

Paradise as Symbol and Metaphor
The Landscapes of the Middle Ages and Islam
History of Land Design
10/24/2008

1. *Chronology and Context: Middle Ages*
2. Christian Europe
 - a. Environment
 - b. Culture
 - c. Design expressions
 - i. Monasteries
 - ii. Walled Towns
 - iii. Castle Gardens
3. *The Middle Ages*
Walled Cities
 - a. Defensive works:
 - i. Example-Carcassonne in SW France
 - b. *Ecclesiastical Space*
 - i. Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, monasteries
 - ii. Example of St. Gall (830 AD)
4. Terms and devices
 - a. Hedges and Trellises
 - b. Grass and Turf Seats
 - c. Trees – specialized techniques
 - d. Raised Beds
 - e. Limited Plants, mostly herbs
 - f. Fantasy Gardens
 - g. Garth
 - h. Beestes
 - i. mazes and labyrinths
5. Town Planning
 - i. Important note is the Medieval town square
 1. “windmill” effect in squares. (whirling square)
6. *Chronology and Context: Islam* Moorish Spain (eighth – fifteenth centuries AD)
 - a. Environment

- b. Culture
- c. Design Expressions
 - i. Religious courtyards
 - ii. Palace Courtyards
 - iii. Design Aspects of Persian Gardens

7. *Islamic Influences on Western Agriculture*

- a. New Crops Introduced to Europe
- b. Agricultural Technology

8. The Paradise Garden

- a. Background:
 - i. Religion
 - ii. Landscape design from the Persian gardens and the hanging gardens of Babylon.

9. *Cordoba, Seville*

- a. City life:
 - i. Cordoba
 - 1. The Court of Oranges, the forecourt of the mosque, the place for absolution.
 - ii. Gardens of Alkazar, the palace of the Moorish kings.

10. Granada

- a. Country estates
 - i. Alhambra and Generalife are high above the town of Granada which lies in the valley below.
 - ii. *Alhambra*
 - 1. Court of Myrtles, Torre de Comares, Hall of the Ambassadors, Court of the Lions
 - iii. *Generalife* is 200' higher up and opposite Alhambra.

11. East to west transfer–Iran & Mogul India

- a. With the advent of the Timurid Empire (tamarind, 1360-1405) Islamic influence spread to India and into Central Asia
- b. Damascus, Mesopotamia, and Iran.