Landscape Architecture and Site Planning – Basic Fundamentals Professor Uttam Banerjee Department of Architecture and Regional Planning Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur Module-03 Lecture-14 Introduction to History of Landscape Design

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Now comes the elements. These elements which we have seen in the Gardens of Versailles example that we will be highlighting. The fountains, fountain has become a very strong element in the French landscape styles, very strong element. It was there in a low key but here it earned a grand popularity and identity. Then parterres and paths, if you look at the elements in this way, the French landscape has fountains, it has parterres.

Then we have the walks. We have the sculptures, the groves, a series of plantations. What is groves? It is a series of plants they have put together almost at in sequence. Nowadays, we are using for various kind of social forestry or any other situations when we are trying to create say a hedgerow with the big big trees, we are trying to create with the groves. These groves can be with some of kind of you know (())(01:22) plants like mangoes or some other fruits or with flower plants or something. Let us say cashew in a grove, mango grove. So these are the kinds which we have learned from the French.

Okay, the orangery, this particular element you must have seen that I have mentioned this during Italian landscape style description. This is one of the very strong element which Italians have used, French have used and also there is a flow that even the English people also have used. What is orangeries are? Basically most of the times, they used large areas to be covered with some citrus plants.

These citrus plants which they would protect during winter in some of the covered areas and then again bring out and put it in the landscapes and these, all these plants are generally on the potted situations, earthen pots or wooden pots. This, I have mentioned during the Italian landscapes discussion. Here, interesting thing is if you see that potted plants, use of potted plants in the landscape that came in during this period of time. So the French landscape has showed us that it is not necessary that the tree or the plants has to be rooted to the ground to bear some original soil. It can be of the potted things and then you arrange it the way you want, so orangery is another.

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Now let me highlight little more on fountains. I will suggest, see I would be narrating this but also keeping it for a while so that you can also see it yourself. The entire Versailles had about 11 main fountains and those fountains placed at different places in certain sequences that gained its identity. These fountains were essentially with a cascading over statues or water sprays. The statues were the good handiwork of the sculptures which were kept at certain points and which

were depicting some Greek or Roman mythology. Such fountains, now they also had mirror pools. Mirror pools, the picture as it is cited here is a true reflection of exactly what it is.

The mirror pool had absolutely still water. It is absolutely still water which will create an image or reflection, inverted reflection of the sky or the background vegetations. Onto this, as if it is a mirror kept on the ground, large one but well designed and well aligned so that the designers decided that what kind of reflection they should or from which part of the reflection they should see. This is one of the very strong element of landscapes here.

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Then, Nymph baths, basically it is a bath here with flowing water, water cascading over statues if you remember I just now said, basically the statues of nymphs and all. So these are all for some kind of decorations or reflections of the some historical or religious or such kind of needs and such other.

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Then comes Apollo's Fountain, a very famous one. This is very famous one where multiple horses are spouting water from their mouth. If you see at the backgrounds, see this is a large water stretch which goes, runs through all along centrally and then at different spots. At this point, it is Apollo's (fountation) Fountain that has been kept over here for spouting water.

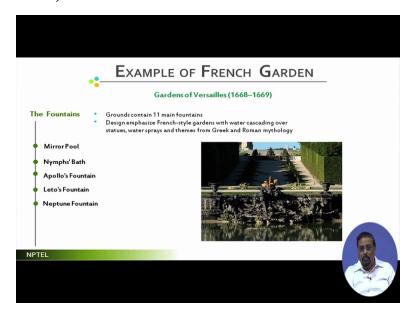
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Then we have Leto's Fountain, this is multilevel fountains where there are spouts as well as you know, there are small small sculptures or statues through which the water is spouting. This particular idea was very strongly followed even by the English people.

We have seen fountains in the Italian gardens but we did not see really the sculptures. Of course, we did have some bit of idea about you know the sculptures having the fountains over it but French landscape has demonstrated a very extensive use of it to a grandeur scale. So if you look at the Apollo's Fountain, it was one level. If you look at the Leto's Fountain, it is at the multilevel.

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Now next is Neptune Fountain here. So this particular structure with a full fountain here and then water will be spreading from one part to another one.

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Then comes Dragon Fountain in which if you see this backdrop remained almost same for the earlier one as well but there are dragon statues around. And there are also they would also spout waters.

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And then fountains of the fighting animals. This kind of things we have seen in many of the contemporary landscape styles which got developed over the last about say two hundred centuries or so. These are the contributions, strong contribution as a French landscape styles.

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And The Four Seasons fountain, now if you see here we have mentioned that there are 11 such main fountains of which The Four Seasons fountains are placed over here. One, two, three and four at the back is Four Seasons fountains and the rest 7, it makes 11 fountains. These 11 fountains are the very strong elements of the Versailles example.

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Then comes a question of parternes and paths. Basically parternes are different zones. What they have done is there are different, in the whole landscape since it is a large area, they divided into different portions not necessarily squares, I mention again not necessarily squares, whatever size

they wanted but they were very, very regular, very rectilinear within which they are patterned. Okay. Now they have the north parterre, they have the south parterre and they have the water parterre and such. That is how they have identified this.

Now let us look at this example of called Leto's Parterre. If you look at this, this is one zone which is a parterre. This parterre has nice pavements, very ornamental pathways, very well crafted, well manicured and maintained green lawn. But if you look at this, the entire thing, of course at the center there is a fountain. If you look at the whole thing, it looks like almost a very, very intricately woven carpets. This is what they have brought in here.

Now if you look at the Mogul gardens example that I have cited, it also looks like a very nicely intricately woven carpets. The point is the artist, the sculptors, the landscapist, at this period of time they started bringing in the patterns embedded into the landscape styles, this is what is the thing to be learned.

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The North and South parterre, this is called North and South parterre in which let us look at it. They have the water body virtually running along this, then they have the green path and the green zones here. They have two parts over here. And overlooking from this particular structure side, you see a large grand (())(09:07) zones or plazas, from there the path leading to one circle here, another circle here and also from here to this circle. So basically it is all geometric patterns.

The geometric patterns which they have replicated almost symmetrically that became a very interesting part of these particular landscapes.

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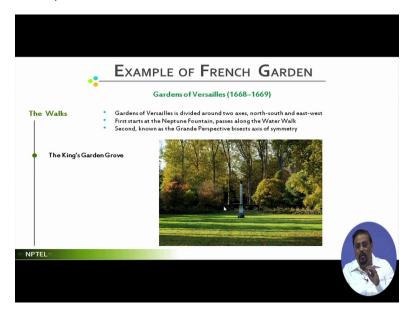
Then we have the South parterre which looks a little different from the North parterre if you recall. Here, we have a circle and then diagonally the paths are leading to this. And intermediate zones, here it is a water body and then intermediate zones are covered with plantations, good you know flowery plants or grasses. This is what is the South parterre leading to the large grand water body here.

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Then comes the Water parterre, this is another very interesting part. Here, you will find there is not much of vegetation here. It is here water is the element if you are walking along this and you see there are small small sculptures on the end. On this and on the either side you have the water body, a grand walkway through this. You are leading to this particular path. But if you do not even move, your eyes are hovering over by two symmetrically placed water and the central water body here. This is the grandness that French landscape has offered us.

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The Walks: The garden of Versailles is designed in such a way that you have different walkways geometrically (cross) crisscrossing maybe or it may be cruciform, you go from one place to another but very, very symmetrically or geometrically placed. This makes it different from the other landscape styles like Chinese and Japanese or even Spanish. Okay.

So around two axes it is divided, north-south and east-west, so it is cruciform that they got. And the first starts with the Neptune fountain and passes along the water walk. This is how the whole walk is planned. And the second known as the Grande Perspective bisects axis of symmetry. That means, now let us conclude at this particular point. The French landscape establishes a symmetry. French landscape establishes a central axis and the cross axis or rather biaxial thing, it establishes that.

Some examples here. Along with this, The King's Garden Grove, a zone which is very clearly interwoven with the grass lawns and having different kind of vegetations, different kind of vegetations at the backdrop which changes its color by season because of European climate. You know that phenomena that you know in essentially during autumn, you have a kind of weather and then gradually this color of the leaves changes. And the color of the leaves changes, I will discuss about this when I will talk about the botanical items of this.

This color change which brings in different kind of visual you know ecstasy to the viewer at different seasons. This is what is very, very I would say important point to be noted for European landscape designs but this is not true in all other areas. It is not true in the tropical climates. So even if we wish, we generally do not get this kind of effects as we do see in this picture that vegetation is turning gradually reddish, scarlet orange or brownish. Okay.

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Then the Water Walk, the fountain leading gradually down to this through the grass and then the pathways on either side, sculptures wherever required that leading to the water body and looking towards this.

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Then the Royal Way or Great Lawn, essentially looking at this picture, I hope you have a very clear idea like what kind of grandness that they created with the vegetation and it is green dominated. See the composition that we have in this particular picture is of course endowed with the wonderful sky color at different time of the day. But if you, this color will change but

essentially if you look at what they have planned for, a green vegetation at the edge, water body here, a pathway leading to this and the grand lawn here. Okay, and then the vegetation on this side, it creates a grandness.

This grandness we have found in many places, even we have found in Paris, The (())(14:02), the plantations you know they are almost a replica of this. It is a contemporary landscapes but still the same, a series of trees, quite large trees almost making very geometrically a perspective scenario, this is what it is.

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Then the groves. The groves, I have explained that it is a, it is a series of plantations that has been planted one after another. It may be harmonious, it may be also heterogeneous. Harmonious means the, you know it is I would say homogeneous I would say, of course everything will have the harmony but homogeneous or heterogeneous? Same plant planted one after another or there could be different kind of plants planted one after another but well planned out so that it gives a different kind of views. Okay. So the examples that you found in the Versailles is the Enceladus Grove, the Northern Groves. And then we have the Apollo's Baths Grove.

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Then we have the obelisk grove. In this obelisk grove here, you will find the vegetative growth is here but this particular fountain, a very tall one which is, it resembles obelisk. Obelisk is a kind of structure that we do have. If you see, any such kind of structure which is above the ground, you know, standing upward is obelisk, so it is obelisk grove.

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And then we have grove of the domes. Here, you see that they have planted the vegetations very, very systematically and categorically.

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And then we have the water theatre grove. See, these are slightly contemporary examples because all these landscape styles that we are viewing, even historical we have seen and also we are still watching that what has happened to this landscape style, we are finding. All those landscape styles are still persisting and they are also undergoing a very silent evolutions where the current art forms, current installation arts are coming into this particular landscape and also adding to the beauty of this. So water theatre groves.

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And then grove of the three fountains, here one, two, three fountains that we have created at the back and the backdrop is a grove.

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And then triumphal arch grove: This particular grove that has been created, grove is basically again if you, whenever you look at the grove, always you see with respective to background of the vegetations, okay?

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So all these are the examples that we saw, even we have the star groves.

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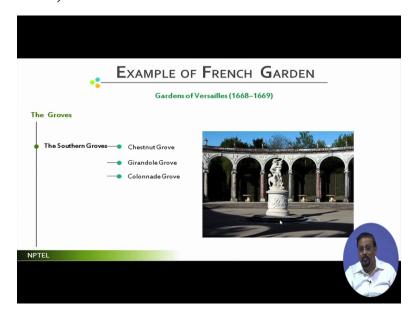
The southern groves, that was northern one, the southern groves is chestnut groves.

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Then girandole grove, I think I should hold the picture for a little longer. Maybe, it is you are missing it. Chestnut grove where you see pathways and you see the fences beyond which the groves planted and we also have the trees on the left hand sides which are creating a kind of wall effects and these are what is grove. And then we have the girandole groves, very well maintained with vegetations, large plants at the back.

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Then we have colonnade grove, here it is a wonderful blend of architecture and the landscape. Behind, see in the foreground, we have a plaza and then we have the colonnade and behind, we have a series of plantations which is a grove. So this is colonnade grove that is why they are given the identity.

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And then we have the Queen's grove.

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Then ballroom grove, this particular area is essentially for their equation purposes. Here, we do see another thing. The vegetations are placed, planted on terraces and then there are stone walls and other things at the backdrop, and then we have the fountains, are over here. And then, we have the vegetative grove at the back. So this is what is identified in this particular example as the ballroom grove.

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Okay. Now before I go into the English landscape styles, let me conclude the French landscapes. Then I will come to the English landscape styles. Essentially, what we have learned from the French landscape, first of all, one thing is very, very clear that French landscape was almost a carryover of the Italian landscape, so there was a strong reference to the Italian landscape from the on the French landscape.

Then the French landscape also introduced certain elements which were not very distinct or dominant in the Italian landscape styles and they were essentially furnitures, intricate small furnitures, garden chairs, then balusters, plant of pots and then the bird baths. All these were introduced by the French. And the fountains, grand fountains, multiple fountains, they became the important elements of the French landscape styles. So if you see, so far in the European landscapes, from Italian we have discussed up to the French. Now, I would like to take you to the another part of the Europe where landscape style got evolved called English landscape styles.