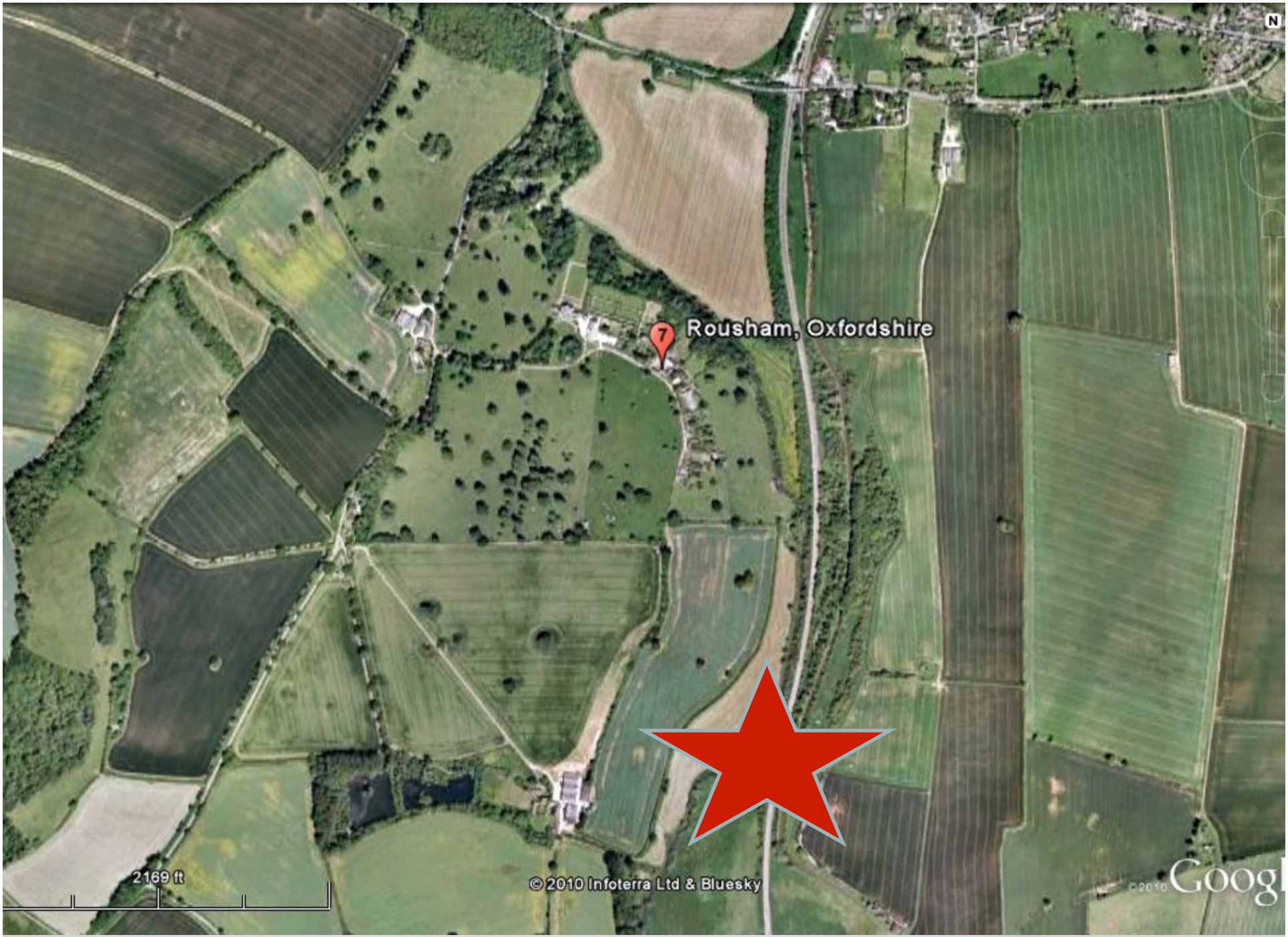
- **Stowe, Buckinghamshire** – near an abandoned village as a result of Sir Peter temple's enclosure, Now a landscape school refurbishing its grounds, temples, and follies Indiana Jones Last Crusade)
- **Rousham, Oxfordshire** – started in 1630 by Sir Robert Dormer, gardens by Bridgeman and Kent – Augustan Landscape
- **Castle Howard, North Yorkshire** – built between 1699 and 1712, design by Vanbrugh (Brideshead Revisited)
- **Stourhead, Near Mere in Wiltshire** – village, garden, farms, and woodland. Owned by the Barons of Stourton for 700 years and bought by Henry Hoare in 1717, demoloished the house and built his Augustan palace
- **Blenheim, Oxfordshire** – English Baroque style, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, designed by Vanbrugh and Hawksmoor.
- **Harewood, West Yorshire** – built by Edwin Lascelles who made his money from the "West Indies Trade". House by John Carr and John Adam. Grounds by Capability Brown with later terrace by Charles Barry (1844)

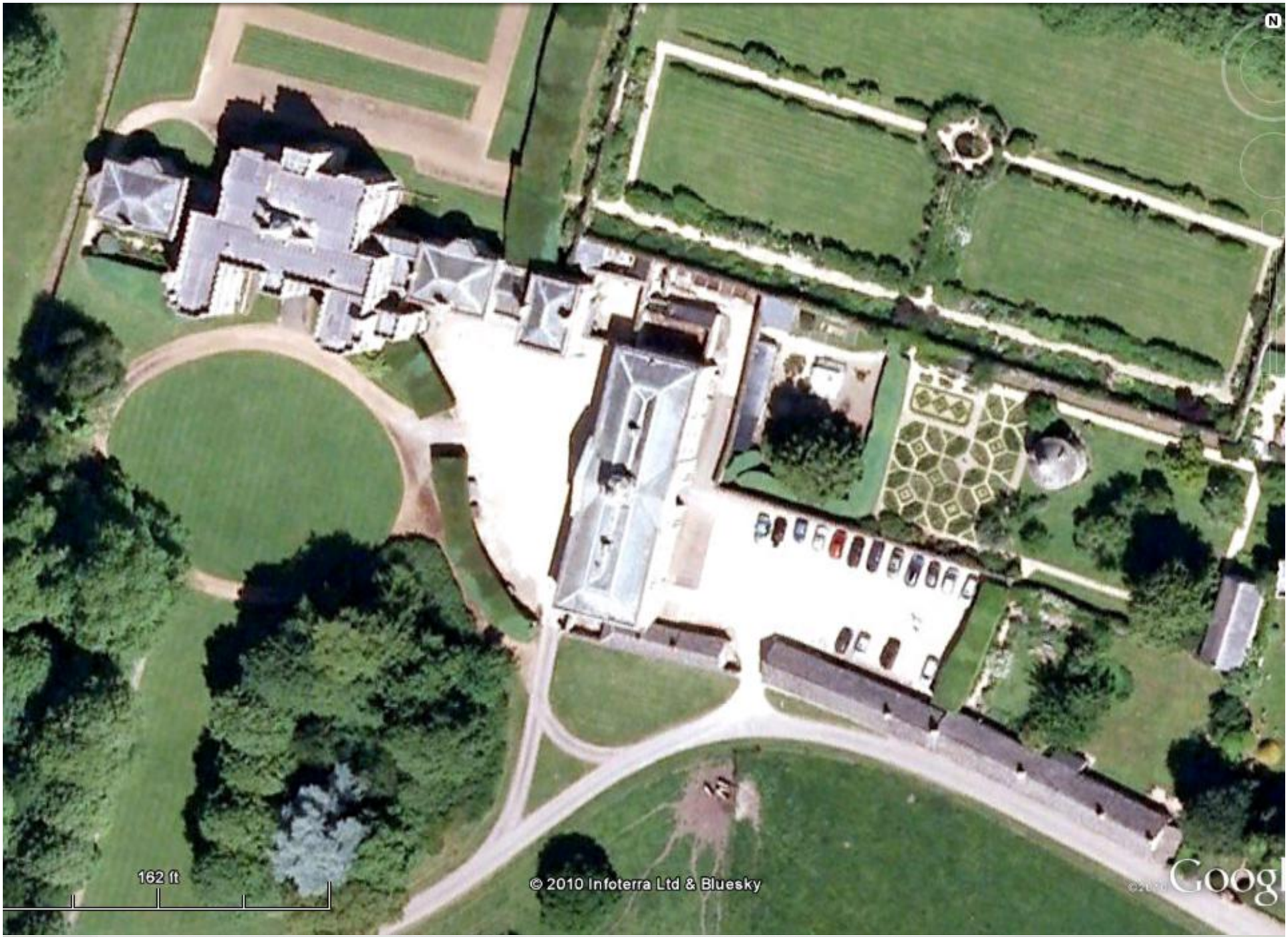
Stowe

Stowe, Buckinghamshire

Stowe

Stowe


Rousham, Oxfordshire
2169 ft
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky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162 ft
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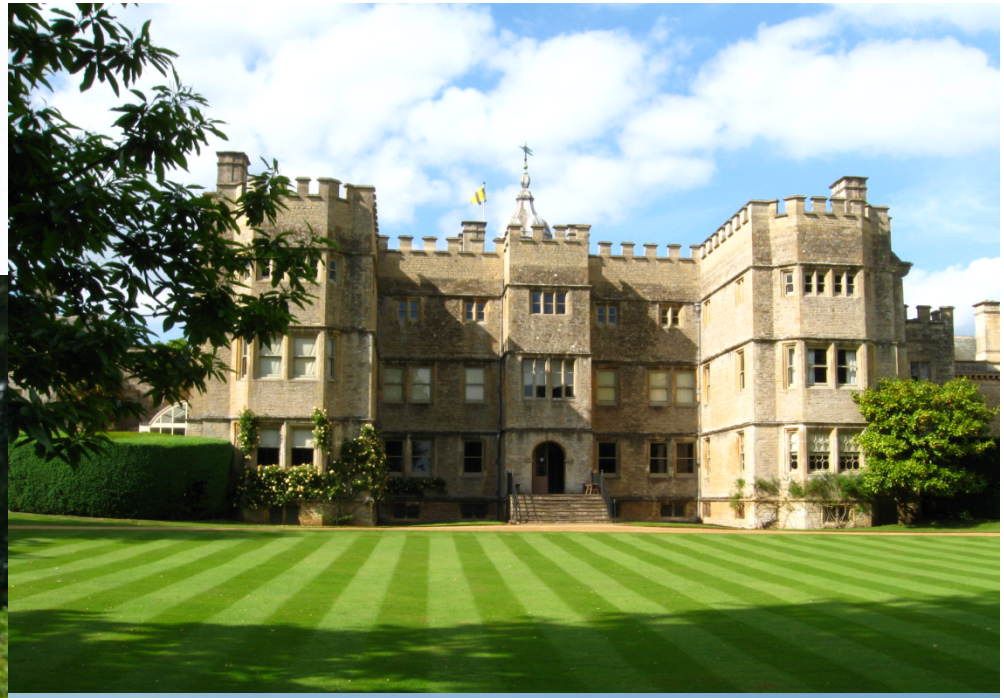
Rousham



7
Castle Howard, North Yorkshire
682 ft
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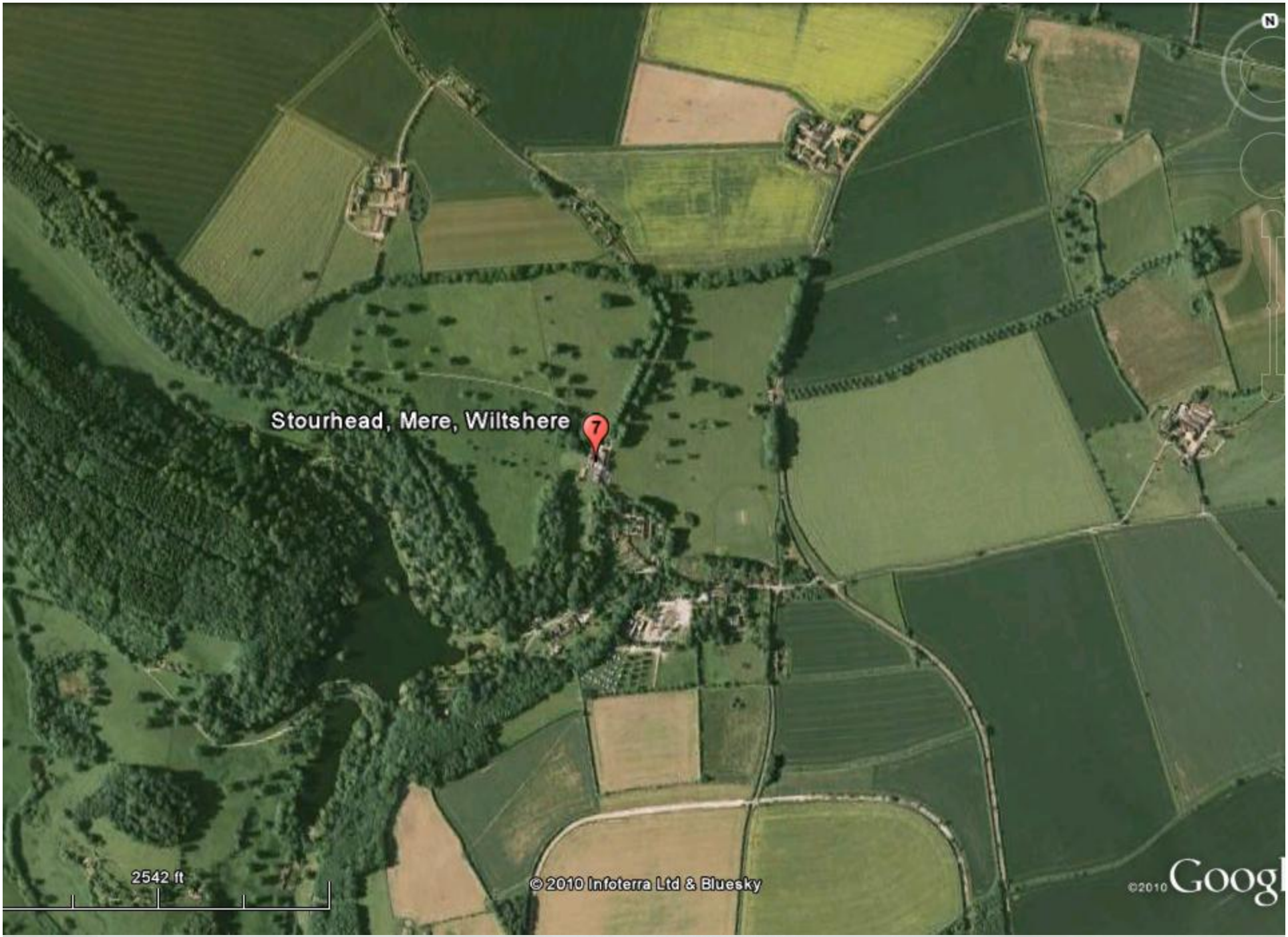
Castle Howard, North Yorkshire
501 ft
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky

EVERY TEMPTATION
HAS ITS PRICE
MATTHEW GOODE
BEN WHISHAW
HAYLEY ATWELL
AND EMMA THOMPSON
AND MICHAEL GAMBON
BRIDESHEAD REVISITED
IN CINEMAS SOON
MIRAMAX

Castle Howard


Stourhead, Mere, Wiltshere
7
2542 ft
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky
©2010 Google

Wiltshere
7
363 ft
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky
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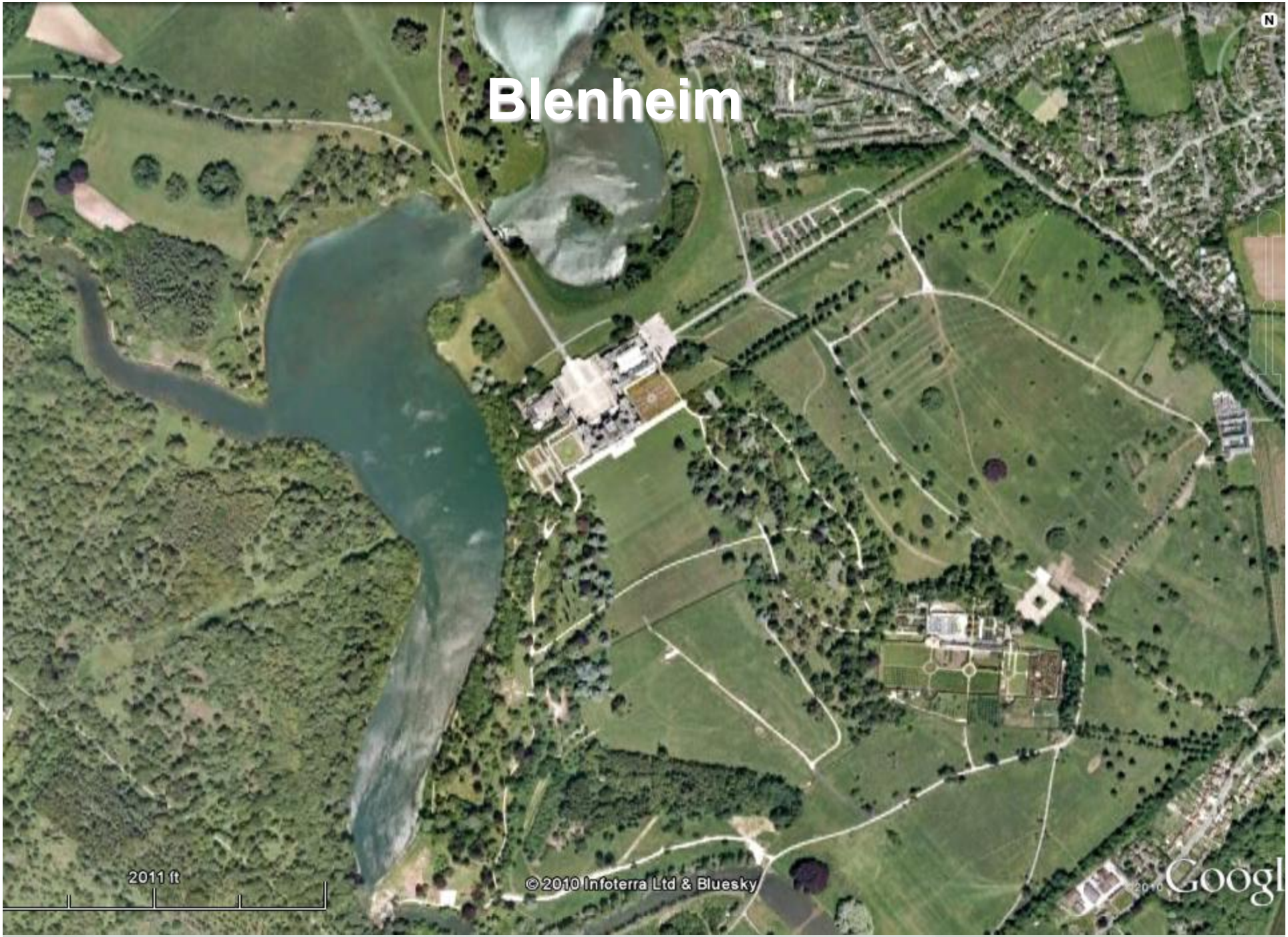
Stourhead


Blenheim
2011 ft
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky
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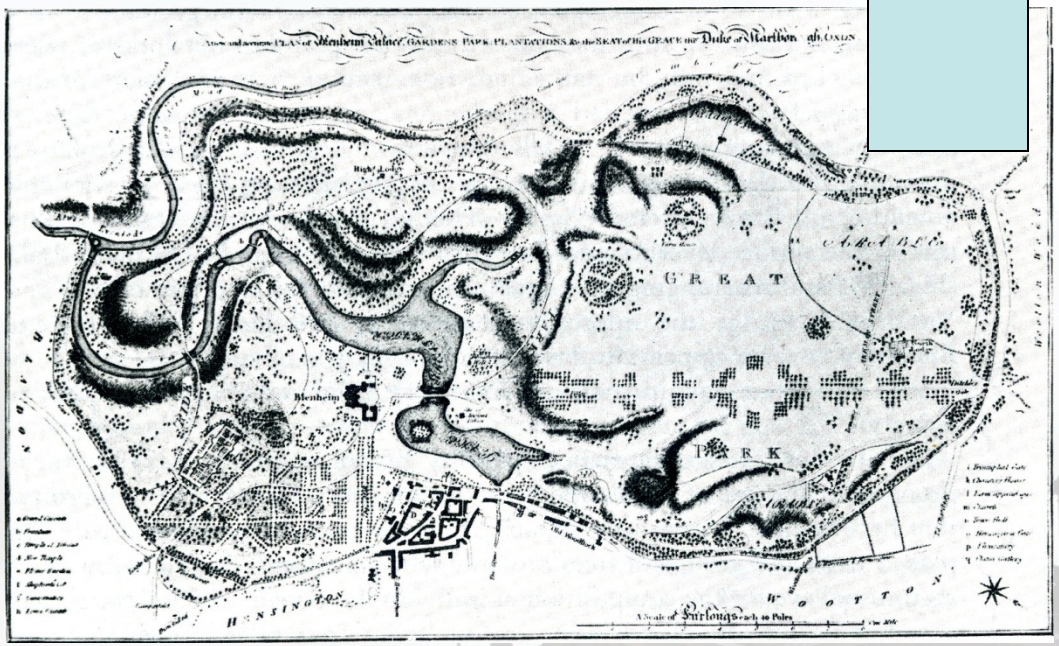
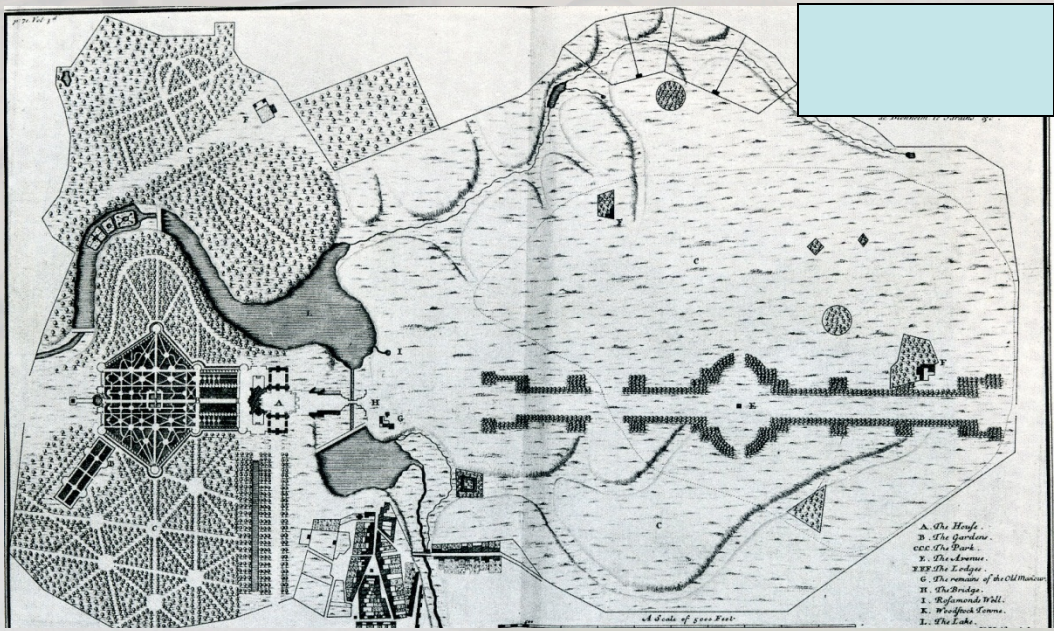
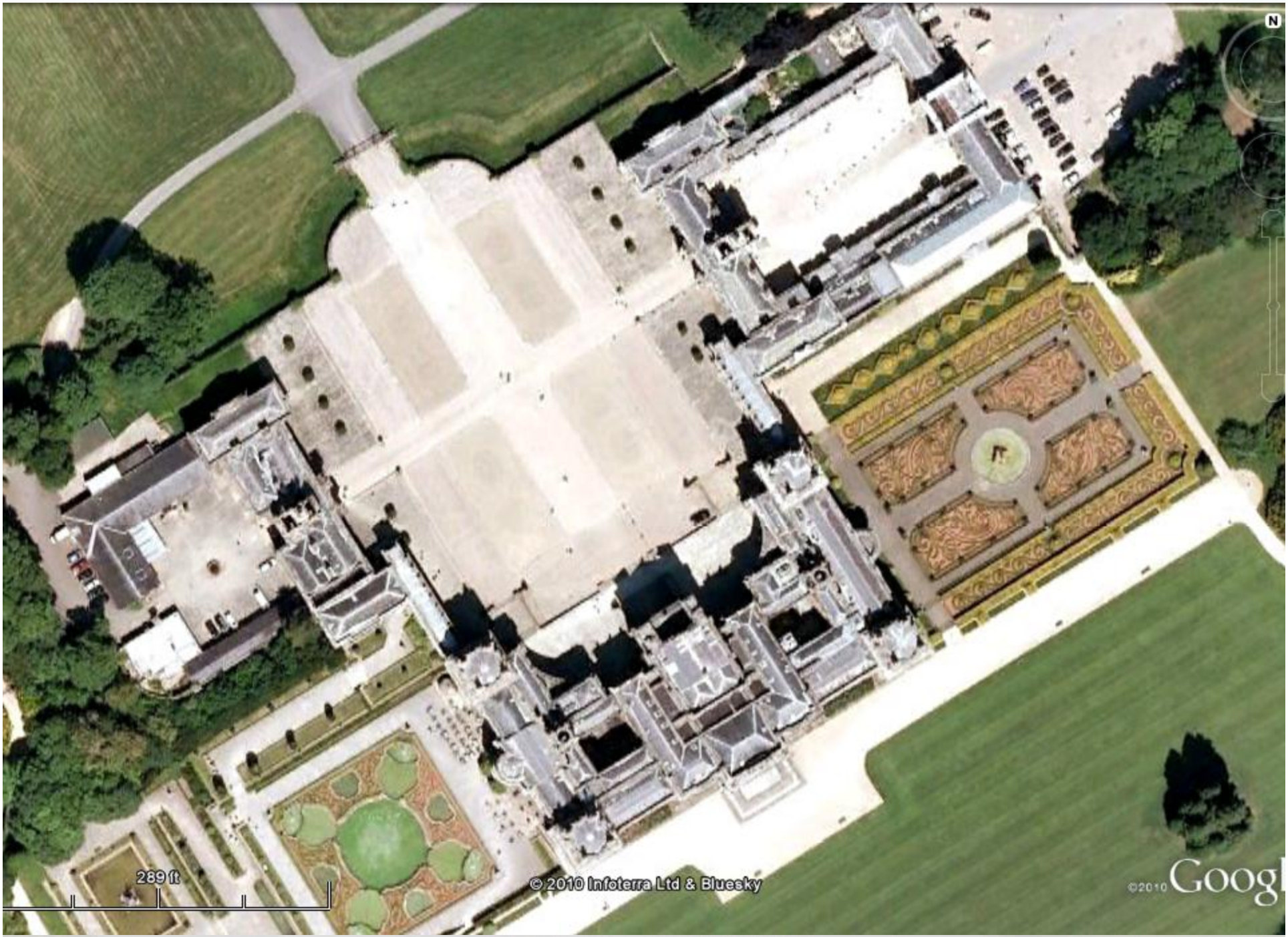
AFTER



BEFORE

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289 ft
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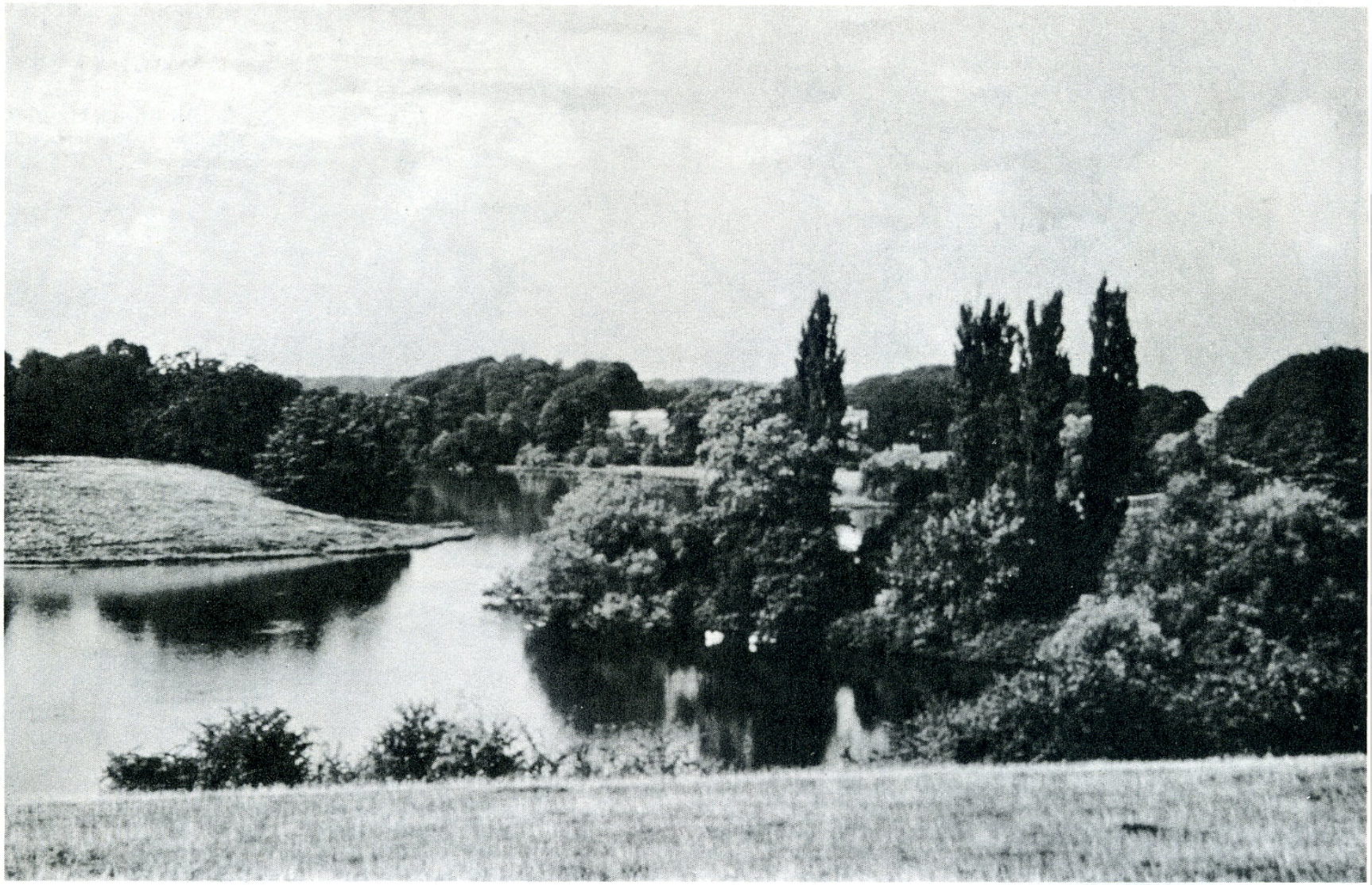
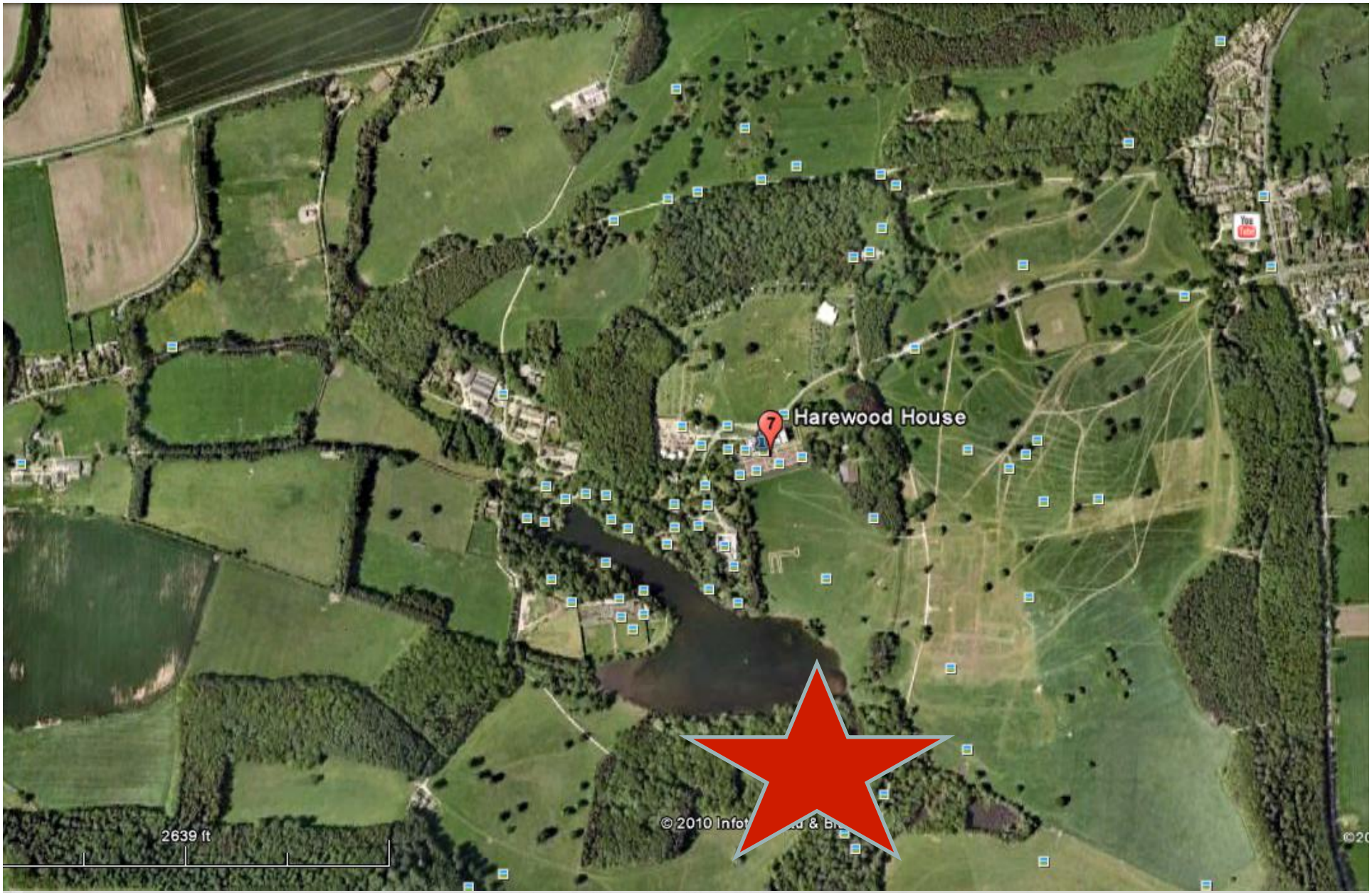
Blenheim



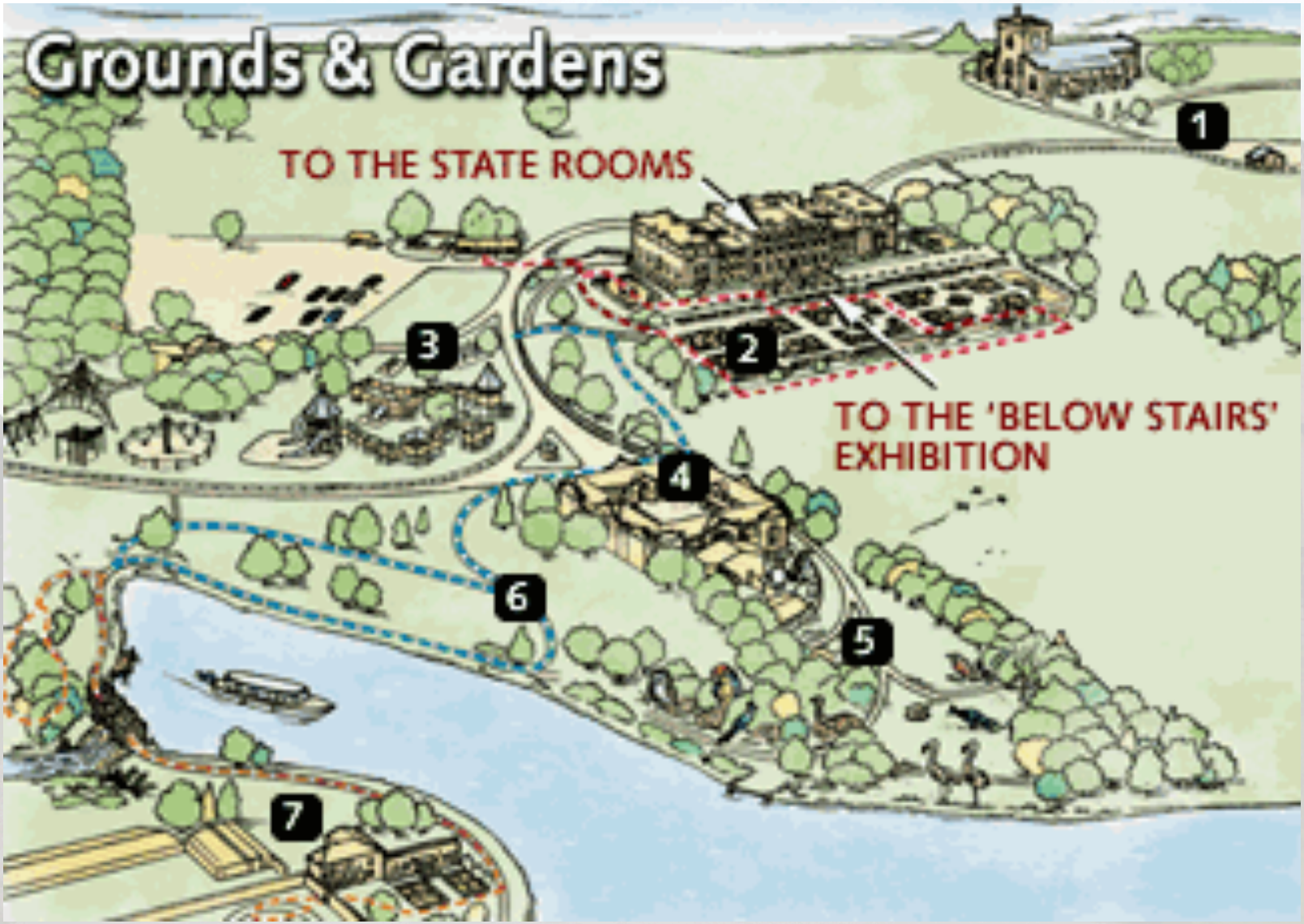
157. Blenheim today: Brown's Lake.


Harewood House
2639 ft

Harewood House
257 ft
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image © 2010 TerraMetrics
©2010 Goo

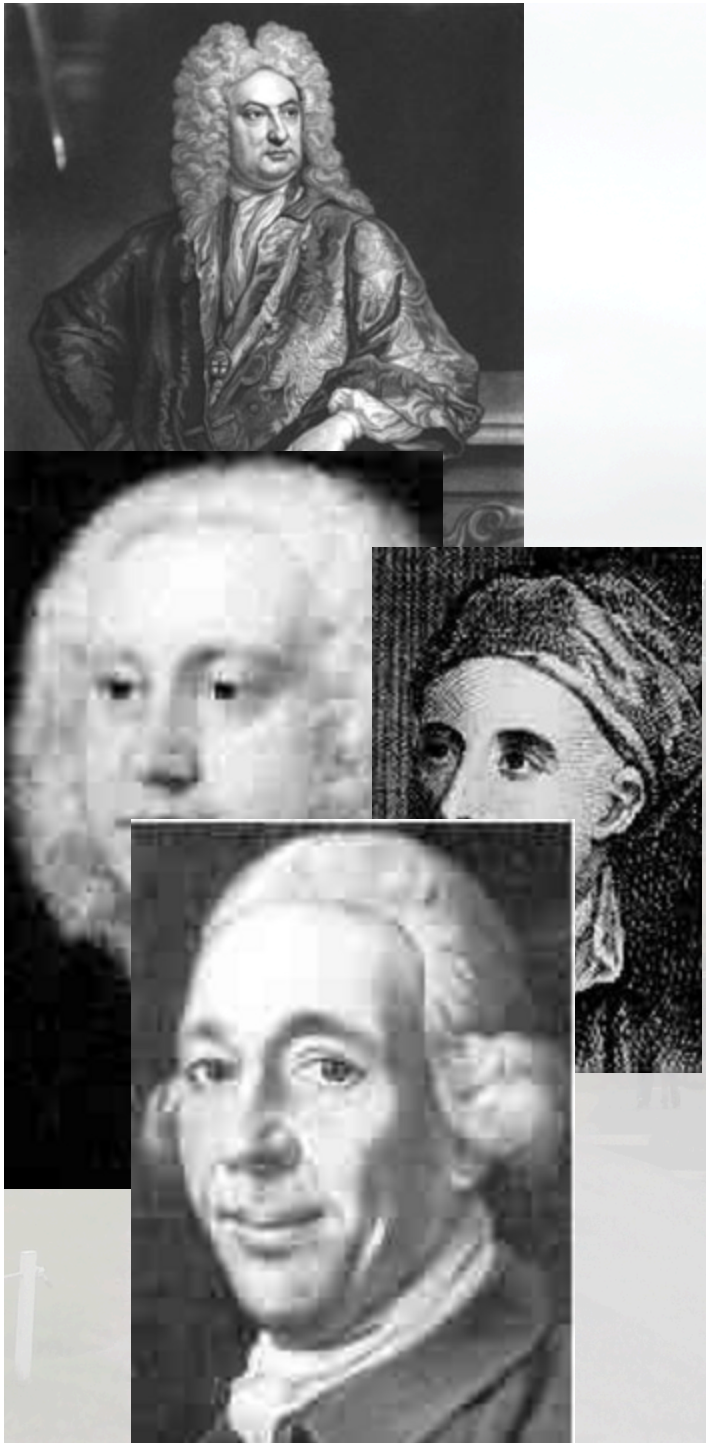
7
Harewood House
© 2010 Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky
142 ft

Harewood House



ORPHEUS
BY
ASTRID ZYDOWER
1984

The people

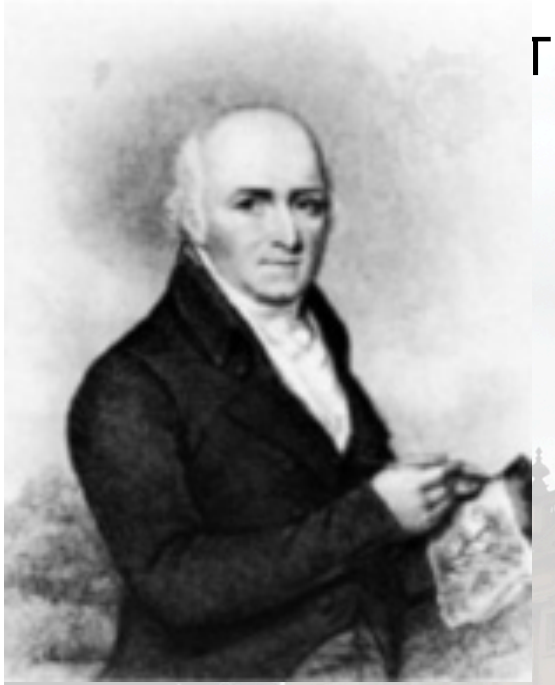


Personalities

- Vanbrugh was a self-schooled architect who was involved at Blenheim
- Bridgeman concocting the “straight and wobbly line” such as at Blenheim and adapted a military devise to develop a ha-ha wall.
- William Kent worked on Chiswick House in Middlesex about 1727 developing a mixture of patches of wilderness with wriggly paths twisting through the woods, perhaps even planting dead trees for their gothic effects. His plans showed a “scatterization” of design ideas, a “thingyness” which quickly tires the observer today.
- Lancelot Brown (Capability) was the first with any talent. He worked under Kent at Stowe, later redeveloping Stourhead. He utilized techniques of before and after rendering which were very effective. He also destroyed all sense of geometry around his buildings depriving any sense of base in an over soft surrounding view of luxuriant meadow.

- Several writers on gardening attempting to define a garden style through writing, not on the ground. Stephen Switzer Iconographia Rustica, Batty Langley and Phillip Miller offered their ludicrous suggestions. Pope and Walpole supported Kent. William Shenstone developed his own theories from landscape paintings. Thomas Whatley Observation on Modern Gardening 1771- was critical of Kent and liked Brown. Sir Uvedal Price's Essay on the Picturesque (1794) advocated picturesque ideas as a notion of rough, rugged, dramatic, and melancholy, TRASHING Brown and Kent.

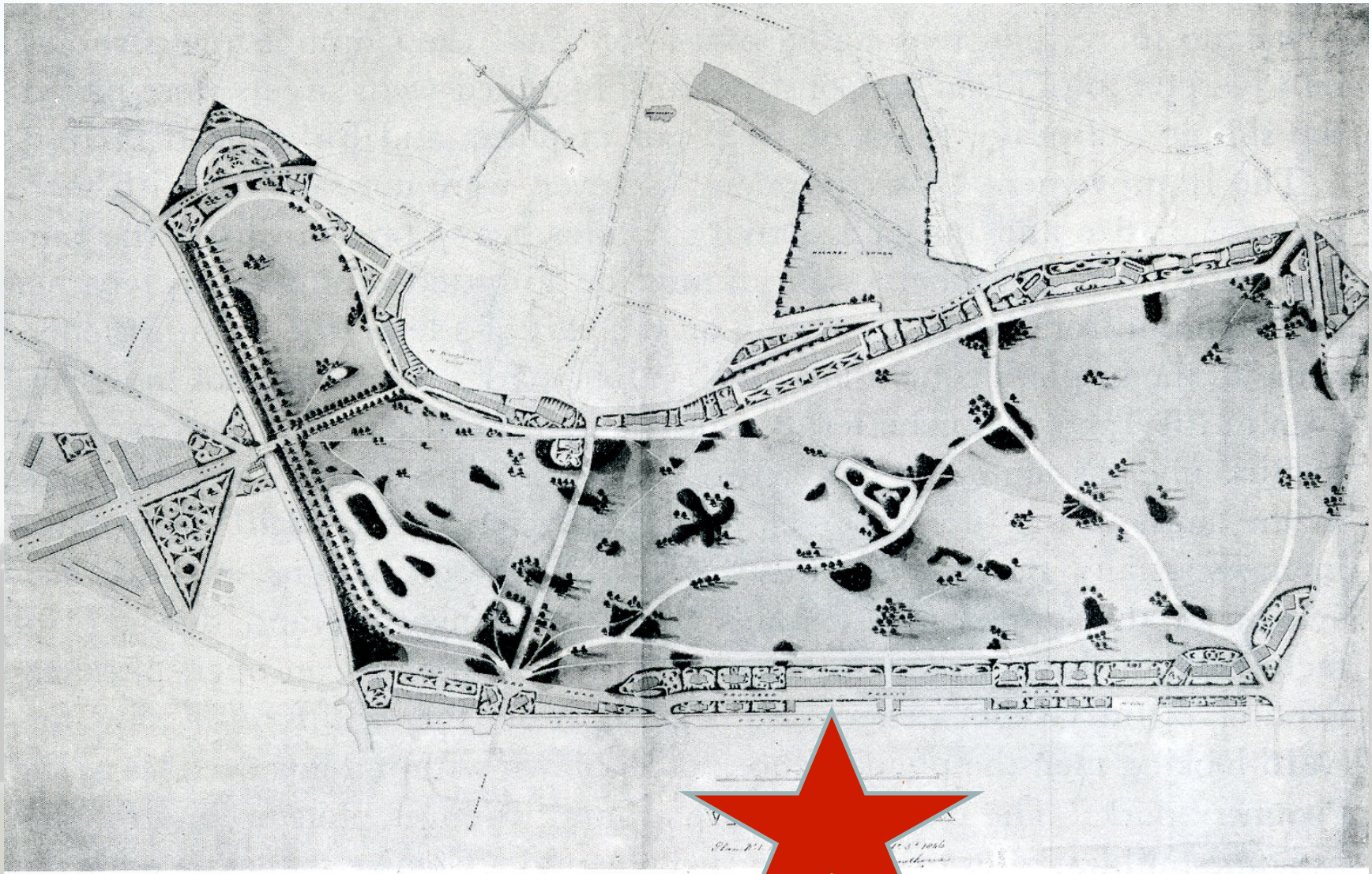
– Noteworthy early practicioners: Sir John Vanbrugh, Henry Wise, Charles Bridgeman, William Kent.



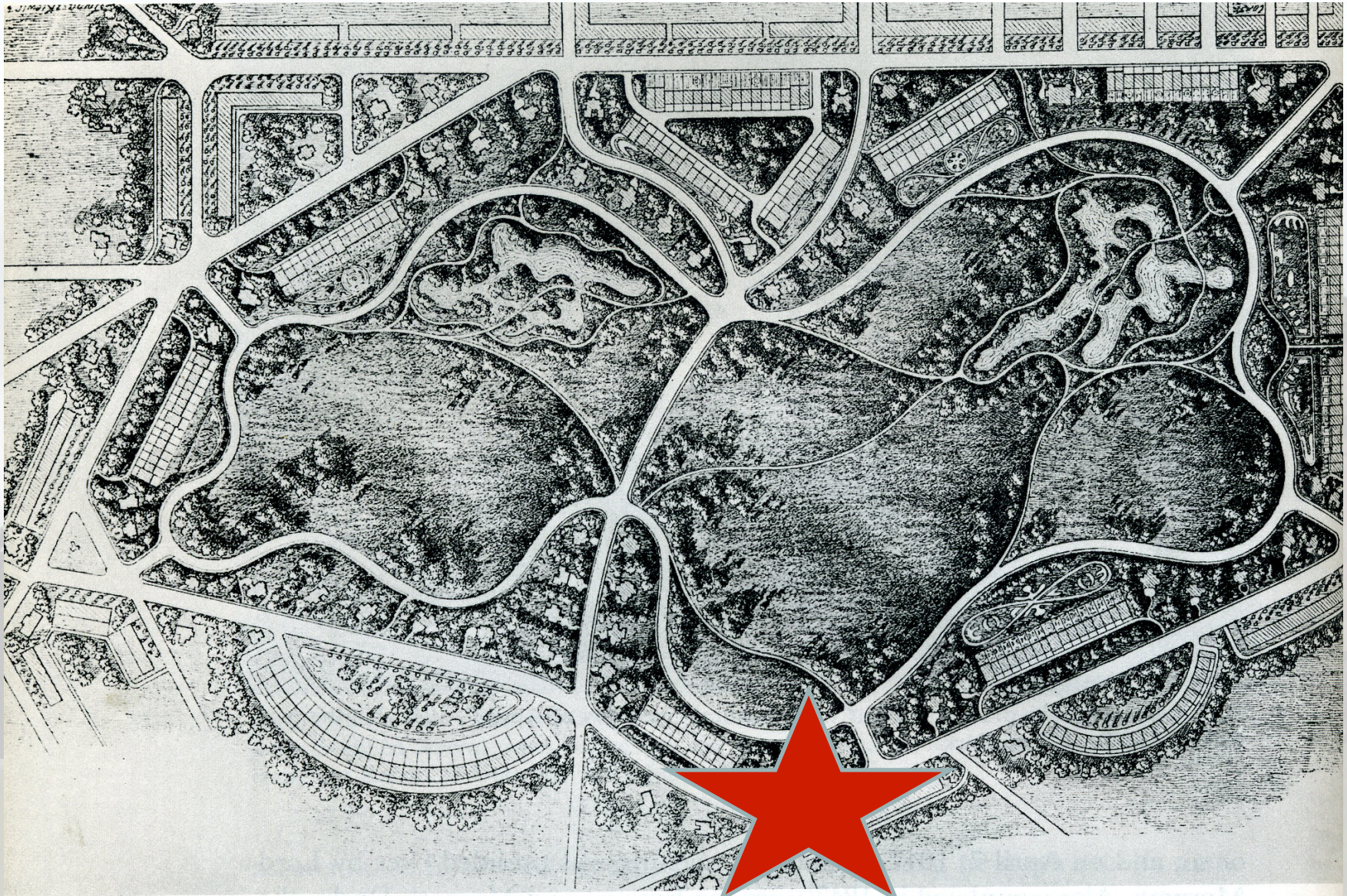
This squabble of ideas gave rise to the major professional on this school – Sir Humphrey Repton. He was the ***first person to use the appellation Landscape Gardener*** at the ripe old age of 40. He was remarkably articulate and could counter the writers of the time, developing his "Red Books" showing the before and after of projects. He also developed a more utilitarian and convenient approach recognizing the need for greater geometry near houses for maintenance and clarity of design. His major strength was in his rejection of black and white standards, preferring the development of taste in each situation. He was not a polemicist and was criticized as a promoter of eclecticism. ***His ideas, however, were driven by real life applications***.

Transitions to Public Service
from plutocracy to liberal thought

Revolutions of 1830 and 1848. In less than a generation, Europe saw two major revolutions sweep across it from west to east. France experienced the full force of both events, which pulled down successive regimes.



166. Victoria Park, East London, was authorized in 1842; Pennethorne's plan of 1841 had been modified several times before this one was inscribed, in his hand, "Plan No. 1 to accompany Report of Octr. 3d. 1846. James Pennethorne."



168. Plan of Birkenhead Park: started in 1843 by Joseph Paxton for the Improvement Commissioners of the Borough.

170. Two of Birkenhead's bridges, in keeping with the fashion of the day: the Temple on th right and the more distant Swiss Bridge.

N
7
Regent's Park, London
1055 ft
Image © 2010 Bluesky
©2010 Google

Regent’s Park

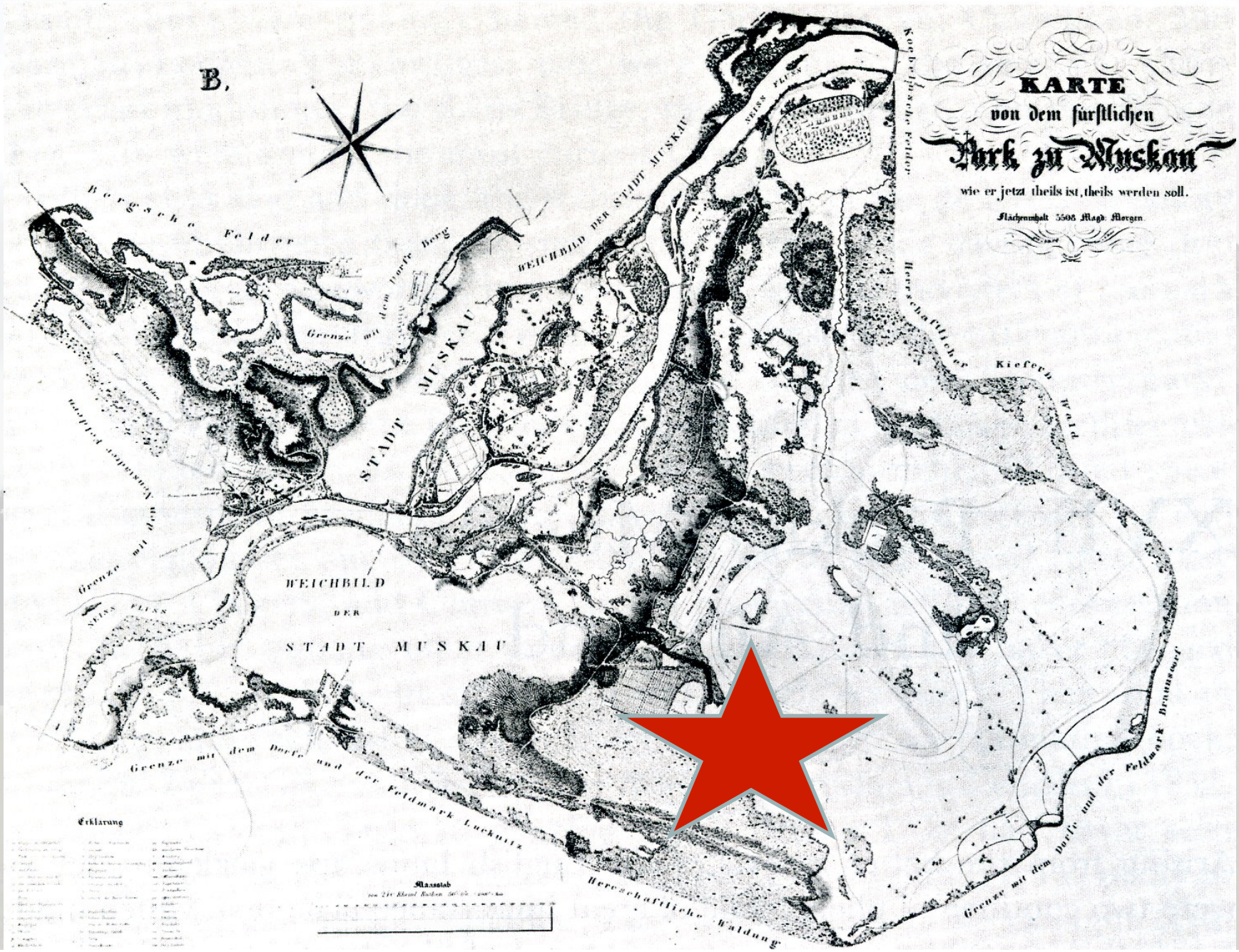
N
7
Parc Monceau, Paris
244 ft
Image © 2010 Aerodata International Surveys
Gray Buildings © 2010 CyberCity
©2010 Google

N
7
Monticello, Virginia
371 ft
Image © 2010 Commonwealth of Virginia
©2010 Google

7
University of Virginia Mall
339 ft
Image © 2010 Commonwealth of Virginia
N

Puckler-Muskau and Alphand

172. Schloss Muskau across the artificial lake about 1910; the castle is now a burned-out ruin, but the rest remains.


B.
KARTE
von dem fürstlichen
Park zu Muskau
wie er jetzt theils ist, theils werden soll.
Flächeninhalt 5505 Magd. Morgen
Borgesche Felder
Grenze mit dem Dorfe Berg
WEICHBILD DER STADT MUSKAU
STADT MUSKAU
SEISS FLUSS
Kotbeipsche Felder
Herrschaftlicher Kiefern Wald
Grenze mit dem Dorfe Berg
WEICHBILD
DER
STADT MUSKAU
SEISS FLUSS
Grenze mit dem Dorfe und der Feldmark Lucknitz
Herrschaftliche Waldung
Grenze mit dem Dorfe und der Feldmark Braunsdorf
Erklärung
Maasstab

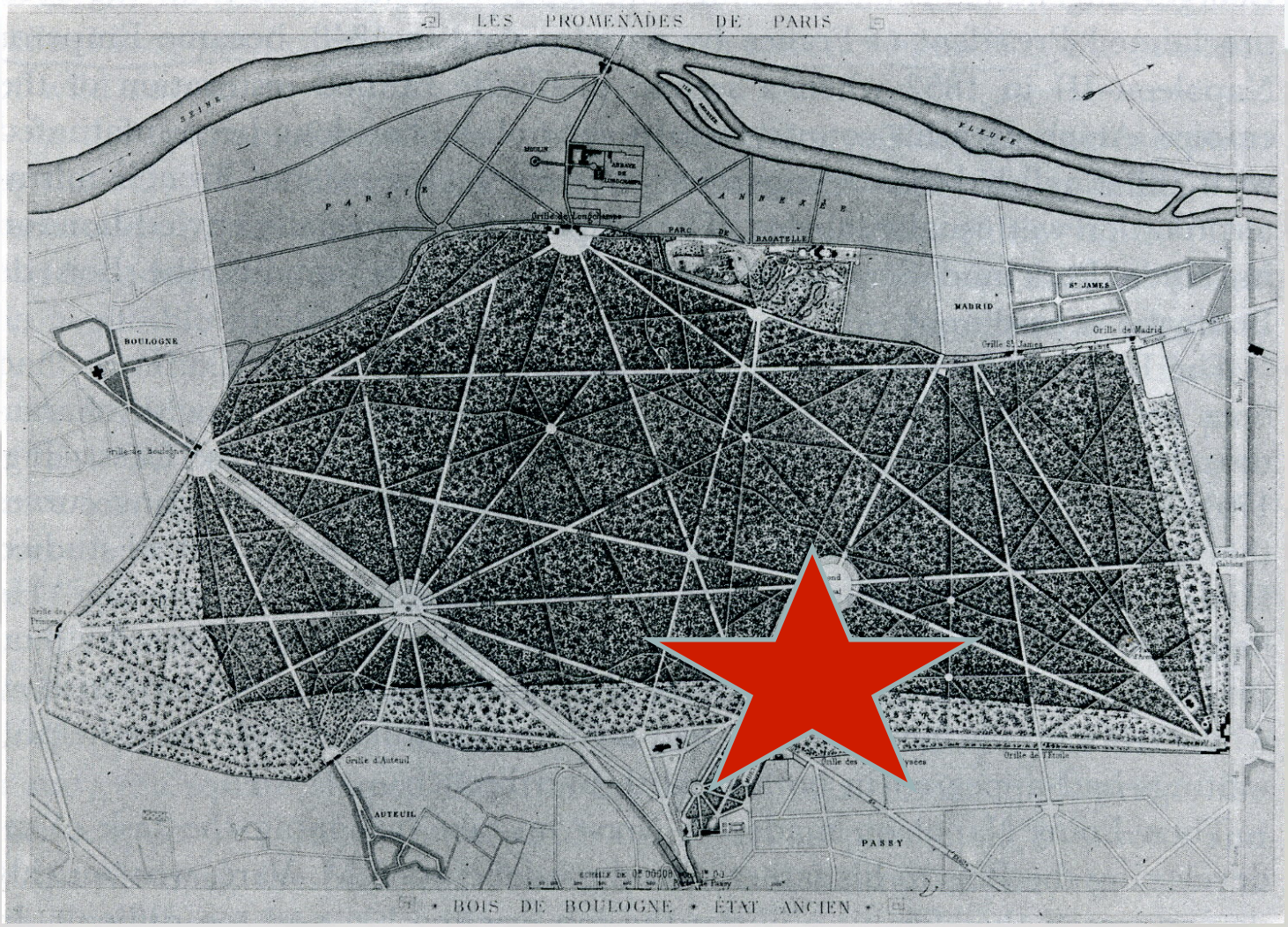
The Main Principles of *Hints*

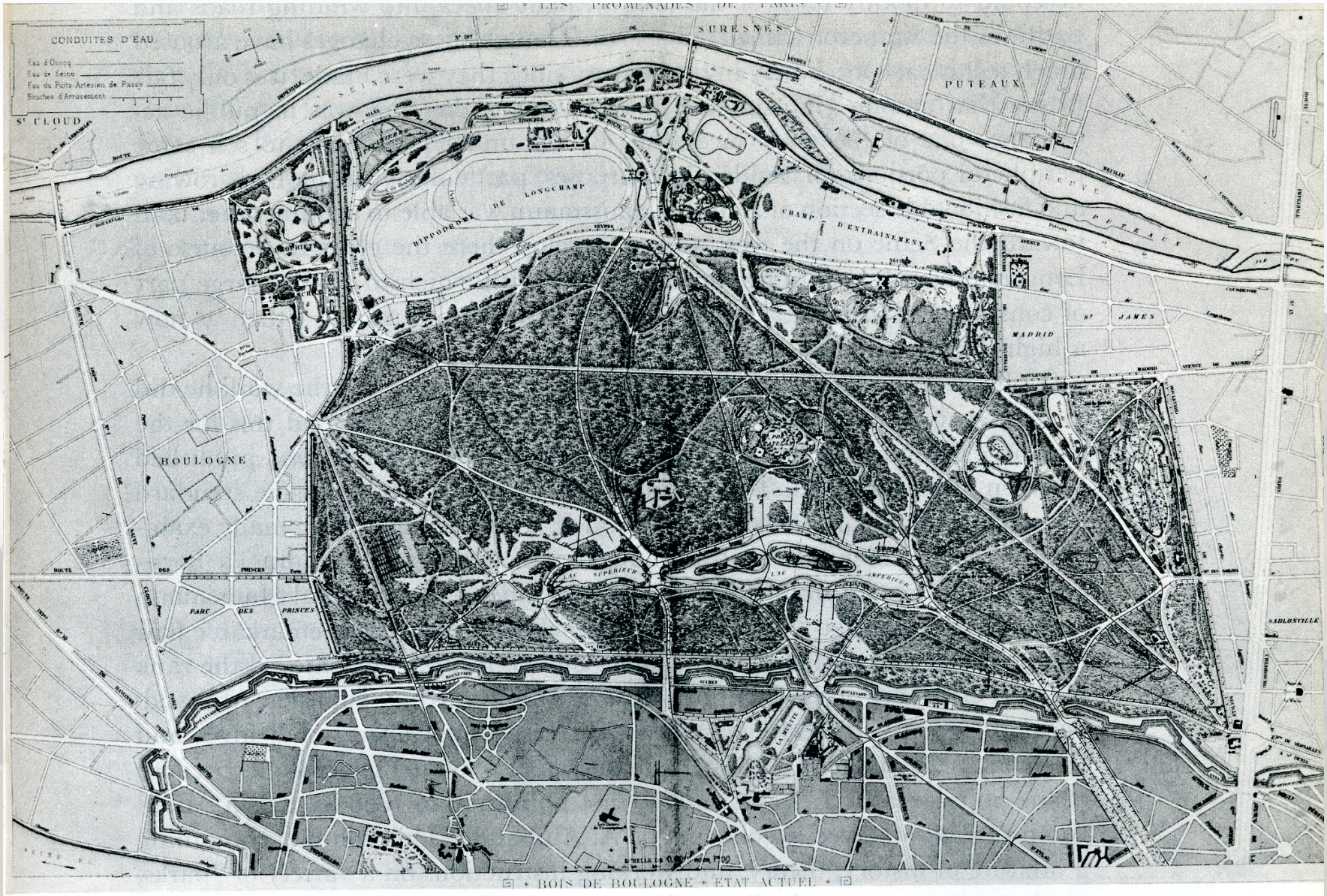
- Unity: developing a controlling scheme with entire consistency, a quality of wholeness or oneness.
- Inwardness: as part of this unity principle, he argued for an inward focus such as might be achieved with a concave or bowl topography. This stressed the importance of a recognition of the "lay of the land" in planning.
- Outwardness: recognizing the concurrent need for the human eye to focus on something outside the current setting, he argued for an expansive quality including every distant feature of the larger landscape as part of a park.
- Simplicity: never have the result look difficult. One should have the general impression of quietness and simplicity, effortless and ease, not show.

- Man as nature: We need to include Man as part of the park, capturing their efforts to animate the scene.
- House-Garden unified: next to house look for the charm of a garden of modest proportions to contrast with the larger garden around. The garden itself should become an extension of the living spaces of the house.
- Ecology for humans: use of native plants or thoroughly acclimatized plants avoiding all ornamentals true to their character but arranged “for the use and comfort of man”.
- Variety: sensing the dynamic quality of the time dimension in the outdoors, he proposed always a road system that would be laid out to provide multiple routes to allow points of interest along the way to be experienced differently every time one went out. Always with a different way to return.
- Educational values: As an aristocrat, it was remarkable that he saw the venture for its value in educating all people. Doubts about vandalism, for example, he addressed by arguing for a patient and balanced approach to deterring mischief, seeing the long term effects as naturally quieting this urge. Today, the NPS education of a tenderfoot to the ways of the park are in the same spirit.

Alphand in France

175. Paris: the earlier state of the Bois de Boulogne, with allées and ronds points normal to the French tradition.





176. Paris: the Bois de Boulogne as "improved in the English fashion" for the Emperor by Haussmann and Alphand.

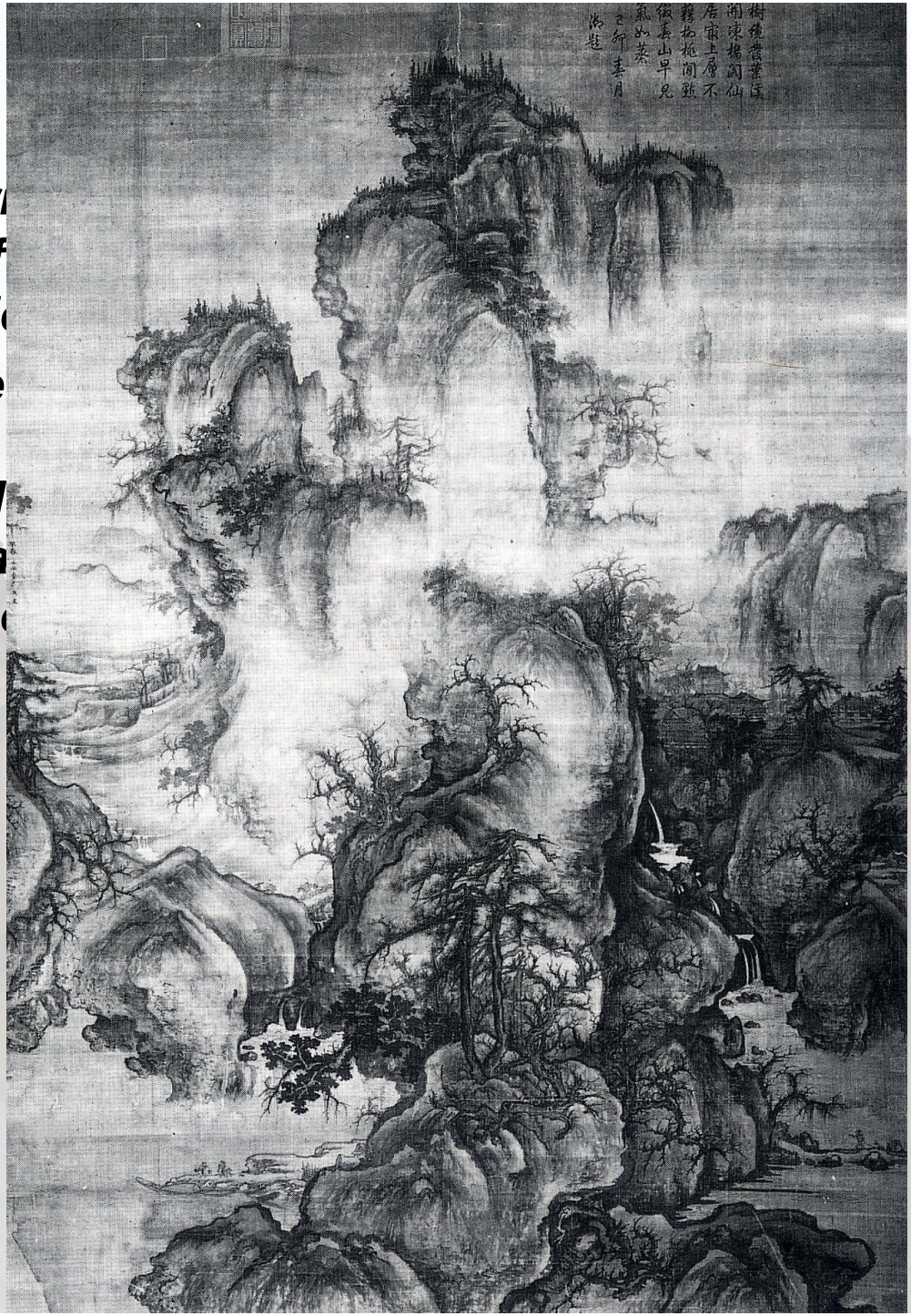
We began with a trip east

Summer Palace

Beijing

China

- ***Nature itself for***
  the inspiration f
  garden aesthetic
- ***Designed garde***
  (outside of
  agricultural and
  cultural landsca
  were the provin
  the elite.



Early Spring, 1072,
Northern Song Dynasty

Detail of pavilion in Beijing

TECHNIQUE

- Yang Ye wrote a 3 volume work of garden theory and practice. Good siting, borrowed scenery, use of built up mountains and dug out ponds.

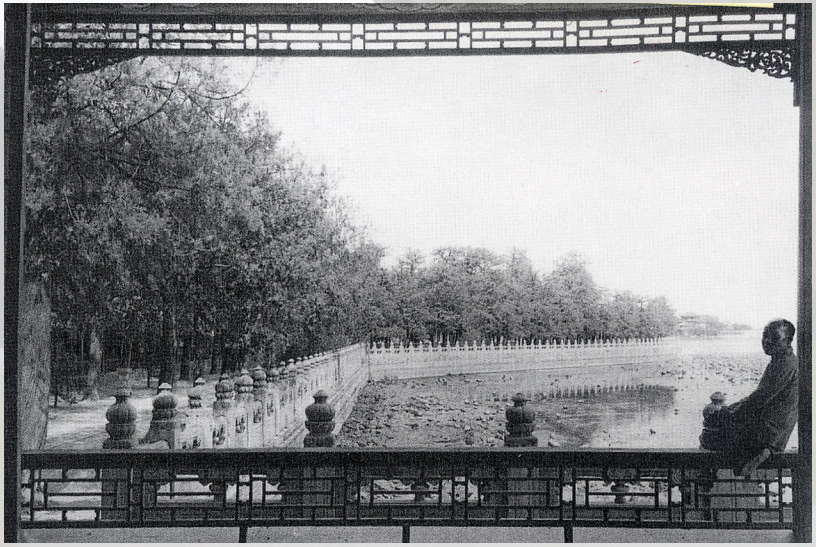
- Wall design with bas relief friezes and discrete links between spaces – windows, moon gates. All meant to remind you of walking through a landscape painting.

Moon Gate Garden of ease-Sozhou

Lattice window Sozhou

long gallery-painted panels

West Lake,
Hangzhou

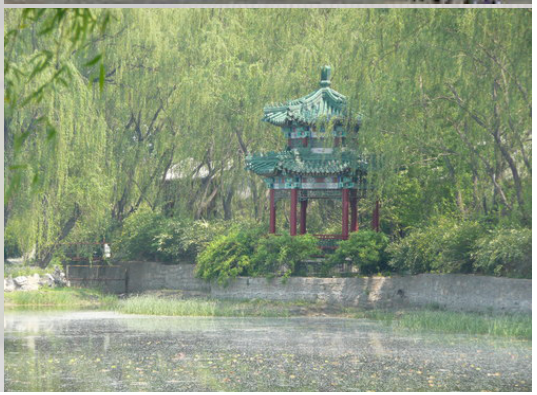


Long gallery-Chang Lang
– view of lake

Jade belt bridge-
Garden of ease & harmony

China

- **Master of the Nets** – 1140 in the Song Dynasty by a Civil Service worker, noted for its synthesis of art, nature, and gardening. Use of borrowed scenery, contrast, depth, sequence of experiences.
- **Forbidden City** – Ming Dynasty 1406-1420, rebuilt seven times. Traditional Chinese Palatial Architecture, 980 buildings.
- **Yi He Lan** – 18th and early 19th c, Qing Dynasty, also the Summer Palace in Bejing. Destroyed in 1860 by the Brits in the second opium war. Now a political icon of foreign aggression.



Master of the Nets

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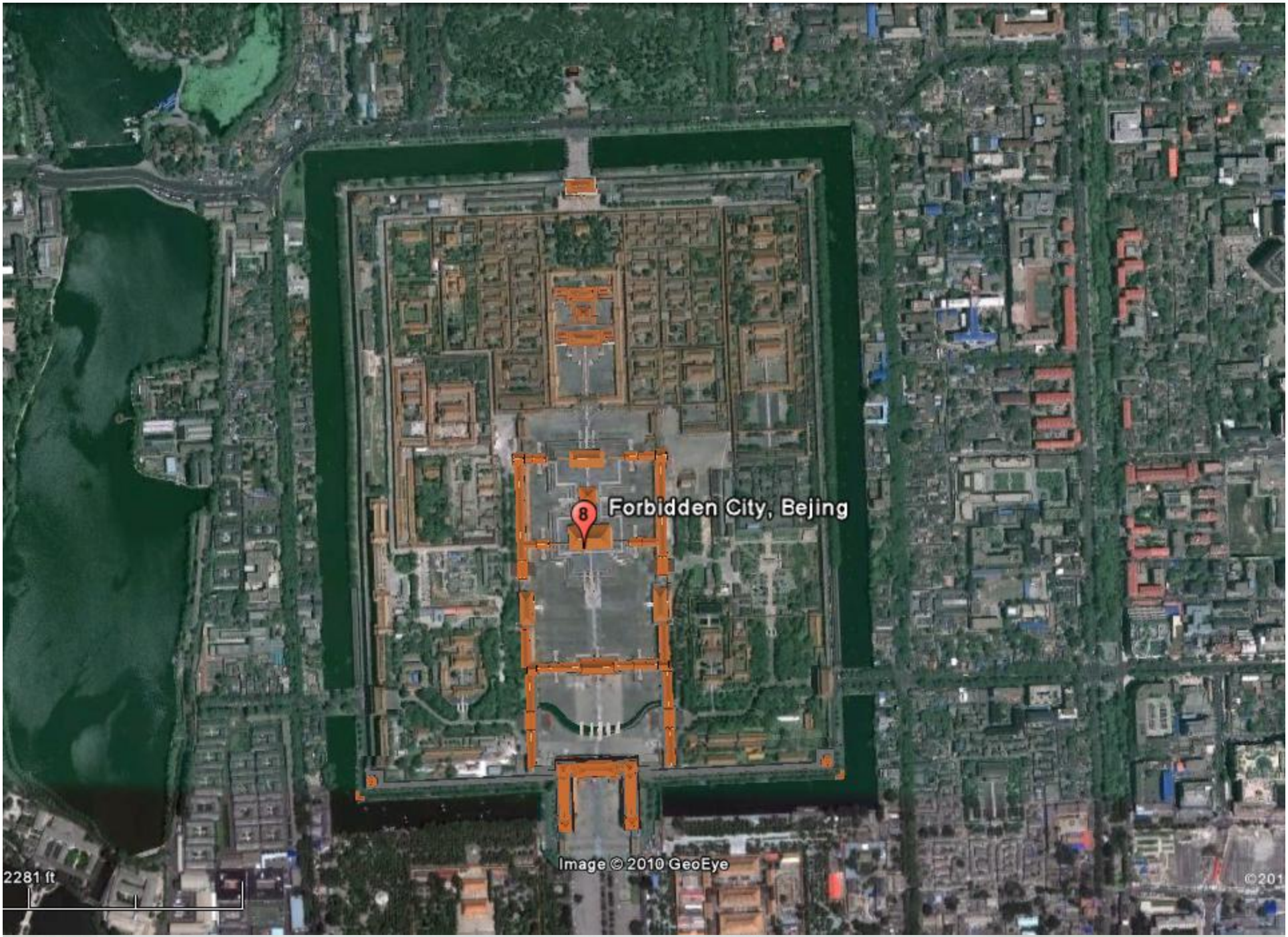
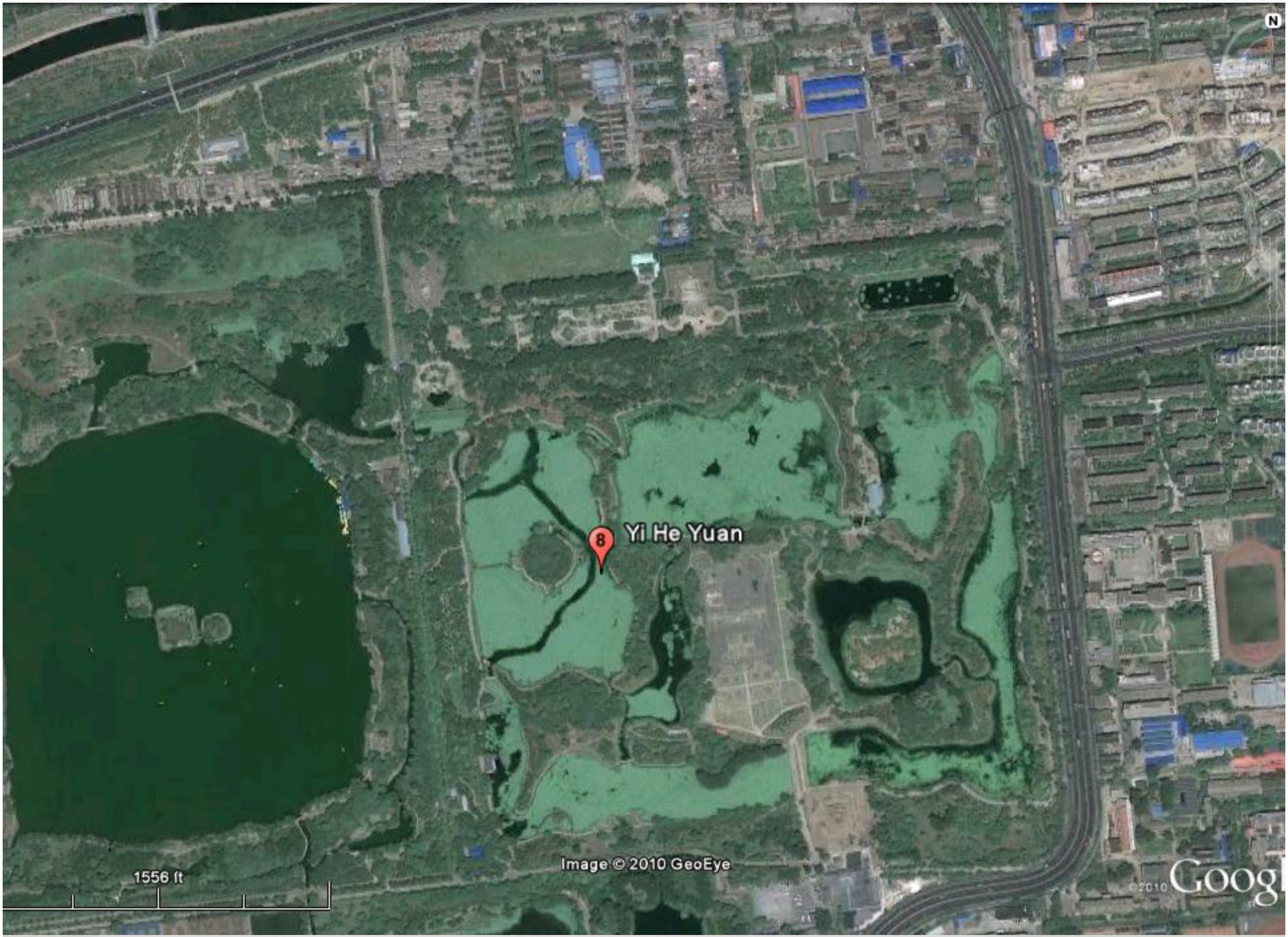

8
Forbidden City, Bejing
Image © 2010 GeoEye
2281 ft

Zhonghai
Forbidden City, Bejing
Image © 2012 GeoEye
© 2012 Mapabc.com
700 ft
Imagery Date: 3/28/2012
2001
39°54'55.67" N 116°23'24.38" E elev 179 ft
Eye alt 2710 ft
Google earth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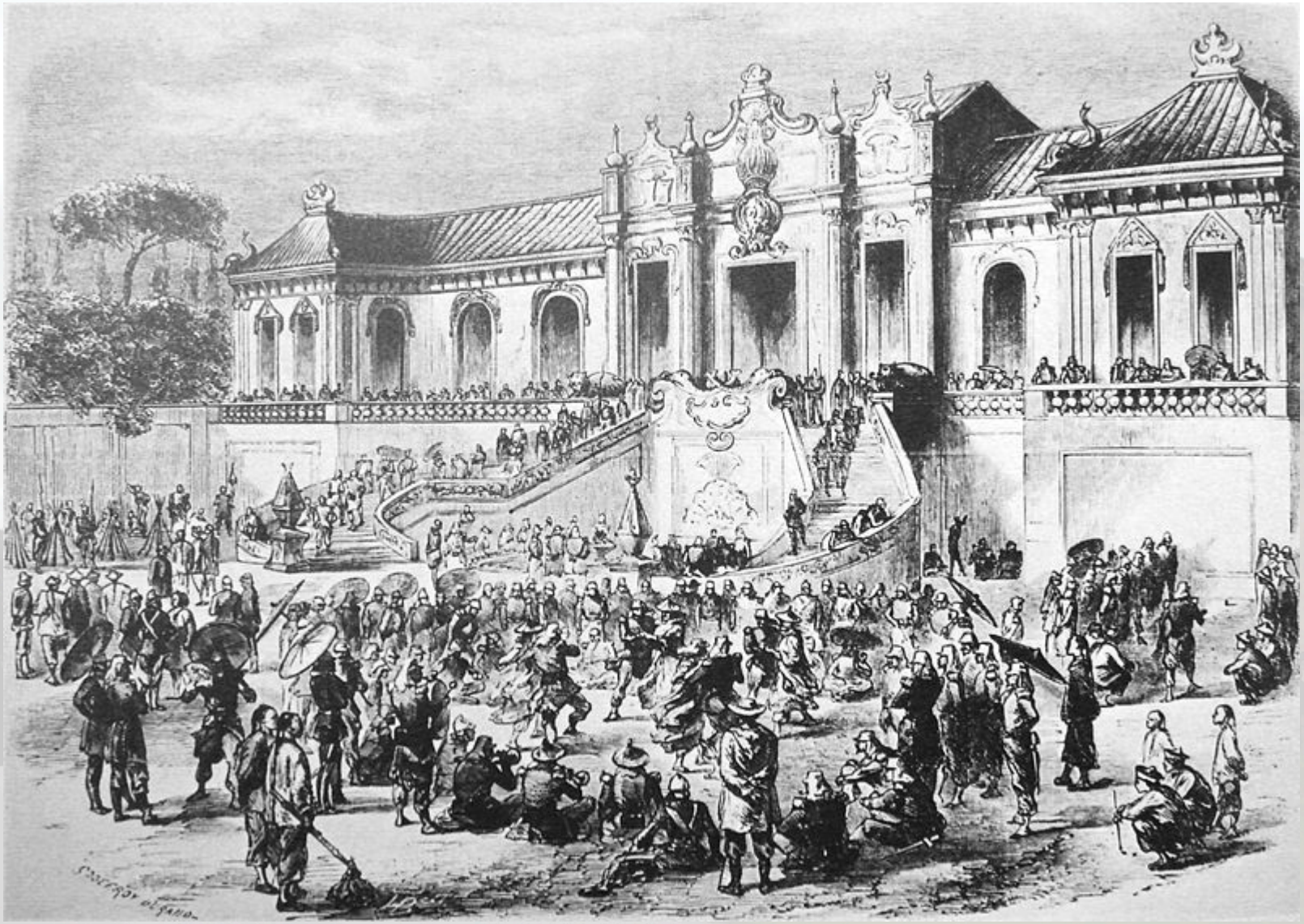
8
Yi He Yuan
Image © 2010 GeoEye
1556 ft
©2010 Google



Charles George Gordon, then a 27-year-old captain in the Royal Engineers who later made his name in the Sudan, was part of the 1860 force and wrote:

We went out, and, after pillaging it, burned the whole place, destroying in a vandal-like manner most valuable property which [could] not be replaced for four millions. We got upward of £48 apiece prize money...I have done well. The [local] people are very civil, but I think the grandees hate us, as they must after what we did the Palace. You can scarcely imagine the beauty and magnificence of the places we burnt. It made one's heart sore to burn them; in fact, these places were so large, and we were so pressed for time, that we could not plunder them carefully. Quantities of gold ornaments were burnt, considered as brass. It was wretchedly demoralising work for an army.

Moss and Stones: Temple and Palace Gardens of Japan

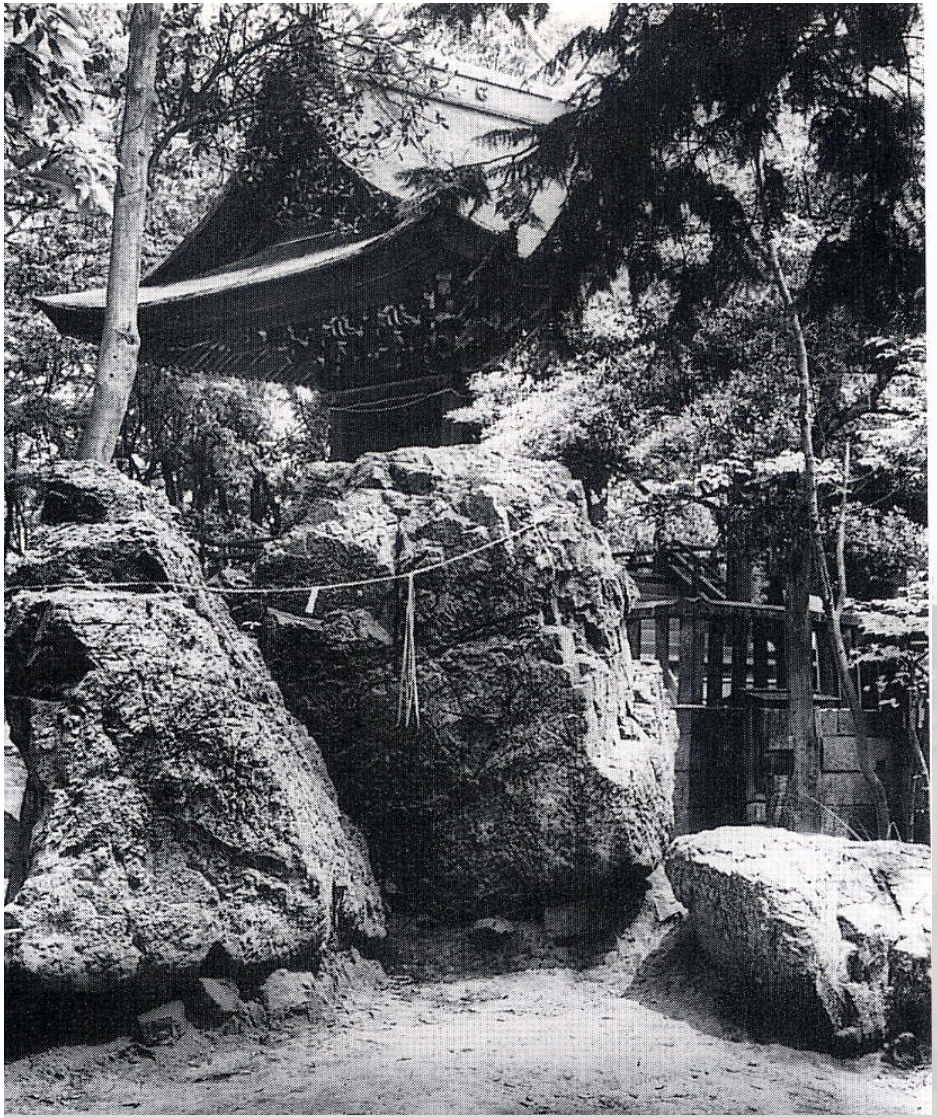
- Arrived in Japan in 6th C along with Buddhism.
- They tried to recreate the idiom in a scale more fitting top their island. Travel to find favorite views and then emulate at home was recommended.

Phoenix Hall - Uji, Japan

Geomancy

- Use of geomancy, orienting buildings to the South, letting water flow east to west, building symbolic mountains to protect one from the northwest.

Geomancy (fengshui) compass, 19th century, Wood, lacquer, glass.



Iwakura - sacred stone

Aichi shrine

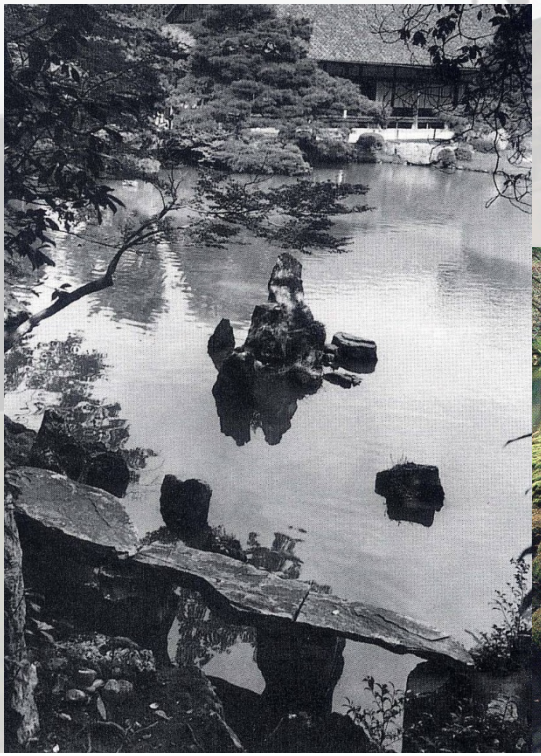
Shinto gardens

- Use of Shinto gardens (Niwa-sanctified place set apart for the worship of gods) today has been along formulaic ways:
  - ✓ abstract compositional harmonies
  - ✓ borrowed views
  - ✓ asymmetrical configuration of design elements
  - ✓ attention to ground plane patterns and textures in the arrangement of moss and stones
  - ✓ sacred stones inhabited by in-dwelling spirits

Zen Buddhist gardens

- later 1185 to 1333- smaller scale away from the lake gardens and more intimately attached to smaller scale natural accents – the dry cascade, the moss covered walk, the stone composition.

Rock arrangement Tenryu-ji Temple at Kyoto



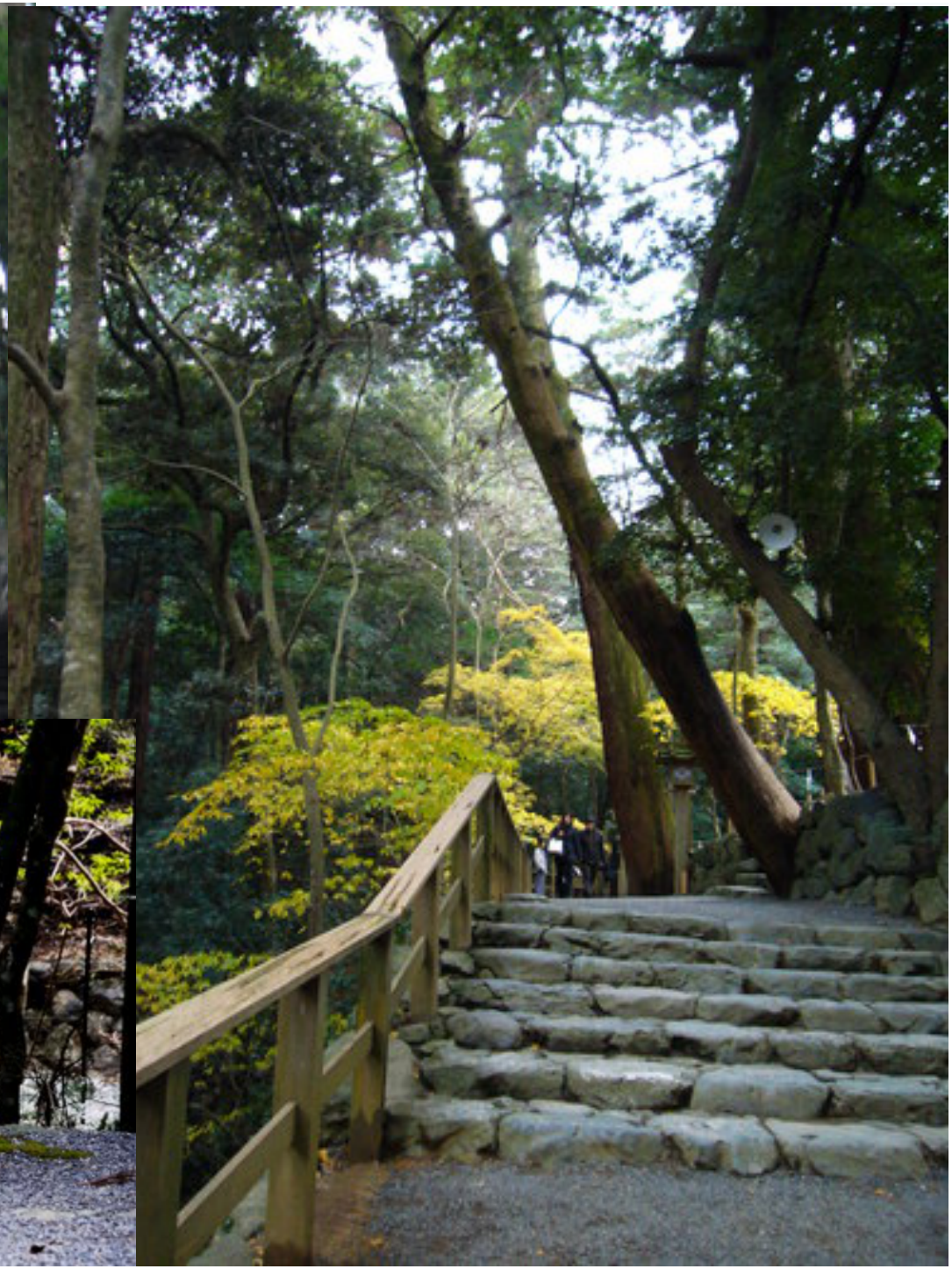
Lake and Moss-Garden Saiho ji Temple

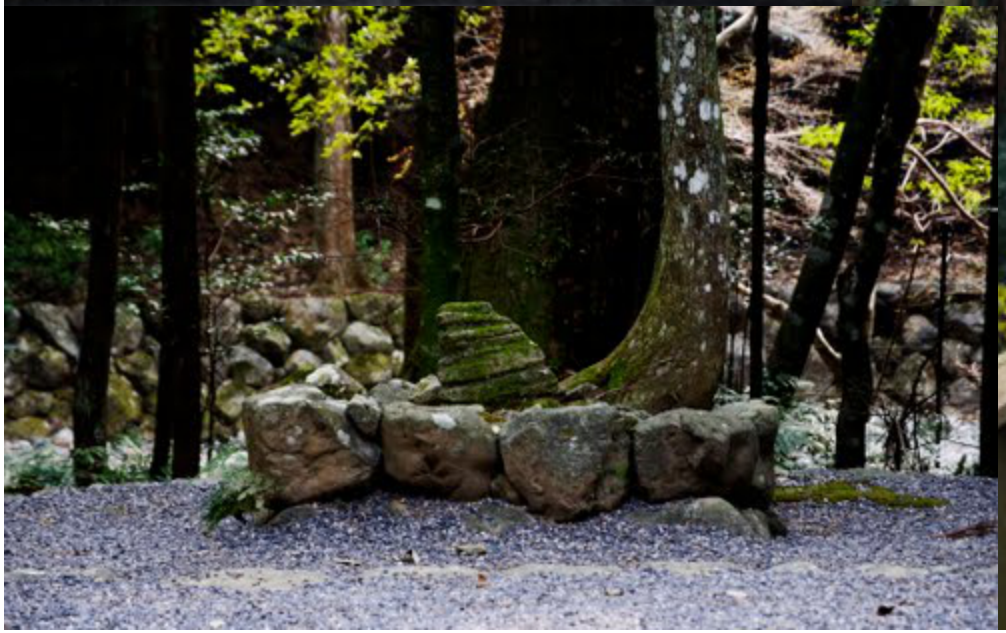
Dry cascade Garden Saiho ji Temple

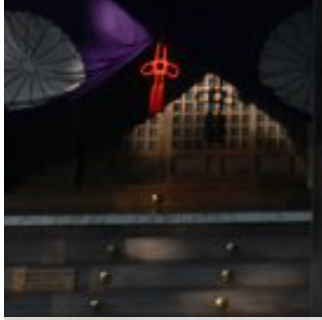
Japanese Gardens

- **Shinto Shrine in Mie Prefecture, south of Ise City**, Mie Prefecture, home of the sacred mirror, one of the holiest of Shinto sites, caretaker is member of the Ruling family.
- **Tenryu-ji, Susukinobaba-chō, Ukyō Ward, Kyoto**. Buddhist Temple, 1339. (also Kinkaku-Ji)
- **Urasenke Konnichian estate in Kyoto (tea garden**) from 1521.
- **Katsura Imperial Villas and Park**, 1615 – 1662. Three sets of buildings, central pond with strolling path garden. Inspiration for Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier.

Shinto Shrine







Buddhist Temple
Tenryu-ji, Susukinobaba-chō, Ukyō Ward, Kyot
535 ft
Gray Buildings © 2008 ZENRIN

Sagatenryuji Kitatsukurimichicho
Tenryu-ji, Susukinobaba-chō, Ukyō Ward, Kyoto, J
© 2012 ZENRIN
Image © 2012 GeoEye
© 2012 Cnes/Spot Image
23 ft
Google earth
Imagery Date: 4/28/2010
2010
35°00'56.03" N 135°40'24.84" E elev 170 ft
Eye alt 244 ft

Kinkaku-Ji Private Tea Garden

Kinkaku-Ji

Imperial Villa

Chiyoda
Katsura Imperial Villa
Uchibori D
Tokyo Exp
© 2012 ZENRIN
© 2012 Google
1776 ft
Gray Buildings © 2008 ZENRIN
Imagery Date: 9/30/2009
1997
35°41'05.05" N 139°45'15.86" E elev 28 ft
Eye alt 7958 ft
Google earth

Conclusion