

Urban eye

by Robin Vaughan

A GROWING TREND

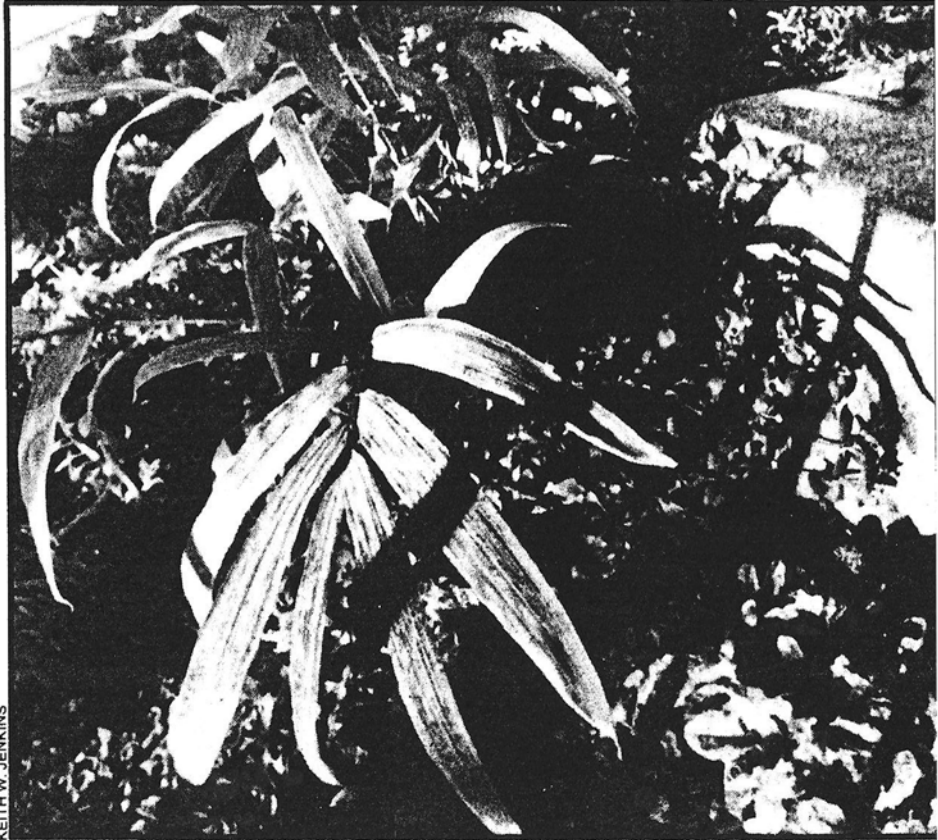
As Boston landscape artist Bruce Applebaum explains it, the Japanese concept of *sakkei* emphasizes an integrated flow, or "shared view," between a garden and its surroundings. During his 10 months as a landscaper's apprentice in Kyoto, Japan, Applebaum was influenced most strongly by this idea of "oneness." Thus he tries to create retreats "at peace" with their environments when designing local residential gardens.

Applebaum's theories about landscapes are the result of an unusual background. At three separate campuses of the State University of New York he studied philosophy, solar energy, and holistic environments, an untraditional discipline in which he received his BS. His subsequent environmental pursuits have taken him from the Environmental Studies Site at the College at New Paltz (New York), to the restoration of a Zen temple in Japan, the Central Park Conservancy (New York), the Arnold Arboretum, and finally to the establishment of his own landscaping design firm, Garden of Earthly Designs. His work is unique, he says, because in it he "fuses an Eastern perspective with Western practicality."

As is done in Japanese gardens, Applebaum uses many evergreens — bronze ferns, dwarf hemlock, and myrtle. Unlike most Japanese-style gardens, however, many that Applebaum designs incorporate edible fruit and herbs as well as decorative shrubs and flowers.

Applebaum may also have the perfect gardening solution for those frustrated by New England's short growing season. It was his interest in philosophy that led him to his specialty, which he refers to as "contemplative rock arrangements." When they incorporate harmony and balance, says Applebaum, rocks can be extremely soothing visually and "great subjects for meditation."

For a consultation with Bruce Applebaum, call 498-9867.



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