



The Art of the Islamic Garden

Emma Clark

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Now in paperback, this lavish guide explains the design and symbolism of Islamic gardens while giving practical guidance to replicating the component parts

The Islamic garden is regarded as one of the highest forms of visual art in the civilization of Islam, and this guide explains these gardens' history and symbolism, and their connections to the Quran. The principal elements are water and shade; they are also characterized by the chahar-bagh: a four-fold pattern, constructed around a central pool or fountain, with four streams flowing toward the four corners of the earth. This design is aesthetically striking; however, a true appreciation of an Islamic garden is only complete with an understanding of the spiritual symbolism manifested in its design and planting. The significance of the gardens' layout and design are explored, as well as the geometry, hard landscaping, and architectural elements, allowing a deeper understanding of the gardens' beauty. Practical instructions include recommendations for suitable trees, shrubs, and flowers, and advice on creating an Islamic garden in cooler climates.

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