

Canberra NARA PARK

Developed within Lennox Gardens, Canberra - Nara Park symbolises the close and growing friendship between Canberra and its sister city, in Japan, Nara. The Park provides a complementary setting for the gift of two large stone lanterns - a large Kasuga lantern weighing 5 tonnes and a large Yukimi lantern weighing 3 tonnes as well as a polished granite memorial stone - from the citizens of Nara, Japan's ancient capital to the citizens of Canberra, Australia's modern national capital. Design and construction was carried out by local designers and contractors who consulted closely with the city of Nara and the Embassy of Japan. The site was selected in April 1997 and celebrated with the visit to Canberra of a Nara delegation of 150 citizens led by Mayor Ohkawa and former Mayor Nishida.

In addition to these gifts, the citizens of Nara also donated \$100,000 towards the cost of constructing the Park. A time capsule containing the names of 10,000 Nara citizens who made donations has been placed and sealed beneath the Kasuga lantern.

Lennox Gardens is an important and integral part of the landscape setting for Lake Burley Griffin and Canberra - Nara Park.

The Park is designed to create the feel of a traditional Japanese garden within the surrounds of a Canberra public park. A distinctive feature of Canberra - Nara Park is its "borrowed landscape" or the extension of the Park's boundaries to encompass landmarks such as Lake Burley Griffin, Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie and Lotus Bay.

Trees and Shrubs - The planting scheme is mostly trees and groundcover plantings with the judicious siting of specimen shrubs. The trees include twenty four cherry blossom trees, (two *Prunus x-yedoensis* and twenty two *Prunus* 'Mount Fuji') four Crepe Myrtles, (*Lagerstroemia indica*), ten Japanese Maples, (*Acer palmatum purpureum*), eight *Callitris rhomboidea* and one Japanese Red Pine, (*Pinus densiflora*). Shrubs include *Rhododendron* species, and Japanese Lily of the Valley shrub, (*Pieris japonica*), 'this plant is one of Japan's earliest spring bloomers and is still the commonest shrub grown in Nara's parks because the deer will not nibble its leaves'. Groundcovers used are Japanese Shore Juniper, (*Juniperus conferta*), Star Jasmine, (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), and Dwarf Mondo Grass, (*Ophiopogon japonicus* 'Kyoto Dwarf'). Water plants planted within and adjacent to the dry watercourse are Japanese Water Iris, (*Iris kaempferi*). The climber species planted to grow over the Wisteria Pergola is (*Wisteria floribunda* 'Violacea Plena'), the only Wisteria species with double flowers and which is said to have originated from the Kasuga Shrine in Nara.



Rocks - Rocks were sourced locally from excavations in the ACT and from a Queanbeyan quarry and were placed in the traditional Japanese manner by Japanese craftsmen flown to Canberra for the project.

Dry Watercourse - The dry watercourse was constructed by local stone masons under the direction of Japanese craftsmen. The river stone was sourced from a quarry along the Bredbo River.

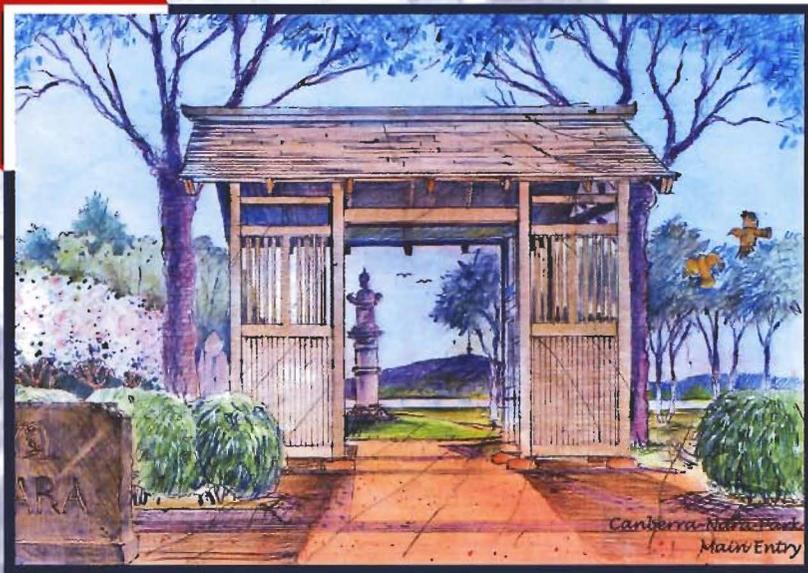
Gateway - The traditional style gateway is a free standing timber structure designed to frame the Kasuga lantern.

Arbour - Sponsored by the Park's designers, Totalcare Industries Limited, the Arbour is designed as a garden shelter and is located on a promontory between the dry watercourse and the circular grassed mound. Its design incorporates the same structural style as the gateway and is based on a square based pyramid. The structure is post and beam with four clusters of four columns each supporting perimeter beams and purlins which in turn support the roof framing, creating an intricate pattern similar to traditional Japanese structures. The roof is clad with cedar shakes on a structural plywood base and the structural elements are external grade one Australian hardwood.

Wisteria Pergola - Also sponsored by Totalcare Industries Limited, the pergola is sited on the western pathway adjacent to the dry watercourse 'pond' which features an island planted with *Iris kaempferi* (Japanese Water Iris). The structure is based on the traditional post and beam system used throughout Japan. Two timber bench seats have been placed between the west side posts. The Wisteria (*Wisteria floribunda* 'Violacea Plena') is planted between the western row of columns to be trained over the beams and rafters.

Bridge - A timber bridge spans the dry watercourse. The structure is based on standard timber bridge construction using external grade one Australian hardwood support beams, bolting plates and decking. A raised timber kerb has been included in keeping with Japanese structures.

Canberra - Nara Park was constructed for the ACT Government.



Client -
Chief Minister's Department
Project Director -
Totalcare Projects, Totalcare
Industries Limited
Designer -
ACT Landscape, Totalcare
Projects
Contractor -
Woden Contractors Pty Ltd
Construction -
Construction commenced in
October 1998 and was
completed in April 1999.
The project was finished on
time and on budget.

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