

O-3 (256) Keynote Speaker
PERSIAN GARDENS: THEN AND NOW

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Persian Gardens are the best proof of dominance of man over Nature. Iranian ingenuity created Paradises in the heart of the desert. The garden was part of complete and perfect creation, both in itself and as an image of heaven. In such a garden, all is held in balance by sacred geometry of confining wall or courtyard facade. These defined a rectangular space quartered by intersecting canals or pathways; mostly known as ChaharBagh. At the interception of ChaharBagh might be a pavilion, or the center might be a tree or pool, most commonly in a geometric form. Infinite harmonies were possible within this space. Trees provided shade, flowers, drifts of scent and color, sound of birds. Above all these was the water. Persian Gardeners were artists with it; water was used in as flowing in canals, or in pools and fountains. The choice of the garden site, the site plan, correct use of water and knowledge of the plants and their needs, created the lovely paradises that we call "Persian Gardens", of which several have survived the test of times. Four major elements of Persian Gardens namely, site, water, plants and structures will be reviewed in this paper.