



The Portland Japanese Garden's new Cultural Village is the centerpiece of a recent \$33.5 million expansion.

A GARDEN FOR ALL SEASONS

By Susan G. Hauser

» Fans of the Portland Japanese

Garden's legendary fall foliage are in for a pleasant surprise this year.

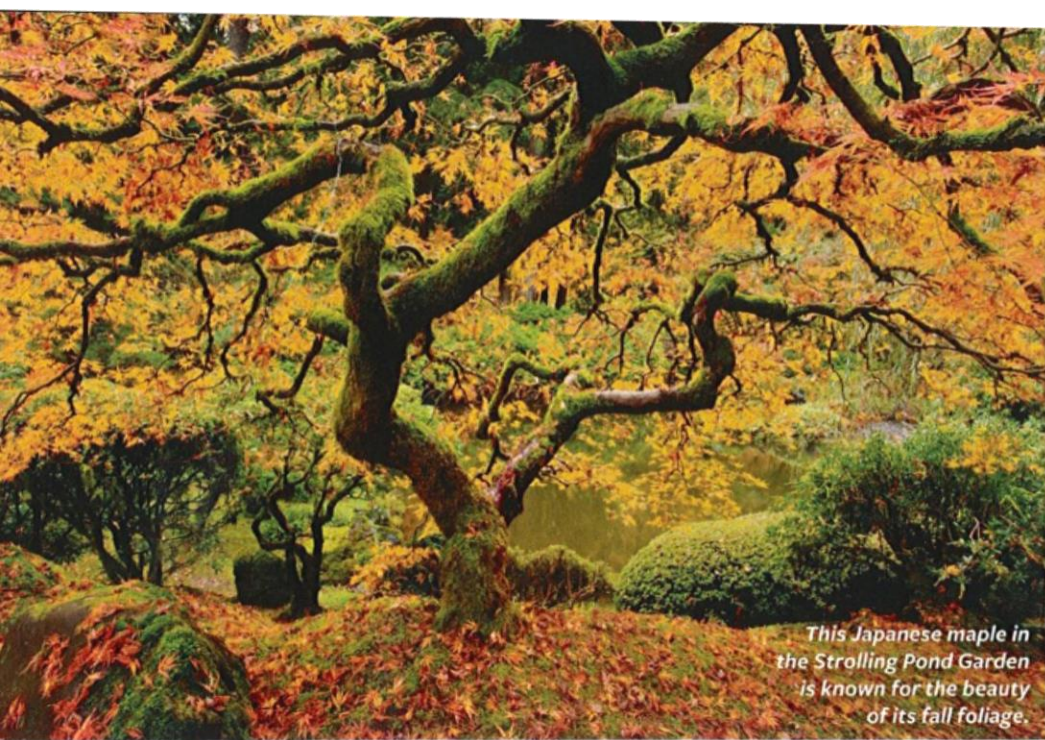
Once called "the most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden in the world outside of Japan" by Nobuo Matsunaga, the former

Japanese ambassador to the United States, the garden is celebrating a \$33.5 million expansion and reconfiguration of its entrance and grounds that has enhanced the garden's usefulness and beauty.

Tokyo architect Kengo Kuma has added four elegant new buildings to the garden, which sits in the West Hills above Portland, near the International Rose Test Garden. Visitors will first encounter a new Welcome Center near the parking lot. After following a graceful path

from the parking area, they will come to a courtyard, where cedar buildings with green, living roofs showcase local and natural materials that fit into the surroundings.

The space, dubbed the Cultural Village, features the Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center, which houses the Calvin and Mayho Tanabe Gallery, a space used to display changing Japanese art exhibits. There is also the Garden House, the site of horticultural workshops. The third building is the Umami



This Japanese maple in the Strolling Pond Garden is known for the beauty of its fall foliage.

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up and down hills carpeted with trees, plants and flowers. The paths cross bridges over ponds, where you can see large and colorful koi below the water's surface. A favorite site is the Heavenly Falls streaming down mossy basalt rocks in the Strolling Pond Garden.

In early November, one of the most popular sites is in the Strolling Pond Garden, which was designed to highlight the beauty of each season. There you'll find a Japanese maple, whose fall foliage is so vibrantly crimson and orange that it is often photographed as an artful frame of the Moon Bridge nearby.

Be sure to walk behind the Flat Garden's Pavilion Gallery to see a panoramic view of downtown Portland, graced by snowy Mount Hood in the distance.

When the colorful autumn leaves disappear from the trees, the Portland Japanese Garden remains a tranquil and beautiful place to enjoy a late-fall or winter walk. ✂

Cafe, where tea and snacks are served amid beautiful views of the area.

Visitors entering the garden first see the new cafe, which is built to be a calming, quiet place. Part of the structure is cantilevered over the edge of a hillside next to the path leading into the Cultural Village. The effect brings to mind a mountain chalet. At the west end of the

Cultural Village is a medieval-style wall constructed from blocks of Eastern Oregon granite with traditional Japanese hand tools.

Leaving the courtyard and the new buildings, the path leads to the original five distinctive gardens that have long attracted visitors from around the world. Other tranquil paths meander through the garden spaces, winding