

Looking past the zigzag bridge and across the pond, you can see Turtle Island with its small ponds. I encountered many gardens in Japan that had islands in their lake in the shape of an animal. I was told that the tortoise island is understood as a haven for immortals and symbolizes longevity and good luck and that these islands were thought of as a symbol of paradise a beautiful place that is not accessible by mere mortals and so you may have noticed that there is no bridge to take you there, but perhaps the appeal of these little islands is that they inspire us to imagine places we have only dreamed of visiting. The zigzag bridge is a good place to watch the colorful koi fish, following their graceful movements through the pond are stopping to feed them is a favorite activity. The beautiful koi also understood in Japanese cultures as symbols of longevity and perseverance for they, like our native salmon, forge their way up raging rivers and climb waterfalls to return to the streams of their birth. As we watch them, they remind us to be strong and persevere in our own lives. There are many beautiful perspectives to be enjoyed in this garden. Did you realize how your vantage point changed as you cross the zigzag bridge? The geometry of this bridge forced you to change your direction and look first at one view then another and another these changes focused your attention to landscape scenes deliberately designed to please your artistic sense. Likewise, as you follow the winding path waves that curves and adjacent plants hit certain elements from your view and then as you rounded the curve, revealed what was hidden. This creates a sense of anticipation, mystery and surprise and is a design strategy referred to as hide and reveal. It is a typical characteristic in Japan garden design and of course, all the views change with the seasons as the bare branches of winter filling with the leaves of summer and as the pale blossoms of spring give way to the brilliance of autumn leaves and berries. Another design strategy I employed was placing benches around the garden that welcome you to sit and relax for a while. Each time you visit I hope you take a moment to sit on another bench to contemplate the intended view or to share a private conversation with a companion. This garden was inspired by some of the elements and design strategies typically found in the gardens of Japan. Other aspects of the design grew out of my experience with

Southern Californian landscapes or responses to the functional requirements of this space and certainly the garden reflects the vision of the University and of the gardens founder Lorraine Miller Collins. Then as now it serves both the campus and the community very well and I know Lorraine would be pleased that you came for a visit today.