

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and blue pants, is sitting on a large, moss-covered rock in a Japanese garden. She is smiling and looking towards the camera, with her right hand resting on the rock. In the background, a small waterfall flows over several large, dark rocks. The garden is lush with green moss, ferns, and various plants, including a bush of purple flowers in the foreground. The overall scene is a serene and naturalistic representation of a traditional Japanese garden.

NORTH AMERICA JAPANESE GARDEN ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
PORTLAND. 2018

DEFINING JAPANESE GARDENS

EUROPE - SURVEY RESULTS

CONDUCTED BY CARLA AMORIM



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INTRODUCTION

Japanese gardens have been admired in western countries since long time and in Europe there are some remarkable historical gardens, mainly built by wealthy traders and aristocratic families that could visit Japanese in the early days after Sakoku.

These were amazed by its beauty and exotism and brought back to Europe elements such as stone lanterns, pavilions and bridges and their particular view of what a Japanese garden was exposed on new born gardens.



The history of foreign relations between Japan and western countries was greatly influenced by the first contacts from Europeans arriving Japan and equally from the first official Japanese expeditions to arrive in Portugal (1584) Spain and Rome (1613 through 1620), diplomatic relations were early established and strong as for what concerns economics and trade relations.

Although culture and non-economic relations were probably the first postcard of Japan to the world as the interest and amazement increased after the first Japanese participation on the Vienna's International Exposition of 1873 - where the west could enjoy the first Japanese garden built outside of Japan - the relation with Europe focused on the previously mentioned areas - economy and trade.

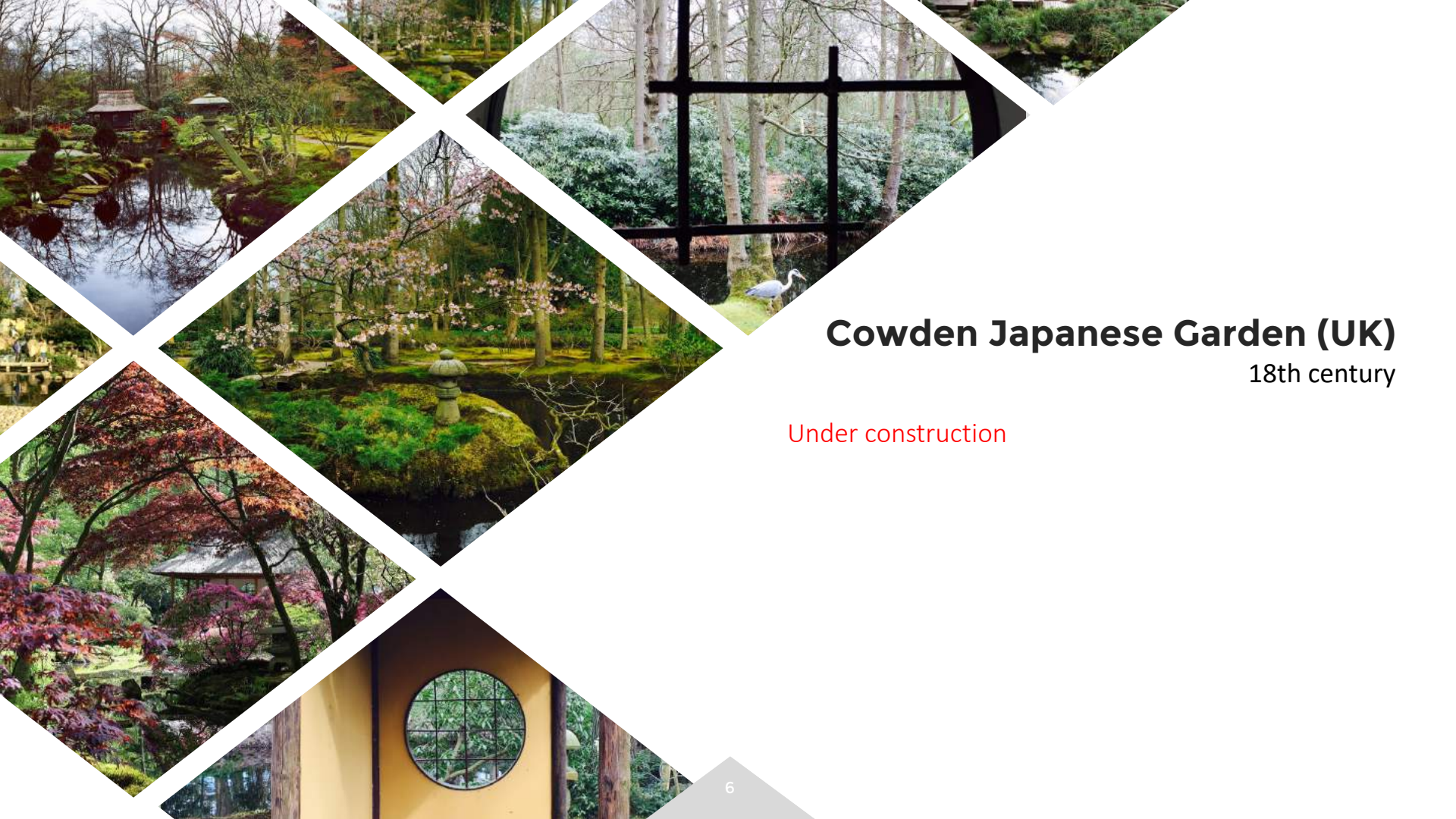
Cultural events grew specially through the second half of 20th century, but if we

This private individual interest and enchantment was accompanied hand by hand by the notion of Japanese Garden as an art form, a painting itself, representing ancient Chinese scrolls or to be painted and framed as many of these western visitors went to Japan to paint the natural sceneries and the gardens themselves were referred to on the early books written by Europeans - Josiah Conder (1852 –1920) and also Florence DuCane - as *“Landscape gardens”*

“... a garden representing a portion of the natural scenery of Japan - which is the aim of every good Japanese landscape garden”

Florence Du Cane, *The Flowers and Gardens of Japan*, ill. Ella Du Cane. London: Adam and Charles Black, 1908.





Cowden Japanese Garden (UK)

18th century

Under construction




Clingendael Japanese Tui NL

19th century

By Marguérite M. Baronesvan Brienen (1871-1939), also called Lady Daisy.

Lady Daisy sailed off a number of times by ship to Japan and brought back to the Netherlands a great number of lanterns, water basins, sculptures, the pavilion, the little bridges and several plants.

The original design with the serene pond, meandering brook and the winding pathways has remained intact all these years.

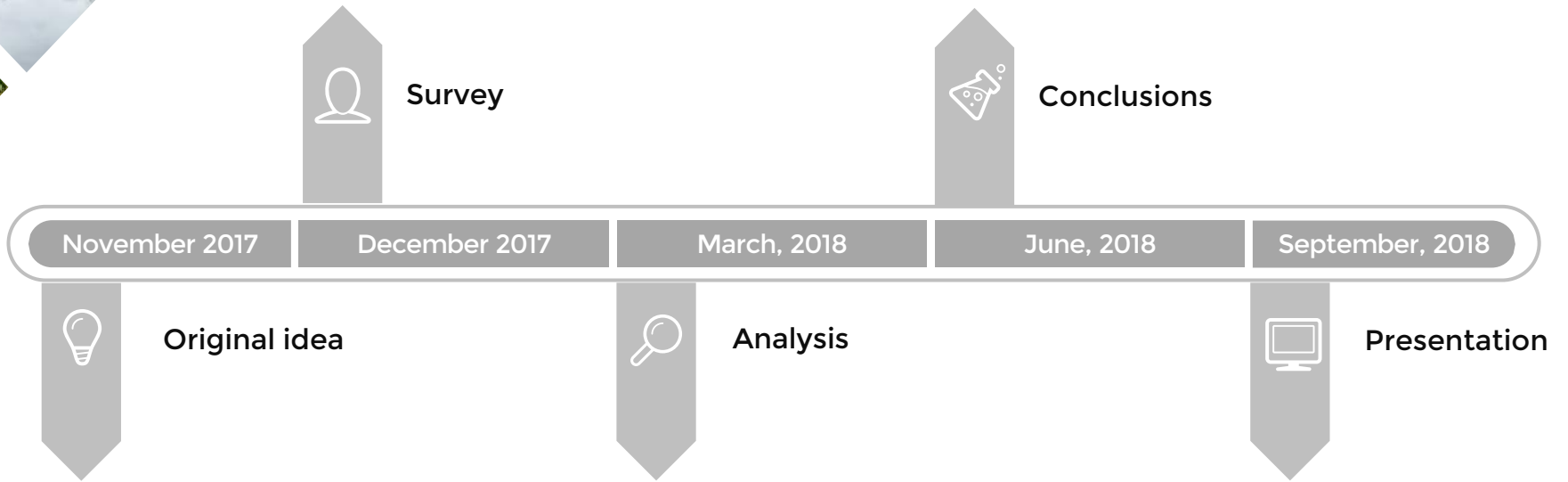


DEFINING JAPANESE GARDENS

1. THE SURVEY

METHODOLOGY

01






UNIVERSE

01

Eres miembro ▾ Notificaciones

Comunicados


[Volver a la conversación del grupo](#)

 **Carla Amorim** creó una encuesta. ...
👤 Administrador · 25 de septiembre de 2017

Profesor **Koichi Kobayashi** is asking our collaboration on a study to be presented on next year's NAJGA International Japanese Garden Conference, related to what the definition of a Japanese Garden can be. Answering at least to the first question, will be much appreciated. Please, **DO NOT** respond directly on comments, since I need your answers, but also to know your personal or professional relation with the thematic - It's ok if you are a professional, or an amateur or just a Japanese garden passionate, or an art historian or, etc. but knowing this will allow to categorize/ organize the analysis of the data . If you are interested in participating, please email me (carla@iberiajardinesjaponeses.com) or drop me a private message here on messenger. These are the issues to be considered and answered:


1. Is there a need for working on a definition on Japanese Garden?
2. Which is that definition?
3. Is there any definition today? Any historical precedent? Any concern?
4. How do these definitions compare with definitions of gardens in

GRUPO DE ?







 **Iberia Jardines Japoneses**
A 2.024 personas les gusta esto

TEMAS POPULARES x Administrar

AGREGAR MIEMBROS Insertar invitación



MIEMBROS 5.922 miembros

Hay 31 miembros nuevos esta semana.

Facebook group **My Japanese Garden – European Association**

About
6000 members

Out of them,
2398 Europeans

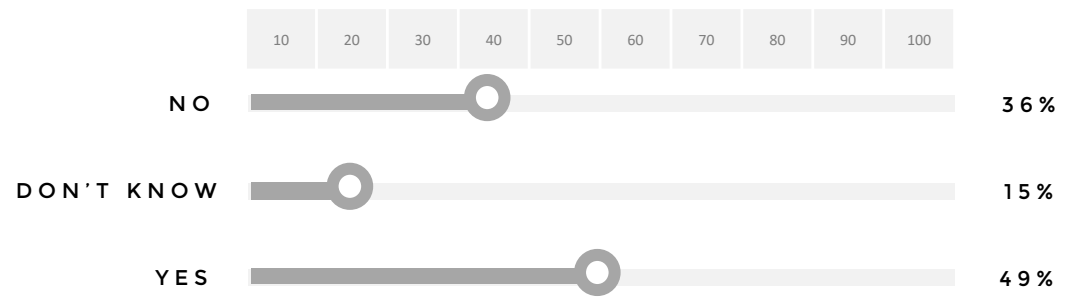


DEFINING JAPANESE GARDENS

2. MAIN RESULTS



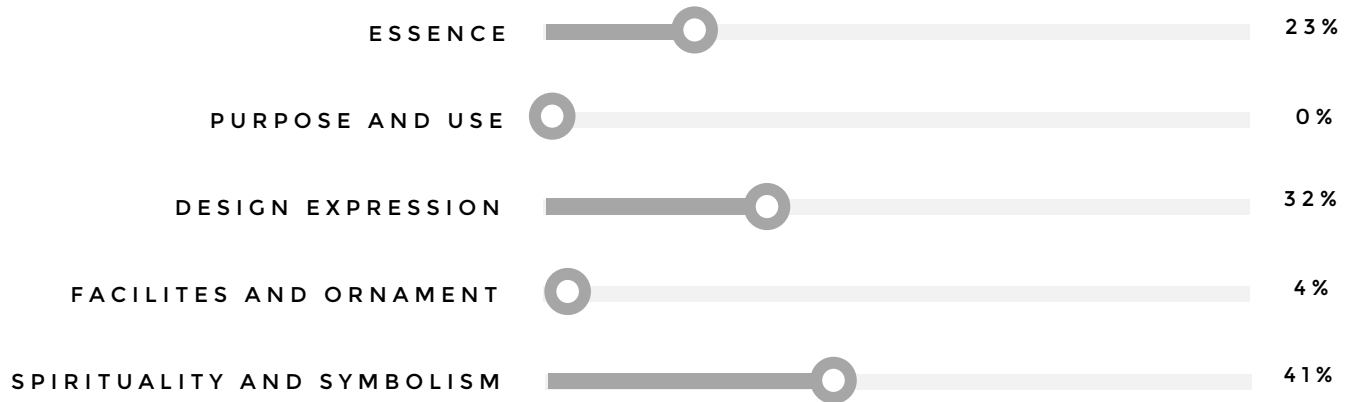
IS THERE A NEED FOR A DEFINITION OF JAPANESE GARDEN?






WEIGHT OF COMPONENTS IN THE DEFINITION

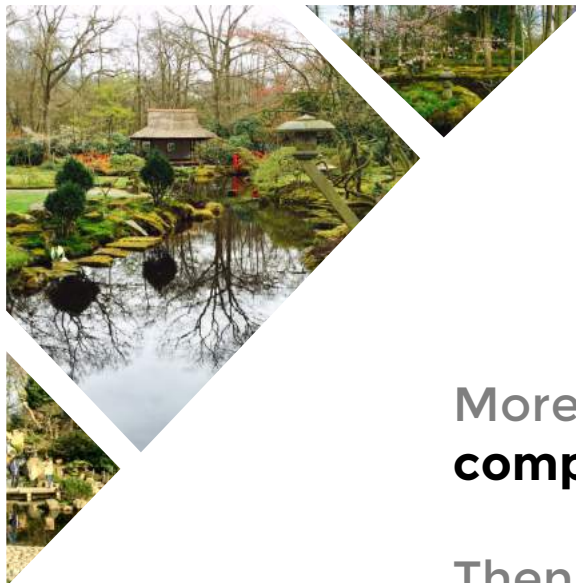
02



A traditional Japanese garden scene. In the foreground, there are large, moss-covered rocks. A cherry blossom tree with pink flowers is in full bloom, its branches extending across the upper part of the frame. The ground is covered in green moss. In the background, there are several tall, slender trees and a small wooden building with a thatched roof. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

DEFINING JAPANESE GARDENS

3. CONCLUSIONS



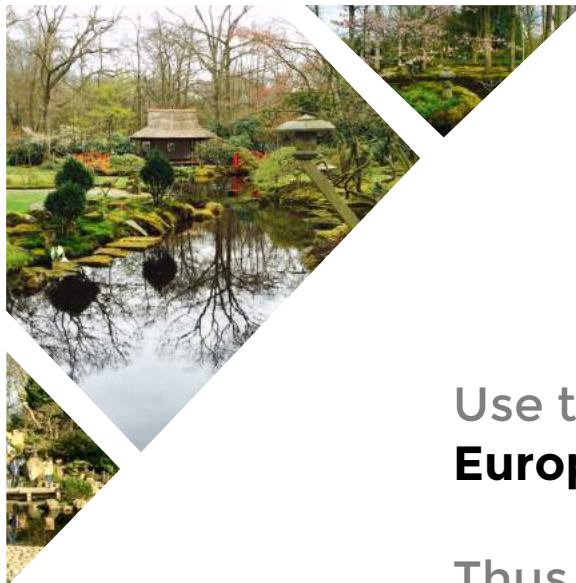
CONCLUSIONS

03

More than a definition, **consensus on the key components** of a Japanese garden should be reached

Then, **a framework** based on those components **should be defined** to maintain its essence

Such a framework should be **supported by official institutions and associations** both in Japan and outside of Japan



CONCLUSIONS

03

Use this framework to encourage the **creation of a European Association**

Thus, **education and promotion in Europe of Japanese garden design** and its foundations would be clearer and easier



CONCLUSIONS

03

Less presence of Japanese Gardens in Europe than in America.

92% of US/Canada States have at least 1 Japanese Garden

Only 42% of EU countries have at least 1 Japanese Garden



CONCLUSIONS



Out of the Japanese Gardens in Europe, **75% are in just three countries**

UK	31%
France	23%
Germany	21%
Rest of EU	25%



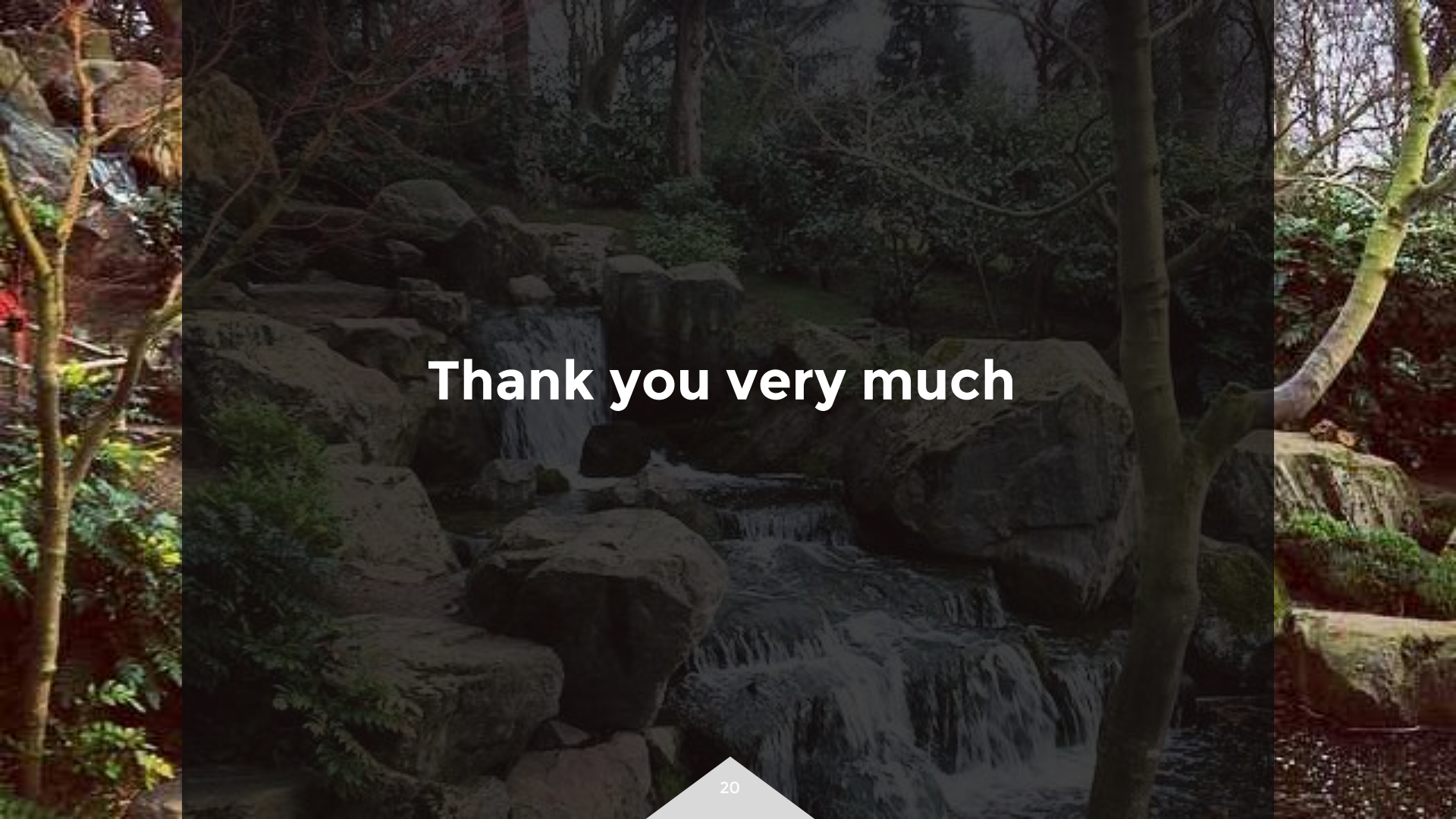
CONCLUSIONS

03

European **perception** of Japanese Gardens among **common people is distorted** and full of stereotypes

Identification of Japanese Gardens **with exotic artifacts** (lanterns, bridges, etc.) **brought back by rich travelers** [Ragget,2017]. Still believed to be of more value than the garden design itself.

Identification of Japanese Gardens **with Zen gardens (Karesansui)**



Thank you very much



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