

Rock Garden introduction.

A **rock garden**, also known as a **rockery** or an **alpine garden**, is a small field or plot of ground designed to feature and emphasize a variety of rocks, stones, and boulders with some other garden features.

The standard layout for a rock garden consists of a pile of aesthetically arranged rocks in different sizes, with small gaps between in which plants are rooted. Typically, plants found in rock gardens are small and do not grow larger than 1 meter in height, though small trees and shrubs up to 4 meters may be used to create a shaded area for a woodland rock garden. If used, they are often grown in troughs or low to the ground to avoid obscuring the eponymous rocks. The plants found in rock gardens are usually species that flourish in well-drained, poorly irrigated soil.

Some rock gardens are designed and built to look like natural outcrops of bedrock. Stones are aligned to suggest a bedding plane, and plants are often used to conceal the joints between said stones. This type of rockery was popular in Victorian times and usually created by professional landscape architects.

The same approach is sometimes used in commercial or modern-campus landscaping but can also be applied in smaller private gardens.

The Japanese rock garden, often referred to as a "Zen garden", is a special kind of rock garden with water features, moss, pruned trees and bushes, and very few plants.

Rock gardens have become increasingly popular as landscape features in tropical countries and Arabian Gulf.

The combination of rocks, plants and garden features, along with the use of borders to stop unwanted plant growth and spread, has made this type of arrangement ideal for both residential and commercial gardens due to its easier maintenance, drainage and permanent beauty.

By Martin Waduge, Landscape Consultant.

36699756.