

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910463749703321
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Titolo	The gardens of Suzhou [[electronic resource] /] / Ron Henderson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : University of Pennsylvania Press, c2013
ISBN	0-8122-0725-4
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xv, 173 pages) : illustrations
Collana	Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture Penn studies in landscape architecture
Disciplina	635.90951/136
Soggetti	Gardens, Chinese - China - Suzhou (Jiangsu Sheng) Historic gardens - China - Suzhou (Jiangsu Sheng) Landscape architecture - China - Suzhou (Jiangsu Sheng) Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Visiting the Gardens -- Map of Suzhou -- Introduction -- Architecture in the Gardens of Suzhou / Jun, Jia -- The Gardens of Suzhou -- The Humble Administrator's Garden / Yuan, Zhuozheng -- Lingerig Garden / Yuan, Liu -- Lion Grove / Shizilin -- Surging Wave Pavilion / Ting, Canglang -- Master of the Nets Garden / Yuan, Wangshi -- Garden of Harmony / Yuan, Yi -- The Couple's Garden / Yuan, Ou -- The Garden of Cultivation / Pu, Yi -- The Mountain Villa of Embracing Beauty / Shanzhuang, Huanxiu -- The Mountain Villa of Embracing Emerald / Shanzhuang, Yongcui -- Crane Garden / Yuan, He -- Zigzag Garden / Yuan, Qu -- Carefree Garden / Yuan, Chang -- Gardens Near Suzhou -- Garden of Retreat and Reflection / Yuan, Tuisi -- Garden of the Peaceful Mind / Yuan, Jichang -- Garden of Peace and Comfort / Yuan, Yu -- Garden of Ancient Splendor / Yuan, Guyi -- Other Gardens in Suzhou and Region -- Comparative Plans -- Plants in the Gardens of Suzhou -- Stone in the Gardens of Suzhou.
Sommario/riassunto	Suzhou, near Shanghai, is among the great garden cities of the world. The city's masterpieces of classical Chinese garden design, built from the eleventh through the nineteenth centuries, attract thousands of visitors each year and continue to influence international design. In The Gardens of Suzhou, landscape architect and scholar Ron Henderson

guides visitors through seventeen of these gardens. The book explores UNESCO world cultural heritage sites such as the Master of the Nets Garden, Humble Administrator's Garden, Lingering Garden, and Garden of the Peaceful Mind, as well as other lesser-known but equally significant gardens in the Suzhou region. Unlike the acclaimed religious and imperial gardens found elsewhere in Asia, Suzhou's gardens were designed by scholars and intellectuals to be domestic spaces that drew upon China's rich visual and literary tradition, embedding cultural references within the landscapes. The elements of the gardens confront the visitor: rocks, trees, and walls are pushed into the foreground to compress and compact space, as if great hands had gathered a mountainous territory of rocky cliffs, forests, and streams, then squeezed it tightly until the entire region would fit into a small city garden. Henderson's commentary opens Suzhou's gardens, with their literary and musical references, to non-Chinese visitors. Drawing on years of intimate experience and study, he combines the history and spatial organization of each garden with personal insights into their rockeries, architecture, plants, and waters. Fully illustrated with newly drawn plans, maps, and original photographs, *The Gardens of Suzhou* invites visitors, researchers, and designers to pause and observe astonishing works from one of the world's greatest garden design traditions.

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