

THE ISLAMIC GARDEN WORLDWIDE

FOUR RIVERS OF PARADISE FLOWING TOWARDS THE FOUR QUARTERS OF HEAVEN

BEAUTIFUL, SECLUDED COURTYARD GARDENS OF DAMASCUS IN SYRIA, THE MOORISH GARDENS OF NORTH AFRICA AND SPAIN. THE WIDE OPEN SPACES, GEOMETRIC PATTERNS, AND RUSHING WATER OF THE GREAT PERSIAN, MUGHAL AND KASHMIRI GARDENS. THE ISLAMIC GARDEN HAS BEEN EXPLORED IN A VARIETY OF WAYS ACROSS THE WORLD.

Although different places have produced different styles of garden, they are all variations on a theme of the four Paradise gardens, jannat-al-firdaws, described most fully in Chapter 55 of the Qur'an.

Some gardens were given poetic names. In the great garden city of Isfahan, in Iran, there were gardens with names like 'Garden of the Heart's Ease', 'Garden of the Eight Paradises' and 'Garden of the Mulberries'.

Many English and European gardens, like Hestercombe in Somerset, include elements of Islamic design, such as geometric lay-out, rills and fountains.

Rashtrapati Bhawan Mughal Garden, Delhi



Chasme Shahi Garden, Kashmir



A courtyard garden, Aleppo, Syria



'The plan of the heavenly gardens always includes the four rivers of paradise flowing towards the four quarters of heaven, or from them towards the centre.'

Titus, Burkhardt,
Moorish Culture in Spain

Crossing Temple Gardens, Essex



Hestercombe, Somerset



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