

Persian Garden

...influenced by...

...influence to...

Rebecca Kontus EKA 2011

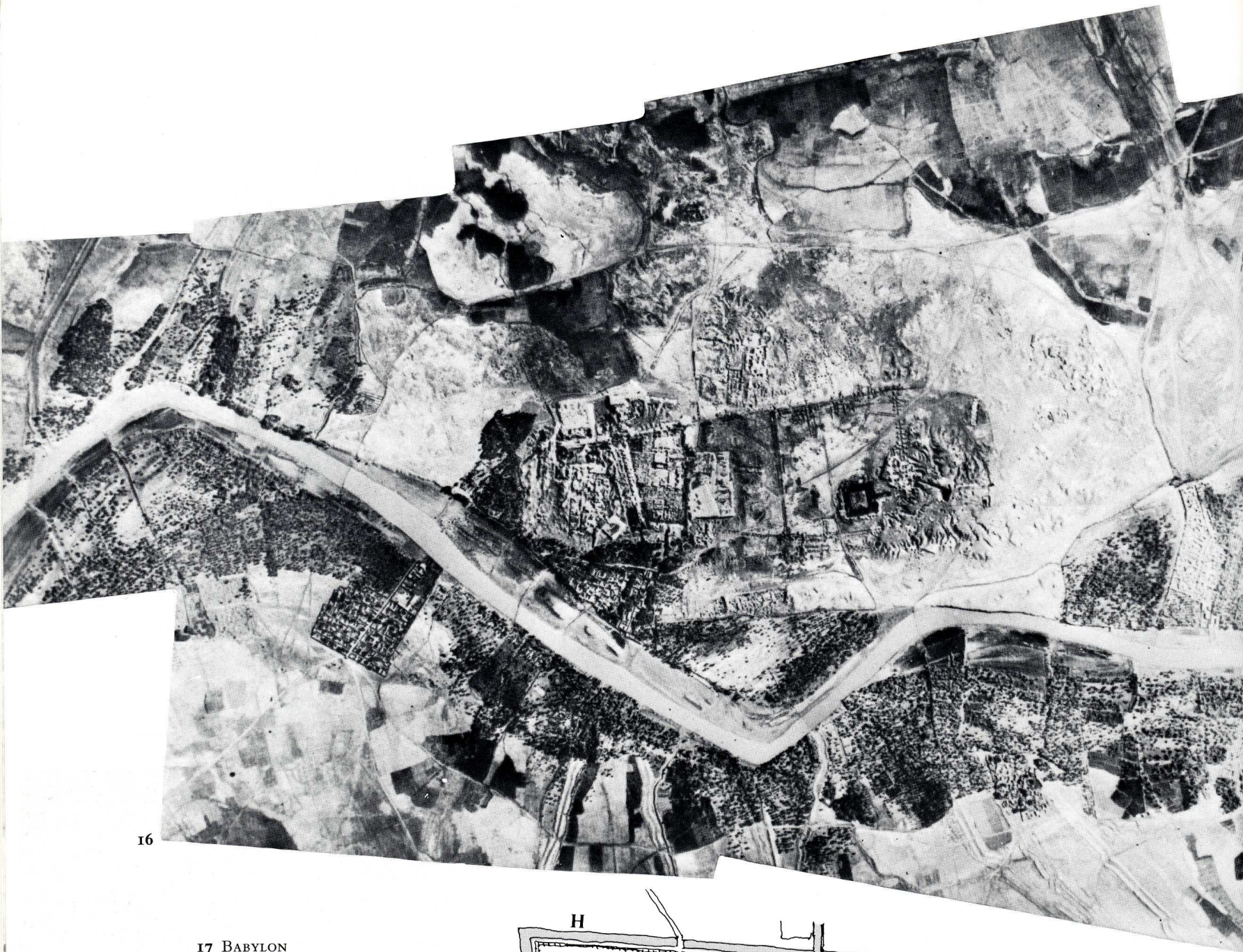
Hanging gardens of Babylon:

one of the seven wonders of the world



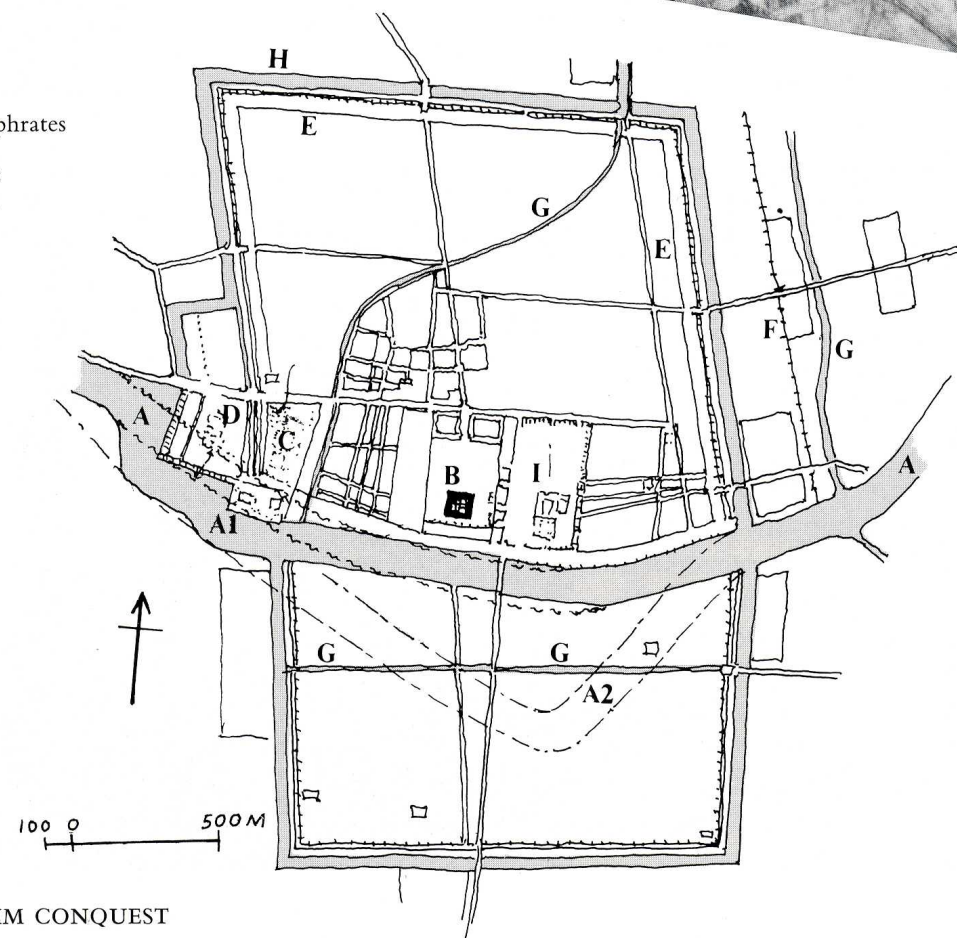
- The location is in present- day Al - Hillah, Babil in Iraq
- Sometimes also called Hanging Gardens of Semiramis

(Wikipedia and Google)



17 BABYLON

- A Original course of Euphrates
- A1 First diversion
- A2 Diversion post-600 B.C.
- B Tower of Babel
- C Hanging Gardens
- D Fortress
- E Inner wall
- F Outer wall
- G Canal
- H Moat
- I Temple of Marduk

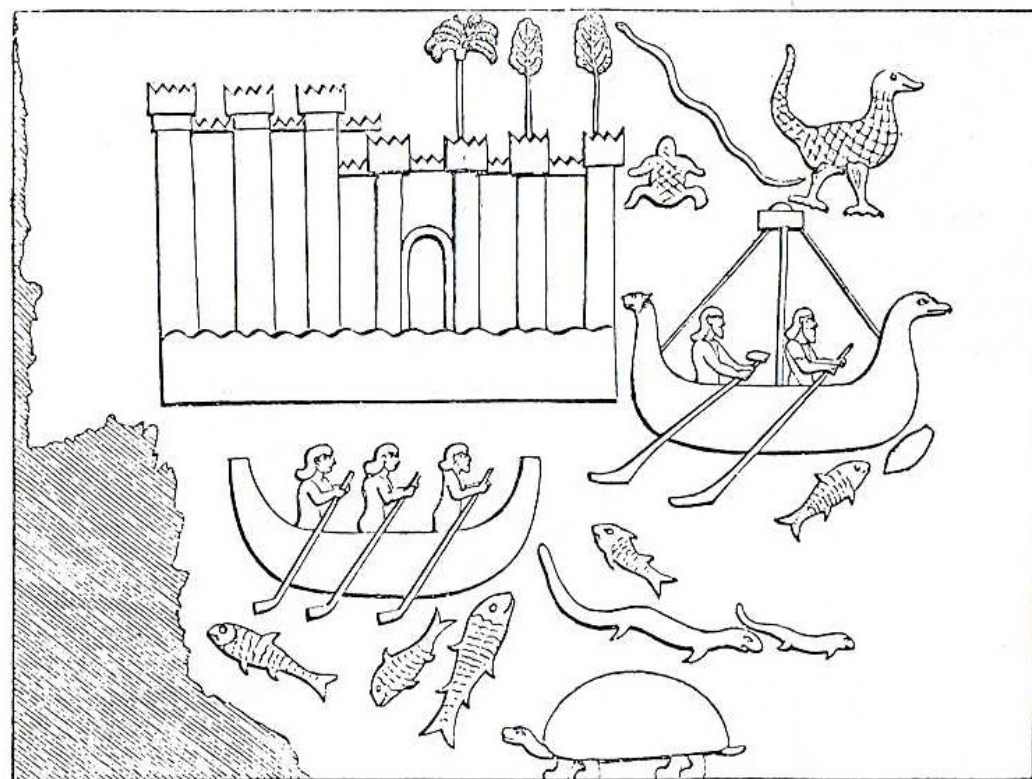


- Babylon rose to power in the third millenium B.C. following one of Euphrates' the many changes of course. The river acquired its present angularity soon after 7th sencury B.C., when, according to Herodotus, three artificial bends and a large lake upstream were excavated for military reasons.

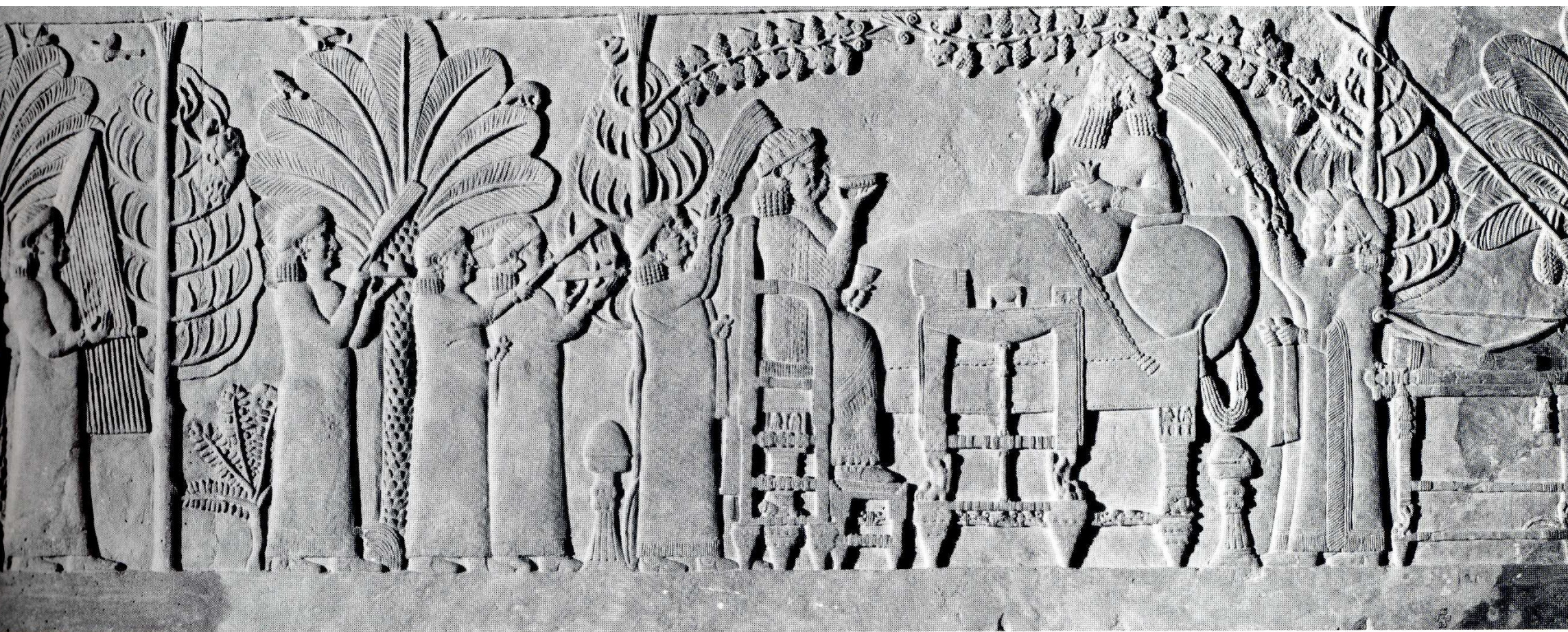
- The old bed throught the center of the city can be traced in the aerial photograph and schematic plan after E. Unger of the late Babylonian city 600 B. C.

- Babylon might be described as the mother-city of the manufac-tured nature as well as of gardens.

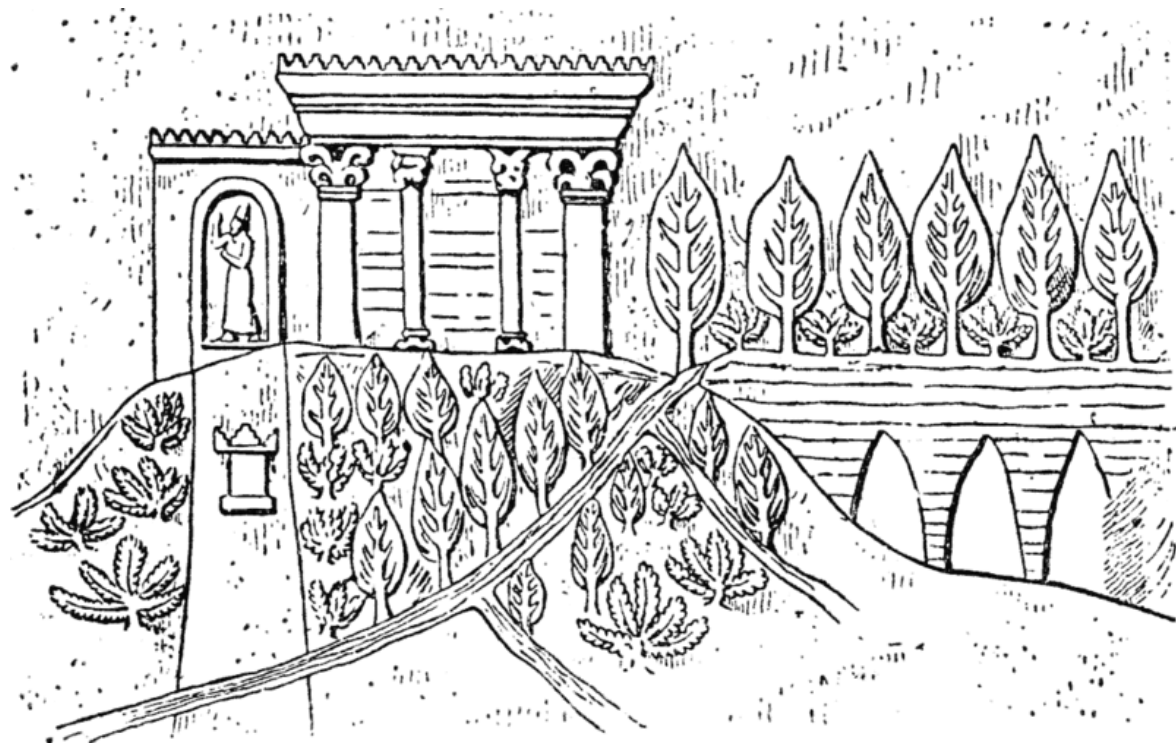
(The Landscape of Man)



- The carved panels, which lined the walls of their sumptuous palaces show scenes of the world of hunting and fishing.
(The Landscape of Man)



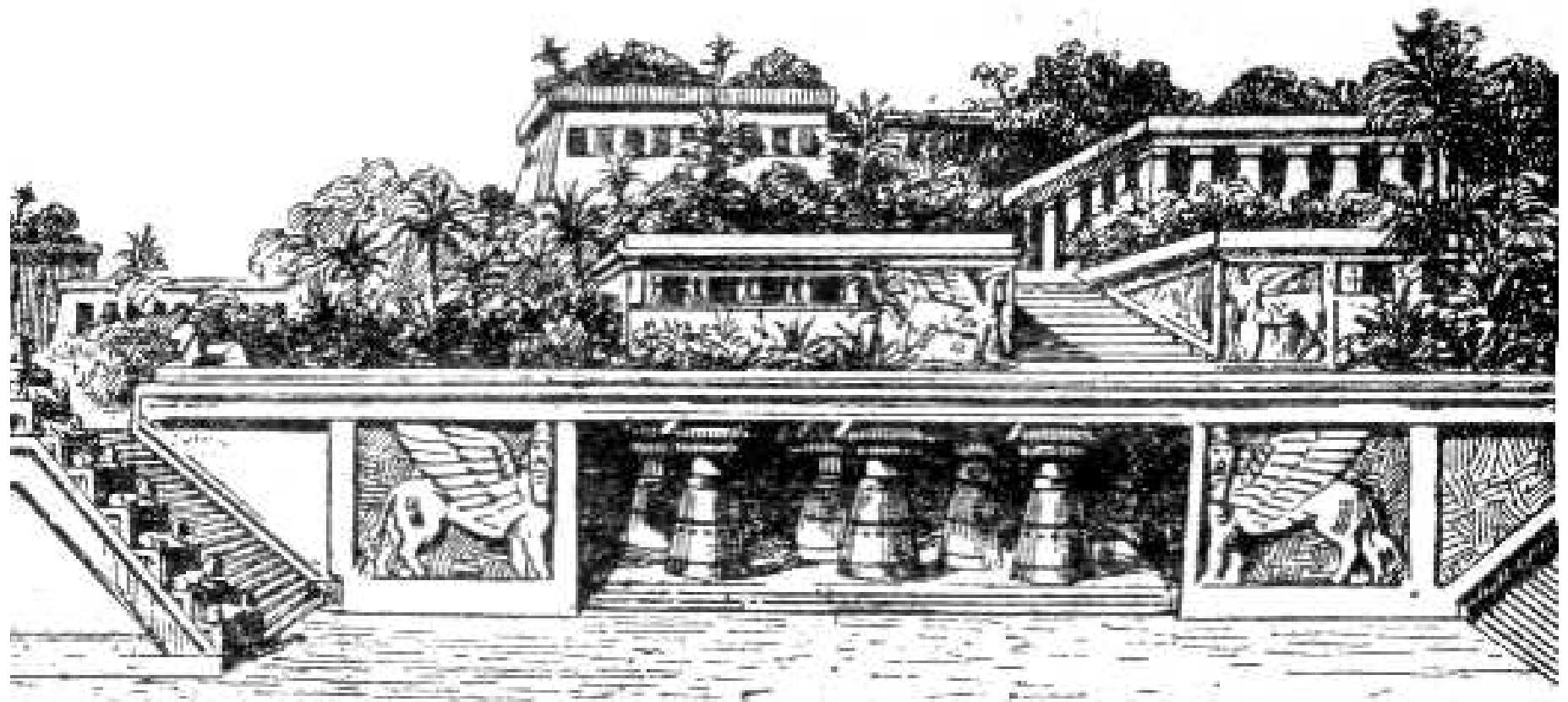
The king Asurbanipal feasting in his garden.
(The Landscape of Man)



- Assyrian interpretation

- The gardens were supposedly built by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar II around 600 BC. He is reported to have constructed the gardens to please his homesick wife, Amytis of Media, who longed for her native hills with trees and fragrant plants of her homeland.

(Wikipedia)



- Gardens of Semiramis, 20th century interpretation

(Wikipedia)



- Going up to the top is like climbing a mountain. Each terrace rises up from the last. This gives the appearance of a theater. It was flanked by perfectly constructed walls twenty-six feet thick.

- The galleries were roofed with stone balconies. Above these there was the first of a bed of reeds with a great quantity of bitumen, then a double layer of baked bricks set in gypsum, then over that a covering of lead so that moisture from the soil heaped above it would not seep through.

- The illusion of the mountain, covered with forrest in the middle of the desert became a legend.



- The earth was deep enough to contain the roots of the many varieties of trees which fascinated the beholder with their great size and their beauty.

- There was also a passage which had pipes leading up to the highest level and machinery for raising water, through which great quantities of water were drawn from the river, with none of the process being visible from the outside.

(Wikipedia)

- The garden is quadrangular in shape, and each side is four plethra in length. It consists of arched vaults, which are situated, one after another, on checkered, cube-like foundations.



- Water: the basic element of the garden.

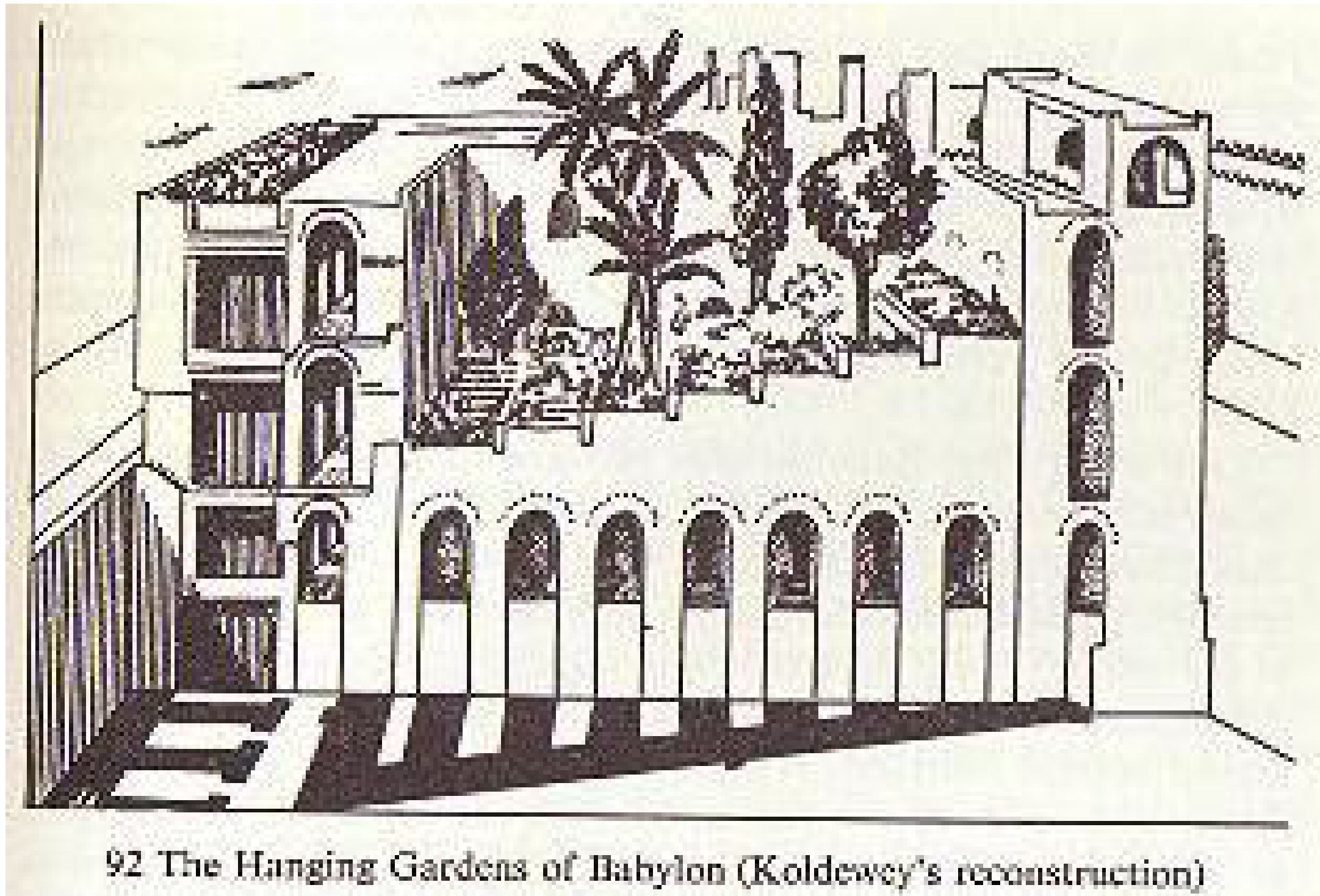
- The ascent to the uppermost terrace-roofs are made by a stairways; and alongside these stairs there were screws, through which the water was continually conducted up into the garden. By Euphrates those appointed for this purpose.

- For the river, a stadium in width, flows through the middle of the city; and the garden is on the bank of the river.

(Gardens and Parks by Ira Diana Mazzoni)

The checkered foundations, which are hollowed out, are covered so deep with earth that they admit of the largest of trees, having been constructed of baked brick and asphalt — the foundations themselves and the vaults and the arches.

(The Chronicles of Strabo)



Hanging Gardens of Babylon? (Koldewey's proposal as part of the South Palace)

(<http://proteus.brown.edu>)

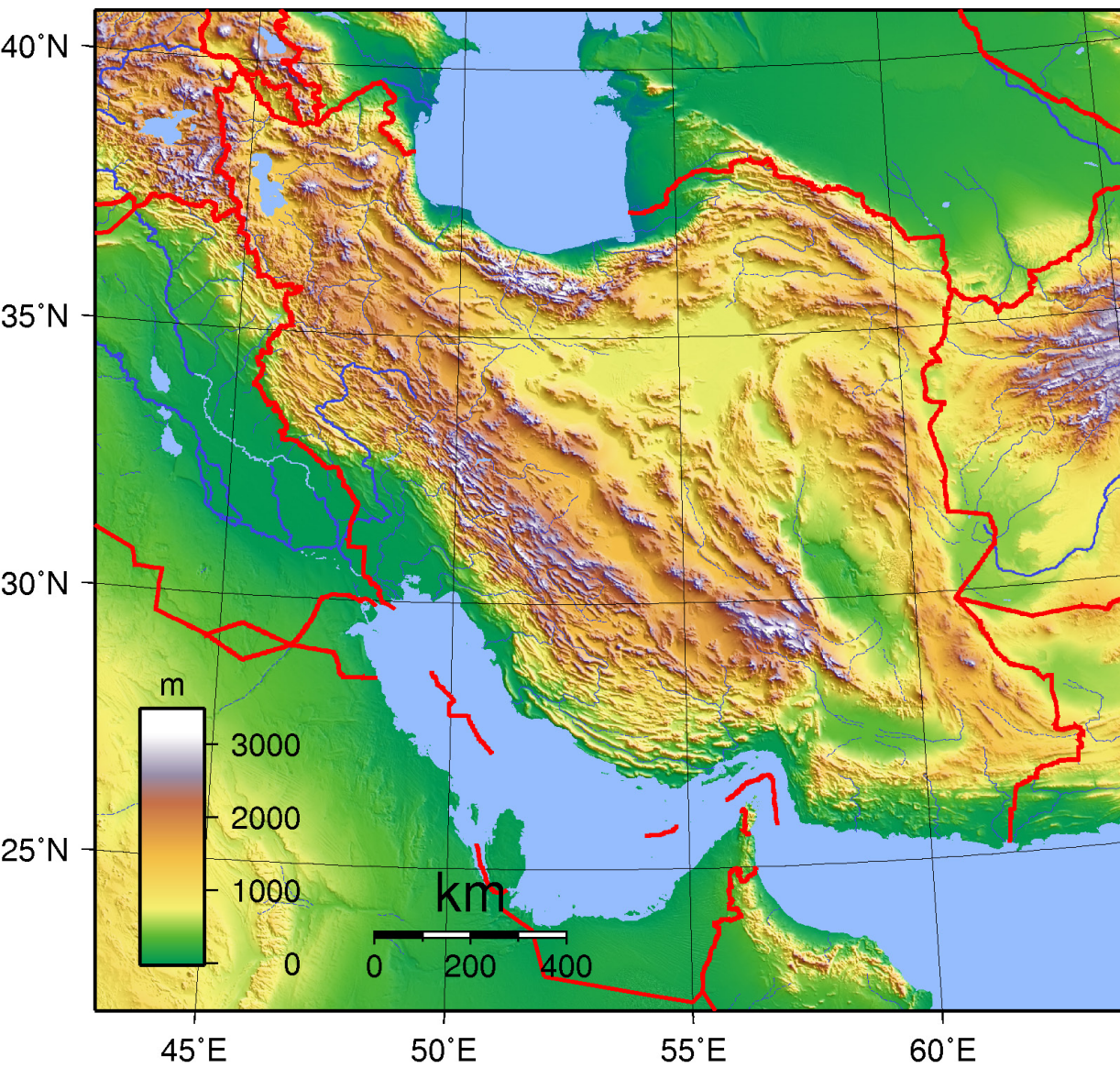
Persian Garden



From the time of the Achaemenid Dynasty the idea of an earthly paradise spread through Persian literature and example to other cultures, both the Hellenistic gardens of the Seleucids and the Ptolemies in Alexandria. The Avestan word *pairidaêza*-, Old Persian *paridaida*-, Median *paridaiza*- (walled-around, i.e., a walled garden), was transliterated into Greek *paradeisoi*, then rendered into the Latin *paradisus*, and from there entered into European languages, e.g., French *paradis*, German *Paradies*, and English *paradise*. The word entered Semitic languages as well: Akkadian *pardesu*, Hebrew *pardes*, and Arabic *firdaws*.

(Wikipedia)

Persia - Nowadays's Iran



- The heart of Persia, modern day Iran, is high and dry. All Persian gardens, from the ancient to the high classical were developed in opposition to the harsh and arid landscape of the Iranian Plateau.

- Unlike historical European gardens, which seemed carved or re-ordered from within their existing landscape, Persian gardens appeared as impossibilities. Their ethereal and delicate qualities emphasized their intrinsic contrast to the hostile environment.

(Wikipedia)



- As the word expresses, such gardens would have been enclosed. The garden's purpose was, and is, to provide a place for protected relaxation in a variety of manners: spiritual, and leisurely (such as meetings with friends), essentially a paradise on earth. The Persian word for "enclosed space" was pairi-daeza, a term that was adopted by Christian mythology to describe the garden of Eden or Paradise on earth.

- Although gardens were places for poetry, contemplation and seclusion, but also central to the political life of the ruling class.

(Wikipedia)



Elements of Persian Garden - Geometry

- Persian gardens may originate as early as 4000 BCE. Decorated pottery of that time displays the typical cross plan of the Persian garden. The outline of the Pasargad Persian Garden, built around 500 BCE, is viewable today.
- Persian gardens were also organized symmetrically, along a center line known as an axis.



- Geometry as a demonstration of the ordered universe was celebrated throughout Persian gardens from the surface design features to the basic ground plan and its fourfold **chahar bagh** format, representing the four corners of the world in the ancient vernacular, and the four rivers of paradise more predominately associated with the Islamic period.

(Wikipedia)



(www.shutterstock.com/pic-388672/stock-photo-in)



(The Landscape of man)



(<http://www.kavehfarrokhi.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/12/Naghshe-Jahan-square-Isfahan.jpg>)

Elements of Persian Garden - SUNLIGHT



- Sunlight and its effects were an important factor of structural design in Persian gardens. Textures and shapes were specifically chosen by architects to harness the light.

Elements of Persian Garden - SHADE



- Iran's dry heat makes shade important in gardens, which would be nearly unusable without it. Trees and trellises largely feature as biotic shade; pavilions and walls are also structurally prominent in blocking the sun.
- A rich variety of species thrived while thin channels delivered water throughout the garden, feeding fountains and pools, cooling the atmosphere and providing tender, constant music in the air.

(Wikipedia)



Elements of Persian Garden - WATER



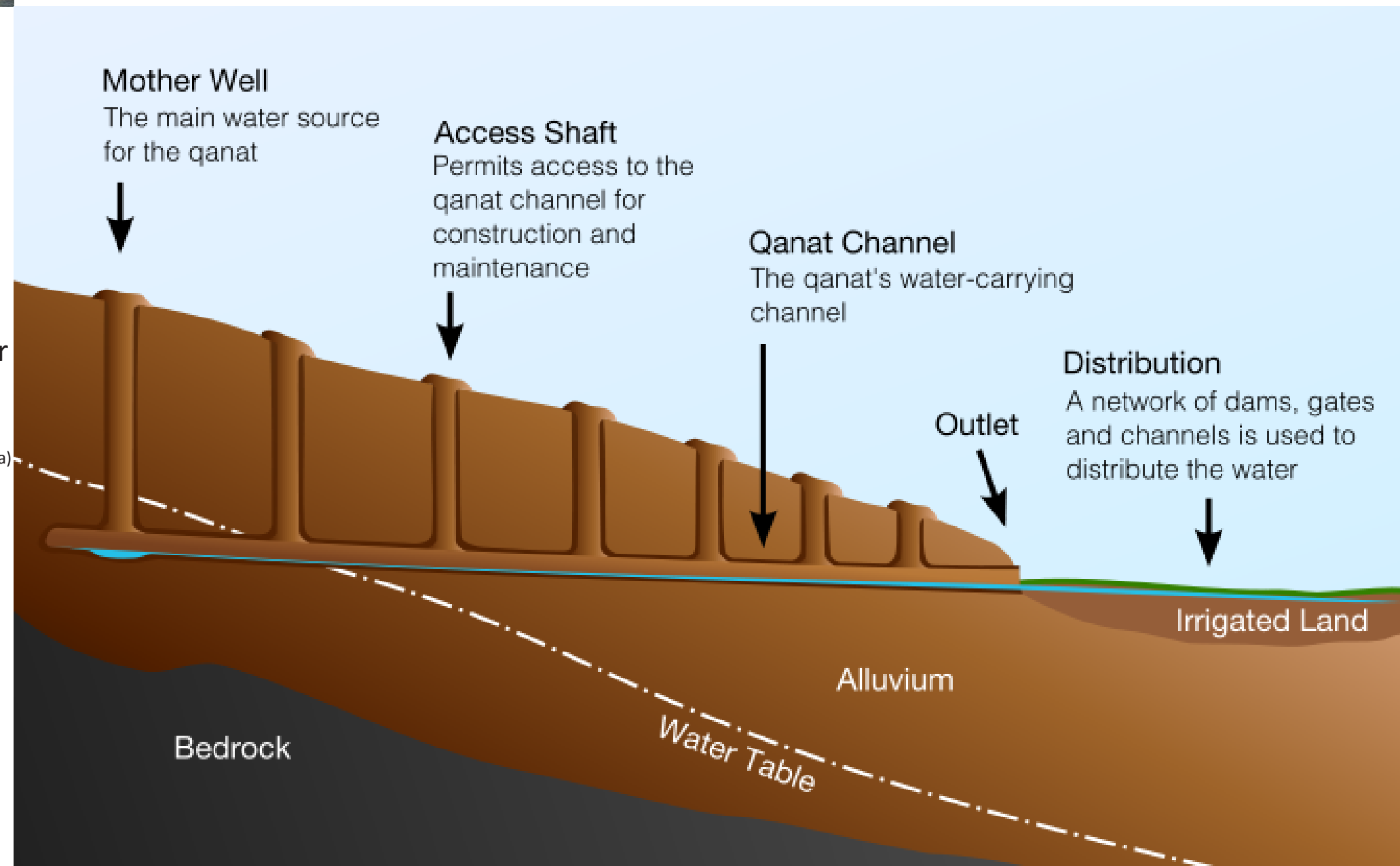
Traditional gardens strive to create a sense of place, *makan*. They exist in a well defined area and focus on a pool.

- The very presence and abundance of water became the essence of the Persian garden.
- Since ancient times, lush gardens have grown in the region due to an ingenious engineering system of underground aqueducts called qanats, that brought the water from the snow melt to the plains for irrigation and human use.
- A series of basins and plateaus are separated by the two main mountain ranges, the Albourz and the Zagros.

(Wikipedia & <http://www.isfahan.org.uk>)

- Alternatively, an animal driven Persian well would draw water to the surface. Such wheel systems also moved water around surface water systems, such as those in the *chahar bāgh* style. Trees were often planted in a ditch called a *jub*, which prevented water evaporation and allowed the water quick access to the tree roots.

(Wikipedia)



Elements of Persian Garden - INTEGRATION OF INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

- The Persian style often attempts to integrate indoors with outdoors through the connection of a surrounding garden with an inner courtyard. Designers often place architectural elements such as vaulted arches between the outer and interior areas to open up the divide between them.

(Wikipedia)



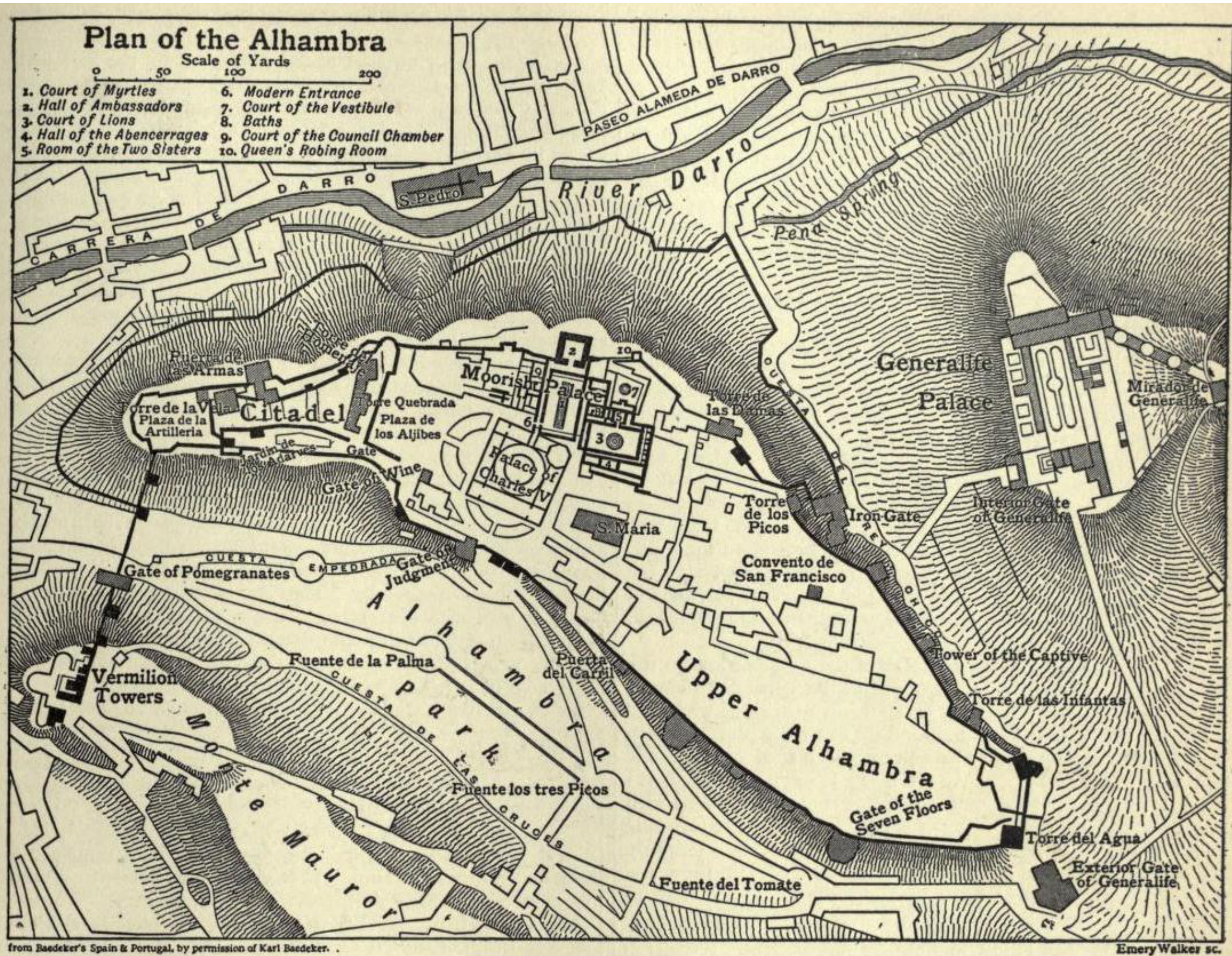
Influence of Persian Garden - ALHAMBRA



- The tradition and style in the garden design of Persian gardens has influenced the design of gardens from Andalusia to India and beyond. The gardens of the Alhambra show the influence of Persian Garden philosophy and style in a Moorish Palace scale from the era of Al-Andalus in Spain.

(Wikipedia)

Alhambra locates in South of Spain, in the province called Granada.



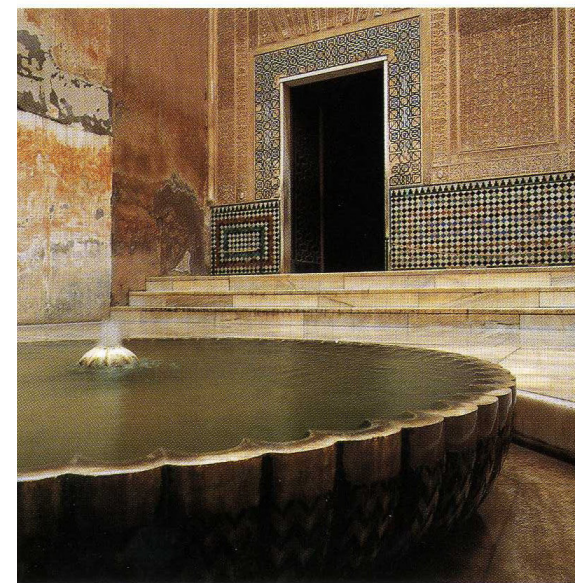
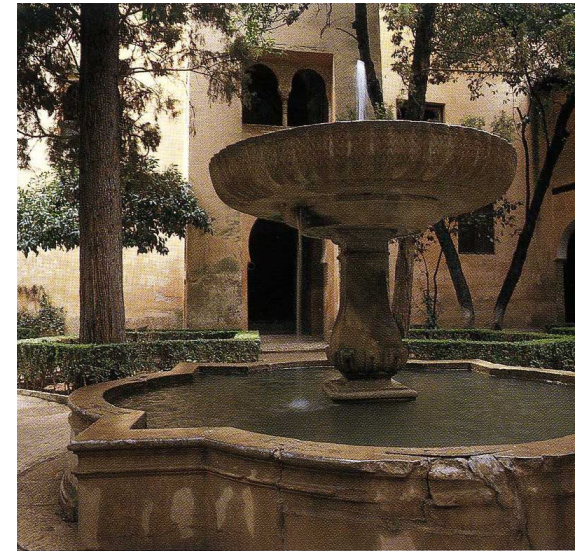
The plan of Alhambra



The castle

The Alhambra - *al Qual'a al-Hambra* - the red castle- was built as a fortress on a hill above Granada. The red walls of the original Alcazaba raised in 11th century, formed the defences for the palace which Ibn Ahmar created, when he made this the capital of his kingdom in the early 13th century.

(The Water Garden by G. Plumptre)



- To feed the pools and fountains with running water, he diverted the river Darro for nearly five miles. Many changes have been made by his successors since.

- Generalife - *the garden of the architect* - set higher up the hill, was the summer garden and palace of the sultans.

(The Water Garden by G. Plumtree)



The Canal...

- The centre-piece of the garden is the Court of Canal, where water effects the desired harmony between the small scale design and the rich detail of the architecture and planting.
- The long, narrow central canal runs close planting to 3 storeyed pavilions at either end with arcaded loggias at ground level providing cool shade.

(The Water Garden by G. Plumtre)



- The effect of lotus-shaped basins, whose low bubble fountains cause the water to constantly brim over.

(The Water Garden by G. Plumptre)
(Photos by H. Palmer)



The Court of Myrtles



- The central rectangular tank of the Court of the Myrtles, flanked by closely clipped myrtle hedges, outside paved paths along both sides, has nothing to detract from the serene effect of its broad surface.

- Water reflects the open arcades at either end whose slender columns support a screen of decorated artwork.

(The Garden by H. Loxton)

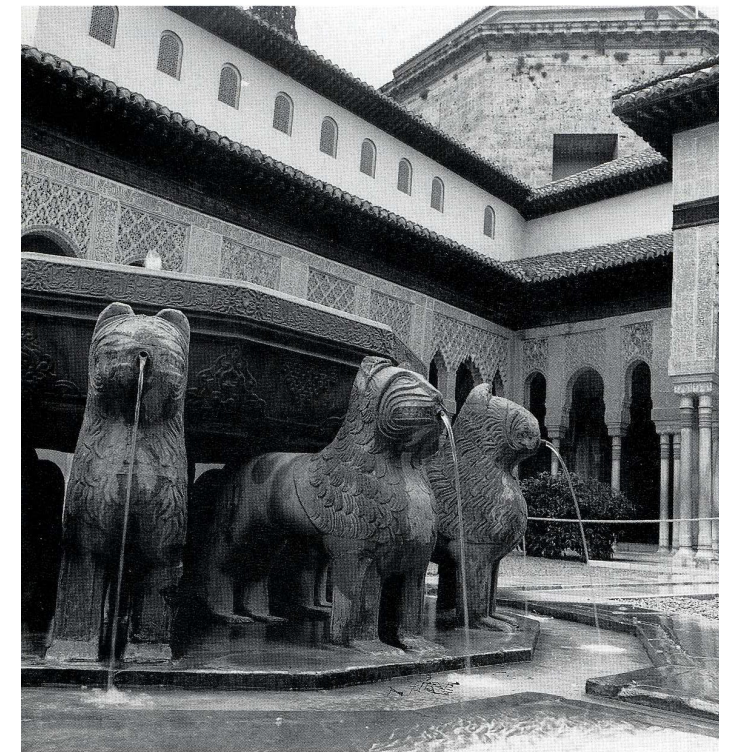
The Court of the Lions

- The breathtaking simplicity of the Court of the Myrtles is enhanced by the transition to the Court of the Lions, adjacent to the south-east, where the clusters of alabaster columns supporting highly decorated archades around all sides create a lively interplay with light and shade.

(The Garden by H. Loxton)



<http://www.travelphotoart.com/images>



- The fountain, which gives its name to the Court of the Lions forms the centre of the chahar bagh. The narrow water channels flowing from it, divide the garden into four as they lead outward to low fountain basins beneath the delicate arcades.

- The lions are probably 300 years older than their surroundings.

(The Water Garden by G. Plumpton)



<http://www.orgchm.bas.bg/~kaneti/al336.jpg>

- To recreate the original scene, the areas between the stone channels and the paving below the arcades, which now present a level gravel surface, must be imagined meter lower and planted with orange trees and flowers.

(The Landscape of Man)

Nowadays is Alhambra one of the World Heritages of UNESCO.



<http://www.viajesdecompras.com/fotoscompras/2011/04/granada.jpg>