

**Landscape Architecture and Site Planning – Basic Fundamentals**  
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**Module-03 Lecture-13**  
**Introduction to History of Landscape Design**


Okay. So till the last part, we have discussed about the Italian landscape. So now we are in the process of discussing about European landscape styles. Before that, we had discussed about oriental landscape. Of course, there was Spanish landscape which was also discussed. Now in the Italian landscape if you see the record that I have given chronologically, Italian landscape and French landscape and English landscape, they almost came side by side but with a little bit of lag.

What happened is the French landscape followed the Italian landscape and there was a overlap. And it, English landscape almost at the same time with a French landscape that it has carried on. Interestingly, all those landscapes are still persisting, still going on. And we are discussing this because they are essentially classic styles which we, the contemporary landscapists or landscape architect, landscape designers, we are trying to emulate. And they have earned such popularity and such kind of distinctive identity that this can be very useful for our landscape emulations.


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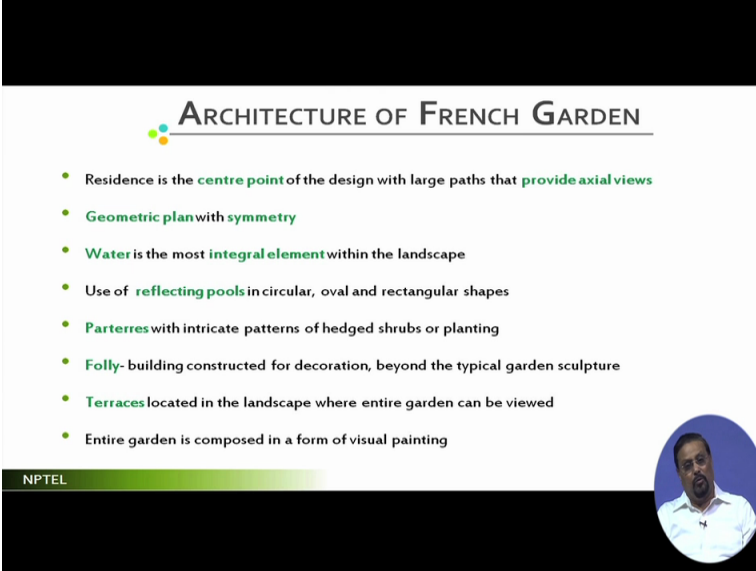
BASELINE INFORMATION	
Location	France
Period	1400 - 1700 AD
Latitude	47 ° North
Longitude	2° East
Climate	Continental climate (central and eastern France) Mediterranean climate(south eastern France)
Terrain	Mostly flat plains or gently rolling hills in the north and west Mountainous in the south (including the Pyrenees) East (the highest points being in the Alps)



So now let us look at the French landscape. The baseline information, the same structure which I had been following for all others, here also I will follow the same. The location, France. Period is 1400 to 1700 AD, latitude is 47 degree north and longitude is 2 degree east. The climate is continental climate in the central and the eastern France, and Mediterranean climate in the south and eastern France. So that governed very similar to Italy, very similar to Italian climates.

The terrain, it was mostly flat, flat terrain or gently rolling hills. There are also mountainous areas in the southern part and in the east, we have the highest point that is the Alps. Now this gives a very typical of such landscape where we have the hills at a distance and we have the rolling grounds, rolling meadows, gentle terrains in the foreground. It is not hilly all through. And most of the French landscapes have been built over the fairly plains in this area but the climate is of this kind as I, as we have mentioned.


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**ARCHITECTURE OF FRENCH GARDEN**

- Residence is the **centre point** of the design with large paths that **provide axial views**
- **Geometric plan with symmetry**
- **Water** is the most **integral element** within the landscape
- Use of **reflecting pools** in circular, oval and rectangular shapes
- **Parterres** with intricate patterns of hedged shrubs or planting
- **Folly**- building constructed for decoration, beyond the typical garden sculpture
- **Terraces** located in the landscape where entire garden can be viewed
- Entire garden is composed in a form of visual painting

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Now what is architectural kind? It is very, very symmetric, very balanced and most often there would be a structure like residence or castle or any other such kind of things which are being used by the rulers. They could be at the central part of the garden or it could be at the end. And there are lots of large paths. The whole area is subdivided into multiple squares or multiple such kind of rectilinear spaces which are called parterres.

Geometric paths with a very strong symmetry, but water is one of the very strong element, and it is an integral element of this particular landscape. This combination of building, pathways, parterres, water, that made a very distinct identity to this, of course water was also there in the Italian landscape. In fact, water is one of the strongest elements in most of the landscapes. Okay.

There is a creation of reflecting pools. The pools are made, created in the foreground in such a manner that the buildings which are at the background that will be reflected. The clouds of the sky, you know in general the European sky is very, very clear. They are very clear blue within which some sporadic white clouds looks excellent. And this is almost all through. Reflection of the sky with a blue sky and the clouds, white clouds, cluster of clouds or the buildings, that is what they have enhanced it, they have deliberately created it.

The parterres have been created, different zones, rectilinear zones with intricate patterns with hedges, shrubs and also flower beds. This parterre is one of the very, very strong element or distinct element of this particular landscape. Folly-building, they have been constructed for

decorations. What is that folly-building? Basically all these buildings are all for decorations not much of any sense.

They are just to create some kind of surprises, some kind of attraction, some kind of you know like 'wow effect', such things. Highly ornamental, very expensive maybe but they became integral part of the French landscape. In Italian landscape, we did not see much of these folly buildings, of course there were sign of it. Some historian say that yes, there had been a flow of such idea to our French landscape but in French landscape, it has been done very, very deliberately and included. These were created essentially to create a kind of surprise or attraction to the visitors.

Terraces, they were located in the landscape where entire garden can be viewed. So it is something like this, like in Italian garden, we have the terraces made, here it is not necessary. The terraces were on the gardens. But they were in the buildings as well as in adjoining areas, a slightly higher elevations from where if you stand, you see the whole garden at a stretch, at a glance.

Rulers, they used to invite guests or else with the family members and their courtesans or their relatives, they used to view the entire garden at a glance. Essentially, the entire garden has been planned as if it is a visual painting. So what happened is the artistic senses of the garden that was very much introduced in the French landscape styles. And most often, they became so very delicately geometrical and symmetrical that sometime it may be commented that the French landscape is too grand, there is so much of grandeur and less of naturality. Of course, everything is made with natural elements but the idea is it could be, it could have been done in a different manner. But however, this is one system by which we have been endowed or we have been you know blessed with one another style of the garden.

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The slide is titled "FEATURES OF FRENCH GARDEN" and lists the following features:

- Use of stucco walls, stonework and lavender
- Straight-lined geometric shapes, neatly trimmed hedges and shrubs
- Gravel paths and stone terraces
- Gravel for paving and a monochromatic colour scheme
- The window boxes with bright coloured flowering plants
- Roots of French formal style are deeply embedded in the Italian Renaissance

The slide also includes the NPTEL logo and a small circular inset image of a man in a white shirt.

The features: From here, I will go a little slow so that you get time to see different objects, different pictures at different points. Use of stucco wall that was introduced during this time. Earlier, in Italian and all other landscape styles, the stuccos or the walls and the decorations on the walls, they were not very prominent. It was landscape within, say Spanish garden again if I compare the landscape within but buildings were on their own, but here they started introducing elements which became integral parts of the garden itself.

Very straight-lined geometric shapes, geometric shapes very much bounded by trimmed hedges, trimmed hedges and shrubs. Basically, hedges are created with very low height and very nicely interwoven shrubs. So hedge became an element which was a contribution of the French garden. And now this, they have experimented with the hedges to a great extent. Of course, still there is a still trace of such hedges and formation of different kind of animal patterns with the hedges in the Italian garden.

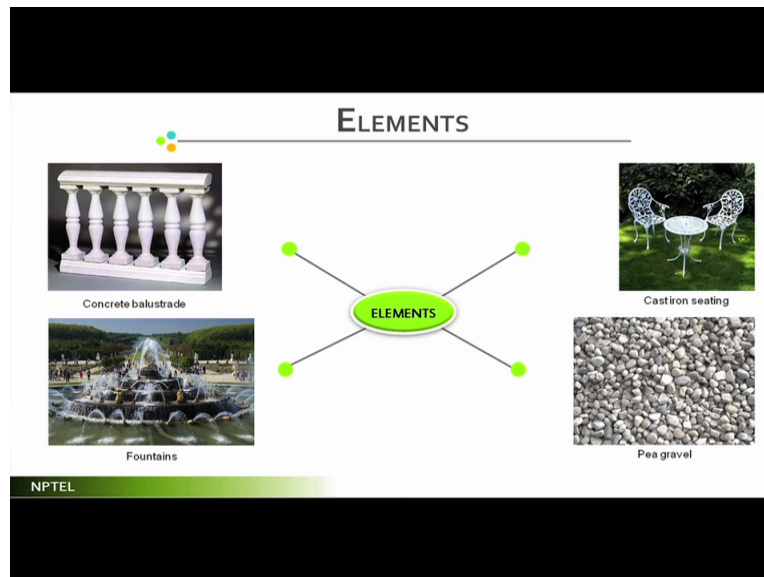
Gravel paths, stone terraces, they were different features. Sometime, the gravel paths were of monochromatic nature means the all the gravels of the same color, it is not mixed, whitish, maybe slightly brownish but a monochromatic color view that they have brought in. All these were experimented.

They had window boxes. Window box is a part of the buildings which are overlooking the gardens. Even, window boxes were decorated with flower plants, with different season flower

plants so that even on the building facades we have different small small stretches of nature, green, colorful flowers. It is said this, the root of the French formal style that was you know borrowed with the Italian from the Italian Renaissance. Yes, it is true but there had been many more things which gave French landscape style an identity.

So what happened is in the whole process, it is just because Italians started early and the French followed through and with overlap, so there had been at times objects, elements, styles, patterns we also matched. So sometime if in a French landscape, looking at the French landscape without knowing where it is, it may be construed as Italian and vice versa.

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Elements: Pay attention to these elements. This is first time in the landscape such building elements started coming in. French are the people who have brought these balusters. You know these balusters which they created, they become a part of the landscape. Balusters, as it is a part of the architectural things but here they started introducing it because it went through a long process of evolution.

Cast iron seating, wooden seating, they became part of landscape. Earlier, seating was mainly with the stones, a kind of bench or kind of platform but gradually these items like cast iron seating, wooden seating and such things started coming in. So what happened is in elements in the landscape what we see today, all these items are also considered to be elements in a modern landscape.

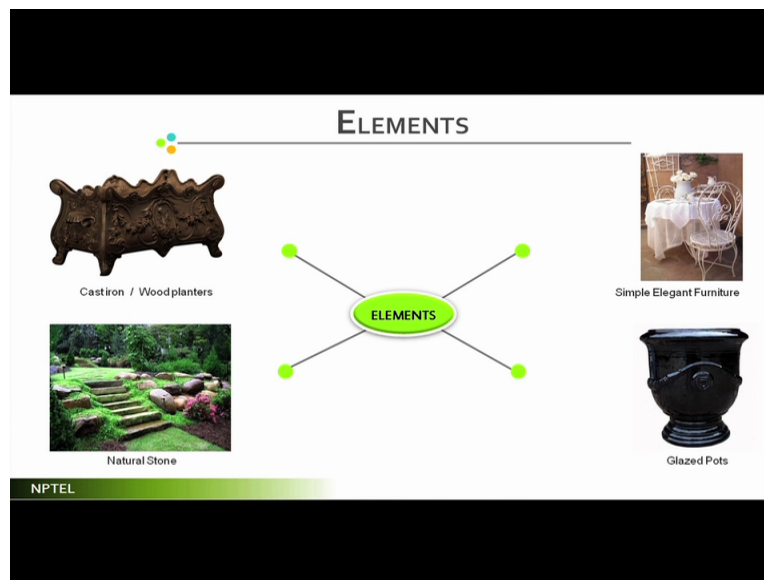
Here I would like to point out one thing. If you recall in my earlier lecture, I was discussing that there are different kind of elements, artificial which we think as manmade, or natural. And if it is predominantly natural, then we term this as a landscape. If it is predominantly artificial and manmade, we consider this as a part of the architecture.

But interestingly here what happened is the artificial elements started coming in but the scale of the overall nature was so large that small small elements like this almost remained miniscule. So it never contradicted the same concept or the definition of the landscape that it is predominantly natural. Yes, there had been some because these are all utility functions which started coming in. This utility in the landscape has been added during this period of time.

Fountains, fountains were there historically as well. If you see Spanish garden, yes, they had the fountains but they had the fountains like small small spouts and they were low height and they were watered by flowing water by gravity. So naturally, the most of the fountains were not very great. Here what happens, and they were only for cooling purposes and in a small scale. What happened here is the fountain earned a grand scale. There had been multiple such fountains in the same landscape example maybe.

Now this became very interesting attractive feature because the idea during this French and Italian styles or rather I would say mostly in European styles was the ruler wanted to show their power, show their authority, show their you know wealth, show their sense of art, show their sense of architecture. So they wanted everything to be in grand scale, so this grand scale brought even fountains to be experimented. It was really a very good time for all the artists, sculptors. They started contributing into the landscape design. So it was not anymore a scope of a typical landscape designer, it was sculptors who contributed to this particular landscape. Pea gravels of different sizes, so these are all elements in the French landscape.

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Other elements, Cast iron or wood planters. If you see, if you remember in the Italian landscape style what I was discussing, I talked about the orangery. And the orangery that was placed in the wooden pots or earthen pots, now this became slightly more formalized in the French landscape style, in which what happened is cast iron and wooden you know pot holders or plant holders they became almost strong element in the landscape.

So it is looking at this, one can make out, “Oh, if there are such kind of plant boxes or plant holders, it is that French landscape styles.” Elegant furnitures, cast iron or wooden furnitures which were made for outdoor seating, many other indoor kind of furnitures, light weight, simple elegant furnitures, they also started becoming part of the landscape. And they are placed almost at the junction of the building and the landscapes.

The natural stones: If you keep on looking at all these examples, you will find and if you follow through the current landscape styles, you will find that there are tendencies or rather I would say there is an attempt that people have tried to emulate those. Nothing wrong as long as it serves a good purpose and it almost you know excites and encourages the people who are looking at it, it is fine, is nothing wrong.

Stone steps, if you look at this particular picture, focus at this particular picture, you will find that the stone steps almost embedded in the midst of the grass. It is not a grand stone staircases, it is a mix of stone, then creepers, grasses so that natural stone though it is very much formalized in

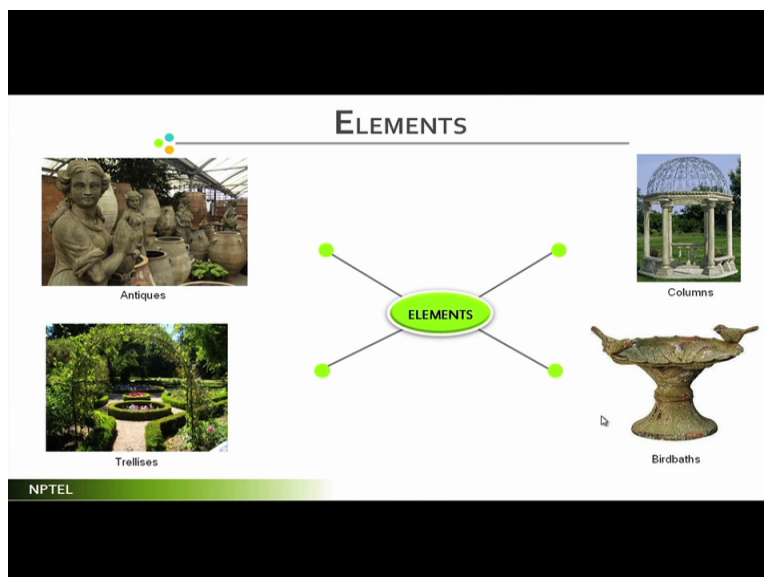


shape, but it has not been given a very sharp edges or sharp forms. It has been kept to be as if a minimal work of craftiness on this particular stones which has been placed in the grass or the green.

The idea is something like this that okay, had there been some stones there automatically, naturally, then you would have stepped onto from grass to the stone, to the grass to the stone and such. Here it has been created similar. So what happens is even if these items which are, it is natural material of course but step is not a natural item. Step is a, step in natural form of course, it is a natural item but steps, this kind of organized are very regulated steps, are very much artificial forms. But this never has overshadowed the effects of the naturality. This is what is excellent part of these elements.

Glazed pots: Most often these glazed pots used to be the common indoor material, indoor element but they started flowing out. So what happened is if suppose there is a building within which you have the glazed pots maybe but the thing is there is a terrace which is just next to it. That was a building now, building external wall flows to the terrace and terrace which is a part of the architectural element, from there you look around and see the garden. On the terrace, on the steps, on the sides of the steps and maybe slightly flowing, these glazed pots were used. So essentially even if it is an artificial element, it became an integral part of the landscape in French landscape styles.

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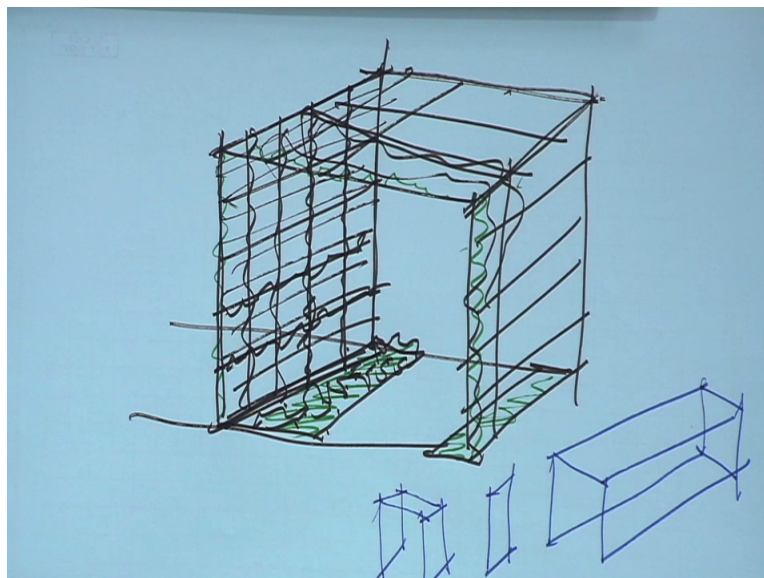


Then, different antiques, they were placed at different places wherever required. Now if you see this, all these elements are almost, these elements like antiques, statues and all these, they are almost similar to the Italian. Other thing is furniture that came into blended with a landscape, this as we do see that it is a contribution of the French landscapist or French landscape styles. The columns, the gazebos like this they started coming in. That means the structure which was predominantly an architectural element started coming into the landscape, blended with the landscape with small small sizes. And that, when we will discuss English landscape, we will see there also it followed through and it is being followed even today.

So it is basically large architectural building with a foreground or background of flat, very ornamental geometrically shaped landscapes gradually got turned into small small other architectural elements coming into the garden and becoming a part of the garden elements. So these should be considered as a garden elements, not purely an architectural elements.

Trellis, they are different ways of mentioning this, trellis or arbors. Basically what is trellis or arbors is you have a frame, you have a flower bed or cripper bed and you put the frame in such manner that the creepers are now allowed to flow over the frames.

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If I just try to give you a sketch a figure, it is something like this. Just look at this paper, you will see it is, I am just drawing what trellis is theoretically. A frame, let me draw it very simply first and then explain. Very simply a frame like this which will be standing on the base of the soil and

then there will be a bed. On this bed, it will be a soil bed and that will be created, you know planted with the creepers on this. These creepers now will grow and they will be supported on this particular vertical frame. When they are supporting it, I will give the idea of all these elements later on in some other lectures but here since the trellis has come in, let me explain.

These creepers will be then followed and tied up with these vertical frames or horizontal frames the way the (plan) designer is planning. Eventually, what will happen is after all these are covered with these creepers, the entire of this particular surface will become covered with standard creepers. This is a kind of thing which is trellis. Now trellis does not necessarily mean that it has to be vertical alone.

Trellis can be even going horizontally like this over which we have the frames and this creeper will flow through and ultimately come to this particular directions and it will cover up the whole thing. And now if you see that once you block the other side as well with the trellis where you have another set of creepers which are now allowed to grow over the surfaces and now the entire thing gets covered with creepers.

Let me use the green color just to give an idea with respect to this trellis, these are the areas which is basically the green areas and these creepers will flow over the entire surfaces. From here again, it has the green basis and from here again, the whole creepers will go up. So ultimately what happens is the entire area is creeper covered, this is what is trellis. Now more you extend it like if you extend it in this manner, if you extend the trellis along a longer directions, this will be considered as arbors.

Even if suppose you have a shorter stretch of this, this will be considered as arbors. If you keep generally definition wise, if you keep it only vertical, generally it is trellis. There are interesting designs that people do create with the trellis. So here in this particular picture if you see, it is this. It is, it is here an arbor. From this particular base, there is a frame here. The frame runs and ultimately comes to this side. So basically two frames coming from the other side is a, it is a kind of arch.

And at the base, they have creeper plants planted and these creepers are allowed to carry over this. This is a very, very common element when we want to create a certain archway or entry of a residence and you want to put some kind of very highly fragrant or nicely intricately flowering

creepers. You know this becomes a very interesting element and we have got it from French landscape styles.

Okay. Then another element which has come in, which has almost become a very important element of contemporary landscapes that is for ecological balances, that is called birdbath. Here, they have introduced the birdbath. This is one container in which there will be water because birds, if you want to attract birds you have to, in the landscape, first of all, you have to give good quality of vegetation and the vegetation also should have some kind of fruits which the birds can eat.

Even other than that, that is a kind of climate that you are creating for this. Even other than that, without the vegetation, if you keep a container and give food, the bird feeds and then you give water, the birds will automatically get attracted to this. So the birdbath concept that they have introduced which is I consider in today's landscapes is very, very essential because in the urbanity that we are going, process organization that we are going through, in this what is happening is we are losing almost all the bird species because we are not giving them proper environment, proper climate, even food. So this is what they have introduced.

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**EXAMPLE OF FRENCH GARDEN**

**Gardens of Versailles (1668-1669)**

- The Design is in form of an bi-directional axes forming a crucifix
- Total area – 800 ha
- Broad central walkway
- Distinct compartments enclosed by hedges made from the likes of hazel, honeysuckle and privet
- Trellis work
- Parterres surrounded by covered paths
- Central water feature such as a fountain

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The slide features a central map of the Gardens of Versailles, showing a grid-like layout with a prominent central axis and various garden compartments. A small circular inset in the bottom right corner shows a portrait of the speaker.

Now let me give an example of this, a very strong example of French garden style. I will elaborate this a little more, I will go little further slow so that you have a chance to see each

picture but listen to me when I am also narrating along with this. The Gardens of Versailles is the best example that we think should be cited for explaining exactly what the French landscape is.

If you look at it, I will first go to, go through all the points together so that you have a very clear idea. See, this particular example we have picked up for a reason. First of all, if you look at this particular picture, you will find that this is the entire garden. You would see that there is a strong central and transverse axis, so they have used the axis in the cruciform. Where did you find it? In my earlier lectures? Earlier examples of historical landscapes? Did you find this really in Spanish? Not really, not really, it was not like that.

Did you find it in Chinese, Japanese? No. Did you find it in Mogul? Yes. Now if you go by, if you go by this time chronology, then you will find that Mogul garden styles and the European garden styles almost grew together at the same period. Now since they have grown in the same period, you know very sure who borrowed from whom because they have grown in different regions. But there must had been some influence where this actuality, symmetry, strong geometry, all these were playing a role.

Okay. The Versailles example let us see a little more detailed. It is about 800 acres, a large area, very large area within which the whole landscape is. Now this gives an idea to us about the scale. The scale means here 800 acres, hectares of area a garden. Can you imagine? It is too large, too large to be comprehensible at one sight. Here contrary to the other landscapes, in Spanish landscape we go from one coat to another coat, to another coat and you see each coat individually.

You do not get a chance to see all the landscapes together. You go to Chinese landscape styles, you will find that you are going from one zone to another zone, to another zone. You do not have really a chance to see the entire garden at a glance. Same is true with Japanese. You are taken through pathways from one place to another place to another place so that gradually individual spaces with its intricately detailed landscape is being exposed to you.

But in Mogul we have found, yes, from one point you can see the whole landscape styles. In Italian, from one point you can see the almost the entire landscape styles. In French, yes, from one point you can see the entire landscape styles. That is the basic difference. But only thing is

difference also in scale. In this kind of landscapes when you have a grand area and seeing the whole area at a, at one glance, gives you a full idea of almost like a carpet.

But to really enjoy the intricately detailed designs of parterres, of the hedges, of the topiaries, or even the paths, you have to really walk into different zones of it. So here it is too grandeur scheme, every part is well crafted, well designed and well maintained and that is the excellent part of it. Okay. There is a broad central walkway. If you look at this particular picture, there is a structure here, this particular structure from where you can look over the entire garden and this is what the rulers wanted.

They also have gardens which is also at the back, so they have different parts. So building is building by itself and then foreground and the background are individual parts. And not necessarily there is any harmony between these two designs but one thing is sure they are very geometric, they are very symmetrical, they have a strong axis, they even have a cruciform kind of axis in here, north-south-east-west kind. And individual areas are highly compartmentalized, very distinct compartments.

Now do not get confused by the Charbagh concept that I discussed in Mogul garden. Mogul garden has whatever area, divide it by 4. Here it is not necessary divide it by 4. Here as many such kind of compartments, if you look at this picture where my cursor is running, you will see the this is a central line, then we have the transverse axis which is with water and then we have one such zone, another zone, another zone here, another zone here, another zone here and in such manner.

So the point is these are parterres means different parts of different zones that they have created. And there are trellis and such other items. And central water feature such as fountains and the water feature, they were essential for French landscape styles. Now if you look at the entire plan, what I will discuss next is different elements. So let me conclude at this particular point in terms of planning that there had been various new introduction of the elements in landscape during French landscape period. Some are borrowed from the Italian landscapes and some are original. Next, we will discuss about the elements in detail.