

Lesson 1

REVIEW OF GARDEN HISTORY

AIM

Become familiar with a brief outline of garden history, reasons for studying garden history, and the scope and nature of garden conservation today.

INTRODUCTION – A REVISION OF THE HISTORY OF GARDENS

The following extract is from our Garden Renovation Course. Even if you have previously studied that course; re read this as a foundation for the remainder of this course.

Although the beginnings of horticulture are lost in the mists of time, it is a certainty that plants were being selected and cultivated at the very beginning of human civilisation. Evidence has been found of gardens in ancient civilisations in all parts of the world: Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

As certain plants proved themselves to be valuable their use expanded, and they were spread beyond regions where they occurred naturally.

Ancient Mid-Eastern Gardens

There are records of man-created gardens as early as Egyptian, Persian and the first Asian civilisations. These gardens usually reflected strongly the culture and civilisation to which they belonged. Egyptian gardens were formal, symmetrical and strictly functional providing food (date palms, vegetables etc) and herbs. A papyrus dating 2000BC lists 85 different herbs used by the Egyptians. Stone columns or palms were frequently used to create avenues. These early Egyptian gardens were found only amongst the wealthy classes.

Around 650 BC King Nebuchadnezzar built the Hanging Gardens of Babylon for one of his wives. These gardens were simply plantings on each level of a tiered (stepped) temple. This was the standard form of construction for temples - the garden was simply an addition. In this garden, water drawn from a nearby river was used to create waterfalls and cascades.

The Persians were hunters, and as such preferred a lot of trees in their gardens to attract game. This idea rubbed off on the Assyrians who encouraged extensive plantings after contact with Persia. When the Persians conquered Egypt around 500 BC, they adopted the idea of enclosing the gardens with a high wall. All of these ideas combined together to give us the eastern style of landscaping (ie. a symmetrical garden, with tall trees and enclosed by a high wall).

Over time middle eastern gardens evolved, but the one feature that remained was enclosure (being walled).



Chinese Gardens

Chinese gardening began long before the time of Christ. There is a strong underlying pre-occupation with ethics and philosophy influenced by Taoism in Chinese gardening. This involves concentration on the unity of creation, harmony and order being developed to highlight nature through symbolic representation in a way that is not very common in western gardening.

The principles of Feng Shui are often applied in Chinese garden design. Elements of the garden are positioned to bring good luck and provide the balance represented by the principles of yin and yang.

Pure Chinese gardens lack lawns, symmetrical design, and artificial manipulation of water. These things however are common in Western gardens. European gardeners tend to appreciate and select plants for their function or beauty; but Chinese gardeners will often choose to use a plant for the same reason that they choose to use any other component – for its symbolism.

For example, the Chinese see bamboo as representing an honourable man, because it bends in the wind, and does not break. The peony represents wealth and elegance. The peach represents immortality.

The chrysanthemum, a symbol of autumn, was amongst the earliest commonly grown plants in China. Because it flowers in autumn and winter, it came to symbolise longevity. Records from the 12th century AD list 35 varieties of chrysanthemum being cultivated.

In China, water rather than lawn is used to provide the peaceful surface for a large open area in the garden. A European garden might be built to surround a lawn; but a Chinese garden is more likely to be built to surround a lake or large pond. The shape of the water feature is determined by how it interacts with the other components of the design.

The symbolism of the various elements in the Chinese garden is an important part of the design. Rocks are an important component because they symbolise permanency. Aged trees reveal

qualities of strength, lengthy contemplation and grandeur. As Confucius said, “the wise find pleasure in water, the virtuous find pleasure in hills”.

UK Garden History

We have evidence of garden design in England back to the Roman times; however between 400 and 800 AD evidence of any significant garden design is rare if not totally void.

Roman Period

A great deal of evidence exists from Roman times to show that ornamental horticulture was highly developed there. Roman writers, such as Pliny the Younger, mention a wide variety of flowering plants as being grown by Romans (including *Buxus*, *Hedera*, *Rosmarinus*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Rosa*, *Lilium*, *Iris*, *Laurus*, etc). Roman gardens incorporated elements from other civilizations (Egyptian, Persian, Greek, etc), and may be seen as a natural synthesis of these various contributors.

Roman gardens often utilised walls heavily and were often courtyards in the centre of a house. Murals, mosaics and paving were common. There are records of fish ponds, small trees and stone columns also being used in Roman courtyards.

We know about the likely nature of Roman gardens in the England not only from evidence in the UK, but also evidence from all over the Roman World. While there may have needed to be some differences due to climatic variance and available materials, generally speaking, Roman architecture and garden design shared common features throughout the Roman World.

There were different types of gardens in Roman time:

- The Courtyard or Enclosed Home Garden. Beyond the atrium there was an open courtyard which was used as an outdoor living area
- Religious (Sacred) Gardens
- Open Garden
- Parks –a large number of private parks were established in Rome

Middle Ages

English gardening from 800AD was similar to medieval gardening throughout other parts of Europe..

Records from the time of King Alfred (died 899) show a diverse range of plants were being cultivated, including grapes for wine and fresh fruit. A record in 1020 AD lists over 200 different herbs and trees, many grown in monastic gardens. We also have English records to show plants being grown both for medicinal and aesthetic purposes around this time.

There are increasing records over the next few centuries to evidence deliberate development of gardens in various parts of England; though most of the gardens that we know of from the English middle ages have long since disappeared or been redeveloped.

Example: We know that Henry I was creating a large walled park at Woodstock, north of Oxford, by 1110 AD; but that this property was redeveloped in the 1700's as Blenheim Palace.

There is insufficient evidence to show any significant pattern in the evolution of garden design from 1100 through to 1500, however the centuries after that are well documented and may be studied in detail.

We do however know that during this period:

- In the 13th century there was an emphasis on planting trees for aesthetic purposes

- Lawns were grown both as bowling greens and for aesthetics
- Tunnel arbours were created surrounding lawns or borders (covered with climbers) from the 13th century onwards
- Double moated gardens were created with trees on the mounded land between the two moats.
- There are indications of the beginnings of the English herbaceous border
- *Juniper*, *Buxus* and possibly *Ilex* were becoming popular around 1400AD
- In the 1400's shaped plants (clipped hedges, knot gardens, etc) were becoming popular
- Rosemary was introduced to England around 1340.

Renaissance Period (1485-1642)

Early Tudor gardens were influenced by developments in France. The English kings wanted to compete with the French who were developing pleasure gardens at this time.

Three very significant garden developments were initiated by Henry VIII:

- Hampton Court Palace
- Whitehall
- Nonsuch Palace

Throughout the 1500's gardens began to change. Crop plants were gradually replaced by ornamental plants. Coloured gravels began to be used for pathways. In Elizabethan England such features as mounts, mazes and labyrinths were used.



Definitions:

Labyrinth - an enclosed tunnel way.

Maze - a tunnel way open to the sky.

Mount - a variation in ground level where a person can get higher than the surrounding level ground.

In the late 16th century, France continued to affect English garden development. The wider aristocracy in France were developing gardens as an essential part of any country house; and the English largely followed suit. The interest in gardening boomed alongside a building boom from the later part of the 16th century through to around 1620

With James 1st (Jacobean period) there was peace throughout Europe, and a surge in patronage for the arts. In this climate, gardening received more attention than ever before and a revolution in garden design began.

One of the first renowned garden designers in England was Solomon de Caus who had studied in Italy in the 1590's.

He was commissioned to redesign gardens at Somerset House, Richmond Palace and Greenwich Palace; and in his designs he introduced ideas of aligning the garden with the house, using perspective in the design and incorporating water features (eg. grottos, fountains). His ideas stimulated great interest throughout England. His work was carried on by his nephew (Isaac) through the 1620's and 30's creating more gardens in a similar style.

Inigo Jones (1570-1652) was another significant Renaissance architect, painter and Garden designer in England. Influenced by travels in Italy, he favoured a Palladian style where a sense of unity between the garden and house was seen to be very important. Amongst other things, he designed formal features, and incorporated gateways placed with intended precision into his designs.

Formality

During the second half of the 17th century, the Formal Garden grew in popularity throughout England.

Characteristics of a Formal Garden

- A strong geometrical arrangement of design.
- Strong colours are used in contrasting arrangements.
- Balance is a principle that is given a high priority.
- There is fine detail and finish in everything (eg. stone is cut with straight square edges rather than in rough form - joints in brick walls are raked, etc.).
- There is symmetrical design in everything.

Wilton –One of the first major English gardens of its type - *this picture dates to around 1640*



Important English Landscapers

Rose (John) 1629-1677

Rose was perhaps the first important English landscape designer. After studying under Le Notre at Versailles he went to England where he worked for Charles 1st as Keeper” at St James Park. Records of his work are limited.

Kent (William) 1685-1748

Originally a coach painter, later an interior decorator and primarily an architect turned to landscaping, Kent was responsible for eliminating much of the formality which had dominated gardens up till his time. Living from 1685 - 1745, Kent introduced long winding walks and utilised such things as urns and decorated bridges, developing something closer to what we in Australia know as traditional gardens.

Brown (Lancelot) 1716 - 1783

Known as Capability Brown, regarded as a student of Kent's, he had no formal training. He worked for some time as head gardener at Hampton Court. Adopting the idea that straight lines were not natural he uprooted many old formal gardens and replaced them with his own natural style. He didn't like small places (he had no cosy corners) and this tended to make his gardens a little impersonal. Brown's emphasis on the natural things in garden design made him perhaps one of the greatest influences on modern gardens.

Many of Brown's gardens survive in England today, where he is regarded as a significant historical figure, beyond gardening, and perhaps beyond any other individual in landscape history.

Loudon (John Claudius) 1783 - 1843

Loudon developed the Gardenesque style, which was a fusion of the natural and formal styles which preceded him. Gardenesque style advocates design that displays each plant at its best. This style shows off the decorative nature of the plants through the use of lawns and footpaths. He believed gardens should be different to nature.

Repton (Humphrey) 1752 - 1818

Repton was primarily an agriculturalist with a leaning towards horticulture. He was the first to separate the ornamental garden from the kitchen garden. He believed in contrast rather than harmony. In general he followed Brown's ideas such as sloping lawns, flower beds cut in the centre of lawns, and curved paths.

Robinson (William) 1838-1935)

During the latter part of the nineteenth century Robinson, an Irishman, was one of the greatest landscapers both in England and abroad. He was influenced by both Repton and Loudon. He favoured a return to a more natural style, condemned bedding styles, botanic gardens and conservatories and promoted the woodland garden with masses of bulbs and creepers under a canopy of trees.

Jeckyll (Gertrude) 1843-1932

Jeckyll studied art and became skilled in the use of colour before moving to garden design. She wrote a great many books and popularized the "cottage garden" concept. Her influence extended well beyond the UK, and continues today, encouraging gardeners to think of and use colour as an artist would, as they conceive their garden designs.

EUROPE

Spanish Gardens

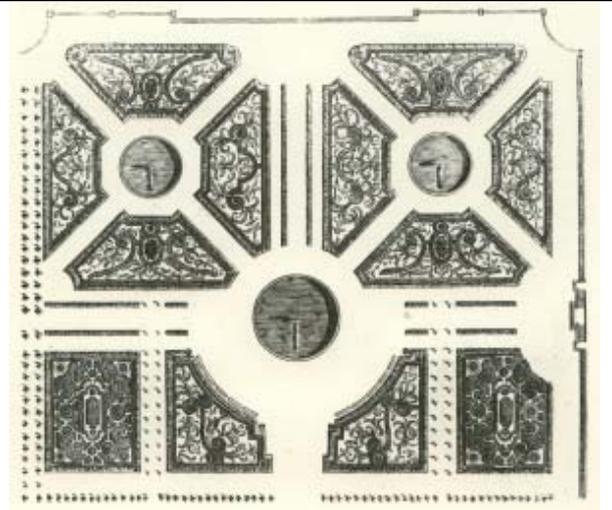
There were many Roman villas and attached gardens throughout Spain, but the influence of that gardening style waned when Spain was largely conquered by the Moors in AD 711-14. This Muslims were actually more scientifically advanced than the previous regime; and brought with them horticultural and artistic knowledge (and expertise). There was diversity in the way the "Islamic" garden was interpreted over that period. Some were large and used water as a dominant feature. Others were small and might not have used water features at all.

Monastery Gardens

From 500 - 1500 AD there was little progress in the development of gardening in Europe. The only real gardening in these times took place in monasteries. A framework was commonly built over at least part of the garden on which grapes would be grown both for the fruit and for the shade and atmosphere they created. This area would be called an arbour and was often used as a place of meditation. Often cloisters (similar to a veranda) would be built as places for meditation. The remainder of these monastery gardens would be developed on a symmetrical grid system with fruit trees, vegetables and herbs providing produce for the monks.

Le Notre (Andre) 1613-1700

Le Notre was a French landscaper from a family of well known gardeners; perhaps the first notable landscape architect. Le Notre's style was on a huge scale and extremely expensive, catering to the nobility and wealthy classes. Much of his work was for King Louis X1V - perhaps the most notable Le Notre landscape was for King Louis at his palace at Versailles, just outside of Paris. The gardens there are still preserved basically as originally laid out by Le Notre. Close to the palace more complex ornamental gardens were created on a smaller scale while further away from the palace the gardens were on a much larger scale, with large areas of trees over a ground cover of ivy. Everything in this garden, as with most of Le Notre's work, was both grand and symmetrical. He used tricks of perspective to give a feeling of grandness. The idea of a long vista (long stretch or axis through the centre of the garden) was common in his work, as were labyrinths.



THE WORLD

Olmstead (Frederick Law) 1822-1902

Olmstead was a farmer and journalist who became a landscape architect, and he designed Central Park in New York. His dominant influence was to create a park that was part of large scale town planning, and to achieve this, incorporating a system of traversing roads. In this respect he was a landscape architect rather than a garden designer

Burle Marx (Roberto (1909-1994)

A Brazilian Landscape Architect who was one of the most influential designers of the 20th century. Before Burle Marx, Brazil's gardens had more of a Portuguese and French influence, but Marx developed a style identified by the use of Brazilian native plants with informal sculptural forms. Characteristics of Burle Marx gardens are typically free flowing patterns, water, ground covers.

Australian Bush Garden

The major part of Australia's gardening history has simply been a reflection of developments and trends in Europe, in particular England. Most of the well established older Australian gardens follow the styles of Brown, Repton and Robinson.

There are some magnificent examples of these gardens on some of the older Australian estates in the Blue Mountains to the west of Sydney the Dandenong Ranges and Macedon area near Melbourne. Throughout the last 20th century, through the efforts of people such as Walter Burley Griffin, Edna Walling and Ellis Stones, Australia has developed its own unique style of gardening: the Australian Bush Garden. Not all gardens (by any means) are built in this style, but those which

are, are uniquely Australian. This natural bush style is a very informal type of garden which attempts to recreate as much as possible the naturally occurring effects of the Australian bush.

Permaculture

The concept of permaculture was first described by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren in 1978 in their book, *Permaculture I*. They defined Permaculture as "an evolving system of self-perpetuating plant and animal species useful to man", and described in detail how such a "self-perpetuating garden" might be created. Since 1978, the concept of permaculture has spread like a minor religion throughout the world, and permaculture has become a major technique used by organic gardeners.

Permaculture is characterised by the following:

- Planning the garden layout to maximise production.
- Recognising that gardens evolve or change over time.
- Adapts to any scale of land use - both large and small areas.
- Intensive land use.
- Diversity - different types of plants using different type of microclimates.
- Integration of productions systems, including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, forest management etc.
- Adaptability - able to adapt to any type of environment: for example: steep, rocky, seaside, dry inland.

A typical permaculture garden might include the following:

- A fenced home garden (to keep domestic animals in and pests out).
- Poultry foraging freely on the ground. The poultry control some plant pests, eat weed and other seeds which fall; and produce manure which fertilises the plants. The poultry also produce eggs and some meat. By killing a fowl occasionally, their numbers are kept in balance with the backyard environment, and they don't become too destructive.
- Established fruit and nut trees which produce food for the household and provide shade in the garden.
- Hedges and trellised fences which provide nuts or fruit (e.g. hazelnuts, medlars, loquats and climbing plants such as kiwi fruit and grapes).
- Fish in a large pond (perhaps trout) which can be taken for food occasionally. The fish also help control some insects.
- Climbing or trailing vegetables growing off the ground in no-dig garden beds on trellis where they are raised out of the reach of poultry.
- Various types of herbs growing as companion plants to other plants (mentioned above).

THE WORLD'S FIRST PLANT COLLECTORS

People have collected plants for thousands of years, taking them from one locality to be grown in a different locality. Earliest records show Egyptians in 1495 BC collecting fragrant plants from present day Somalia.

It is well documented that the Romans moved plants throughout their empire. In medieval times, monks in Europe were known to travel great distances carrying plants (particularly medicinal herbs) with them.

European interest in plant exploration accelerated in the mid 1500's and over the ensuing centuries, great sources of new plant material came to light in locations all over the globe. A pattern of exploration and discovery then developed; as new and exciting plants were discovered these areas were further explored by a sequence of plant hunters and collectors.

The main focus of plant collection has thus shifted from place to place around the world as new areas have been discovered, explored then as the pool of new and valuable species diminished; lost favour.

- Pre 1560 - most plants that were cultivated in Europe and the UK originated in parts of Europe.
- 1560 to 1620 - more plants were being brought into Europe from the near East.
- 1620 to late 1700's - plant introductions to Europe from North America
- 1687-1772 plant introductions to Europe from Southern Africa
- 1770 to mid 1800's plant introductions from Australia
- 1820 - 1900 - many introductions to Europe from Japan
- Late 1800 to 1930's – many introductions from inland China.

Where Were Plants Introduced First?

Often when a European country established a colony, plants were discovered and collected by that coloniser, and then first introduced into that country back in Europe. Plants from India tended to be introduced into England. Plants from the Spanish American colonies would have been introduced into Spain; and plants from Indonesia into the Netherlands, etc.

This was not exclusively the pattern though. Elizabethan navigators although more interested in the pursuit and trade of gold, came across the potato in South America, and introduced this all important vegetable to the UK from areas that were not English colonies.

A large number of common garden plants came from central and South American, Spanish colonies in the 16th century; including dahlias, cannas, nasturtium, sunflowers, and yuccas.

Important Plant Explorers

Note: This list is by no means comprehensive, but it may provide a broad impression of how plants were discovered, and gradually brought into cultivation.

Pierre Belon (1518 -1563)

Spent three years travelling the Eastern Mediterranean and wrote a book that mentions *Nerium oleander*, *Paeonia clusii*, *Cistus ladaniferus* and *Prunus laocerasus*

Joseph Pitton de Tournefort (1656 -1708)

A French botanist, plant explorer and teacher to many subsequent plants-men. He explored areas from the Greek Islands through to Persia (Iran), and was the first person to describe both the common Rhododendron and the ornamental poppy.

Tradescants (1600's)

A father and son, gardeners from England, between them visited North Africa, Russia and Virginia, exploring and collecting plants. They were responsible for many introductions to the UK

which may have included *Matthiola sinuate*, *Cistus* (various types), purple crane's bill, Algiers apricot, *Tradescantia virginiana*, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Rhus typhnia*, *Lireodendron tulipifera*, *Taxodium distichum*, etc.

Sir Hans Sloane (1660 -1653)

An Irish physician and plant collector, who studied medicine in London and France before settling in London. He was responsible for importing a large number of plant species from America into Europe – particularly trees and shrubs. On his first expedition (to Jamaica in 1687), he returned with 800 plant specimens. He was president of the Royal Society (1727-41). He corresponded with many plant collectors of the day and was instrumental in fostering support for their activities. In 1712 he bought the manor at Chelsea (which included the Chelsea Physic Garden (founded in 1673 by the Society of Apothecaries). Sloane provided great support for this garden.

Sir Joseph Banks (1743 – 1820)

Banks was an even greater patron of plant collectors than Sloane.

From 1768-71, he travelled the world as botanist on Cook's voyages. He introduced many plants to the UK including *Callistemon*, *Tetragona expansa*, *Banksia* and *Clianthus puneceus*. In 1771 he was appointed scientific advisor to the King, an appointment that made him in effect director of Kew Gardens, a position that enabled him to influence and support plant exploration across the globe. From 1778 till his death he was president of the Royal Society.

Prominent Plant Collectors that followed included:

Engelbert Kaempfer (1651-1715)	German physician and botanist worked for the Dutch East India Co. in Japan from 1690-1692. Was the first to describe many significant plants including <i>Hydrangea</i> , <i>Aucuba</i> , <i>Ginkgo</i> , <i>Camellia</i> , <i>Skimmia</i> , etc.
Francis Masson	Sent by Kew Gardens to South Africa in the 1770's
Nathaniel Wallich	Director of Calcutta Botanic Garden from 1815, collected many new plants through the Himalayas, Tibet and Nepal; and was ultimately responsible for many warm glasshouse plants coming to Europe.
French Missionaries in China	Throughout the 19 th century, strong French links with China resulted in permission to collect plants there, and subsequently many plants were introduced to France from China
Robert Fortune	Was sent to China from England in 1842, with a "shopping list" of plants to collect He introduced Yellow Jasmine amongst other things
Charles, John and James Vietch (1839-1907)	Working for the Wietch Nursery, introduced plants including <i>Lilium auratum</i> and <i>Magnolia stellata</i> to the UK.
Sir Joseph Hooker (1817-1911)	Introduced many Rhododendrons to England, Other introductions included Primulas and <i>Vanda caerulea</i>
George Forrest	Backed by a syndicate he collected plants from Asia on expeditions between 1904 and 1922

Reasons for studying garden history

If you are to get the most enjoyment out of a painting, then some knowledge of painting techniques and styles will assist you. Likewise, to fully appreciate a game of cricket then a basic grounding in the rules and tactics of play is important. In a similar way, it can be argued that in order to fully understand garden design and the role of gardens in today's world, an appreciation of the evolution of garden history is extremely beneficial. You may know how being in a particular garden makes you feel in terms of being relaxed, stimulated, and so forth, but without understanding what it is about the components and layout of the garden that triggers those feelings, you are likely to lack some insight. Through knowledge of how garden trends have developed over time it is possible to gain a more informed understanding and appreciation of gardens. As with anything in life, the past informs the present.

The history of the garden is also an important adjunct to the history of civilisations around the world. For instance, the ancient Egyptian gardens provide insight into the values, ideals, and beliefs of that society. The first gardens were an extension of religion and were often annexed to temples. They represented man's perception of an earthly paradise. Water, a scarce resource, was highly valued and was incorporated into these gardens to symbolise the 'river of life'. These gardens were owned by the wealthy and water was brought to them by slaves. Gardens at this time were also useful as well as idealistic. They were designed to incorporate a ready supply of fruit and vegetables for their owners. Gardens were typically walled to protect them from marauders and the harshness of the desert to provide sanctuary and shade.

Throughout the course of history gardens have adapted to changes in the social environment, politics, and ideals. In the UK, for example, gardens have been influenced over the centuries by invasions of different races. Gardens from the Roman era introduced vines, chestnuts and topiary. During the Dark Ages, walled monastery gardens provided refuge for monks. These gardens were self-sufficient and supplied food through vegetables, herbs, fruits, and fishponds as well as an area for contemplation and meditation. Saxon gardens are widely regarded as the origin of the cottage garden. The emphasis was on security and it was not until the Tudor period that this emphasis was relaxed and the garden became an extension of the house. The inclusion and exclusion of nature in the garden has vacillated over time. By studying these different fashions and needs, the garden historian is able to understand the significance of gardens and the importance of their design.

In today's world, as with years gone by, gardens represent man's attempt to come to terms with his surroundings. These gardens also correspond to ideals and desires and are indicative of the values of our societies today. For city dwellers they are perhaps the only means by which many people can interact with nature and express their creativity. Gardens provide a refuge from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, technology, and industry, and afford their owners the opportunity to find equilibrium in their lives. In order for gardens, whether communal or private, to provide satisfaction in the way that gardens from the past did for their owners, it is important to know why certain garden elements were utilised and to either remove them or adapt them to their surroundings to represent the thoughts and ideals of today's world.

Scope and nature of garden conservation today

Conservation is an important component of garden history. By preserving our garden heritage we are able to inform not only our own understanding of the evolution of garden history, but also that of future generations. In the UK, for example, there exist gardens and parks which span many centuries of history. These range from medieval knot gardens to eighteenth century landscape gardens, extravagant Victorian gardens to those of the post war era. The types of gardens

preserved include country estates, public parks and town gardens. Each represents the fashions and ideals of their time and the shifting social circumstances of those generations. Their preservation enables us to look through a window in time.

Throughout the world, garden conservation has developed as a means of preserving history. Heritage trusts and conservation societies have evolved to save and restore these gardens so as to provide a link between past and present. Garden conservation requires the skills of many different professionals. Heritage trusts are usually government backed and may award grants for worthwhile restoration projects as well as undertake conservation of existing gardens. The types of professionals employed by English Heritage include:

- Landscape architects: to provide advice on restoration of gardens, parks and landscapes
- Conservation consultants: to undertake research and to advise on policies and standards
- Landscape managers: responsible for overseeing garden maintenance projects
- Head gardeners: to manage a team of gardeners responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of plants, to curate plant collections, and implement management plans
- Advisors: to offer advice on, and to upkeep, a register of parks and gardens

Garden conservation societies are usually voluntary organisations which rely on income from memberships. They may also hold some sway with government. For instance, the Garden History Society in the UK is often consulted by the government in relation to a wide range of issues pertaining to historic gardens. This society also has clear aims which include the promotion of the study of garden history, the promotion of conservation of historic gardens and restoration advice, and to encourage the development of new garden projects.

In addition to preserving the buildings and landscapes of historic gardens, conservation also entails the preservation and documentation of plant collections.

SET READING

Refer to, and read any reference material you have access to that relates to the aim of this lesson.

This may include any of the following:

- Books in your own possession, or which you find in a library
- Periodicals you have access to such as magazines, journals or newspapers
- Websites

Spend no more than 2 hours doing this.

SET TASK

Visit a public garden in your town or city, or a nearby city. Study the garden in terms of its layout, design, structural components and plants. Make notes.

Alternatively, if you are unable to visit a garden for whatever reason, conduct your own research into a specific garden using the internet, books, brochures, or whatever resources you have access to.