



# SAKUTEIKI

## VISIONS OF THE JAPANESE GARDEN

A MODERN TRANSLATION OF JAPAN'S GARDENING CLASSIC

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Tuttle Publishing, 2001



The 1000 year old gardening classic, *Sakuteiki*, or "Records of Garden Making," is not only the oldest surviving work on Japanese gardening, it is the oldest book on gardening in the world. This new and extensively annotated translation provides a fascinating look into the world of meaning hidden within the design of Japanese gardens.

The first five chapters provide the background material necessary in order to fully understand the *Sakuteiki*:

**Life in the Heian Period** • a description of the ancient capital and the lives of its inhabitants.

**Nature** • the condition of the natural world that surrounded the Heian capital and the Heian-period perception of 'nature' as revealed through the *Sakuteiki*.

**Geomancy** • the ancient Chinese geophysical theories which were applied to everything from the construction of cities to garden design.

**Buddhism** • the esoteric Buddhist rituals that informed the lives of the Heian-period aristocrats also influenced the design of the gardens.

**Taboos** • the various superstitions which governed the daily lives of the aristocrats are revealed in the *Sakuteiki* as having been integrated into garden design.

A section of color plates of ancient scrolls and models follows these chapters and then the translation which is extensively footnoted, allowing the reader insights into the meaning of the ancient text.



Six by nine inches, 260 pages, nine color plates, forty black and white illustrations, twenty-page glossary, index and other appendices. Excerpts and further examples of the illustrations can be found at [www.mpkeane.com](http://www.mpkeane.com).

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