

When I was hired to design this Garden, I decided to visit Japan to see gardens in Tokyo and Kyoto.

Although I was the master plan landscape architect for Long Beach State, as the University was called in those days, this was a new and challenging assignment. My degree in landscape architecture and professional experience was with projects in the classic western estate style of landscape design.

In fact I suggested to Lorraine, who I knew socially, that she hire an expert. But she said, "No Eddie, I want you to do it." So as intended, the trip helped me better understand some of the basic ideas about Japanese gardens. I thought the Meiji period gardens were especially enjoyable because they were less constrictive in their design and combined various garden styles, such as a tea garden, a dry garden, and what they called a hill and pond garden. Lorraine wanted to include these elements in this garden. As you stand here, you see an important feature of my design, the low berm that encircles the Garden. This was suggestive of the hill and pond style gardens I had observed in Japan. In order to give the effect that the Garden is down in the hills, we first dug the hole for the pond and used that soil to make the berms. Then topsoil was brought in to cover our native clay to improve the soil before we planted anything.

From here you can see the wooden gate you just passed through. Its design was also inspired by garden gates I saw in Kyoto. The gates roof tiles were imported from Japan at some considerable cost. Other design elements such as the lanterns and pagodas were picked up by Lorraine and I mostly from Warren Imports, a well-known import shop in Laguna Beach. The project team was also advised by Professor Koichi Kawana, who talked garden design at UCLA and had designed many public Japanese gardens in the U.S. He gave us just as many hints about what to do as what not to do to help us avoid pitfalls. The feeling that we got from him, and through our own observations, was to keep the design quiet, no bright blue tiles on the gate and no orange or red bridges. Throughout the pathways, I tried to give things an organic feel. I had observed in other gardens some creative combinations, but I did not for example, mix red and green and brown and white rock in the same spot. As many construction projects do, the Garden development went over budget which prompted the installation of fiberglass rocks for the

waterfalls and around the pond's edge. I thought these rocks were a good idea as they were cost effective and were popular for Southern California water features in public and private landscapes. However, this provoked criticism from some faculty and students after consultations with President Steven Horn, Dr. Kawana was called back to select and place many local stones at a strategic place within my design. Fortunately, Lorraine was willing to increase her donation for the additional rocks that were deemed appropriate for the setting. Throughout the project, Lorraine was clear with me, she wanted no clutter, nothing distracting going on. She wanted a place where people who were stressed could go and sit a while and shed the cares of the world.