

Window to the past

Journey to the Portland Classical Chinese Garden, 'garden of awakening orchids'

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Photo Editor

As you step into the classical Chinese garden, time seems to stand still. The quiet, tranquil walkways carve their way around a large lake dotted with strangely shaped stones and unique plants, offering a refuge from the busy city outside.

As you soak in the beautiful scenery, you begin to realize how much detail is put into every aspect of the garden. Each pavilion and walkway has a multitude of hand carvings, poetry, colors and rock work that symbolizes ancient Chinese beliefs and culture. The architecture and layout makes the area of the garden seem much larger than it really is by turning every nook and cranny into a living, framed picture.

The five elements of the garden: plant, rock, water, architecture, and culture are brain candy for all the five senses. The beautiful landscape titillates your eyes, and the singing birds and trickling water are music to your ears.

As you run your hand along the smooth wooden railing, the fresh fragrance in the air pleases your nose. If you get too cold outside, you can step into the Tower of Cosmic Reflections for



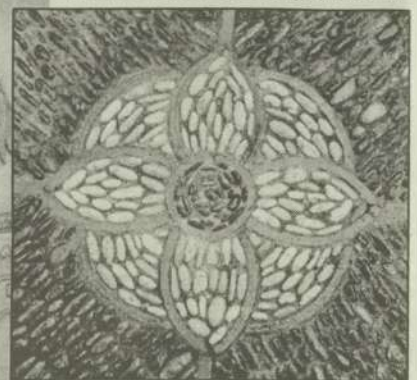
Above: A pine that took fifty years to prune extends out in front of the Moon-Locking Pavilion.

Right: Detailed hand carvings were created by craftsmen from Portland's sister city, Suzhou, in China.

a taste of Chinese tea. The Classical Chinese Garden is open daily Nov. 1-March 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and April 1-Oct 31, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Prices are \$6 for adults,

\$5 for seniors and students, and children under five are free.

PHOTOS BY MIKE POLLOCK / Clackamas Print



Left: Orchids are in bloom inside the Tower of Cosmic Reflections.

Bottom far left: A naturally formed Taihu rock is placed so the round doorway frames it like a picture.

Bottom left: The banana leaf shaped window and hallway creates the illusion of more space.

Below: The two story tea house, the Tower of Cosmic Reflections, looms over the garden rocks.

Above: The Knowing the Fish Pavilion almost seems to float on top of the lake. It is named after an ancient Chinese story.

Below right: Looking out of the Hall of Brocade Clouds at the entrance to the garden.

