**Difference between the English Garden and the French Garden**

There are many differences and similarities between the English garden and the French garden. They were both founded on the principles of the original English garden which Romans introduced to England upon their arrival in the first century AD.

The French garden occurs over a long period of time since it appears near the Renaissance, an epoch in which gardens played an important role in architecture but it reaches its clearest expression under Louis XIV and Louis XV. It’s Louis XIV who imposed his will on nature through the symbolic ordering of his gardens. By manipulating the landscape, nature could be made rational, regular and structured.

The French garden is situated on a flat terrain and has a symmetrical axis, usually centering on the house. “Goose-foot” patterns of paths radiate from circular features. They follow very geometrical lines. Plants are arranged in a way that they keep the geometrical and symmetrical layouts. The most famous example of this type of garden style can be seen in the gardens of Versailles designed by André Le Nôtre.

The English garden is a style of landscaping garden that was popular across the European continent. It has romantic elements which were introduced in the 18th century. It included ponds or small lakes, bridges or long docks into the water, wilder foliage, imitation ruins, grottos, expanses of rolling lawns and groves of trees and sculptures. Chinese Pavilions are also associated with the English-style garden. It was conceived as a space of natural fantasy rather than the French garden´s geometrical construction of nature. Where an English-style garden may have a pond, the French garden would have a reflecting pool accented with fountains or sculptures and always following a geometrical pattern. Large scale French gardens may have parterres too. They are the construction around the plants and are made of stone or carefully maintained hedges to create a symmetrical or even a geometrical pattern.

The influence of these two styles can still be seen in contemporary gardens. Our current garden style has the two tendencies: formal and informal within a single area. The structured decorative side of the French garden and the more romantic, abundant growth of the English garden.

**Aranjuez Gardens**

The Aranjuez Gardens are an immense space where art and nature blend in a harmonious landscape. Aranjuez is in the south of Madrid. This site is full of fountains, sculptures and hundred-year-old trees. It was chosen by the monarchy and Spanish Court for rest and leisure during the 17th and 18th centuries and whose cultural landscape has been declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco.

Next to the Palace flanked by the tranquil waters of the Tajo River is La Isla Garden which is considered the most important and typical of the Hapsburgs era (16th century). The staircase is adorned by white marble nymphs which leads to a cool orchard where Queen Isabel II would go for walks. The box tree’s array of scents fills the path, laid out in grid formation while the joyful constant rumour of fountains and waterfalls can be heard in the background. In the garden you will be able to discover intimate spots adorned with mythological sculptures.

A small gate opens onto El Parterre Garden located in front of the palace façade, with endless paths lined with geometrically-shaped hedges, following the French trend of the era. The paths that criss-cross the garden are adorned with marble vases, bright, colourful flowers and beautiful fountains, such as the Hercules an Ceres, allegories of Classical culture.

The Principe Garden has one hundred and fifty hectares which are a paradise of peace designed in the English style of the 18th century and form a serene landscape by the Tajo river.

The garden has large areas for hunting in contrast to the secluded dining pavilions. In this immense garden there is a wide variety of trees, fountains, ponds and monuments, such as La Casa del Labrador.

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