

Utopia

Ideal Places

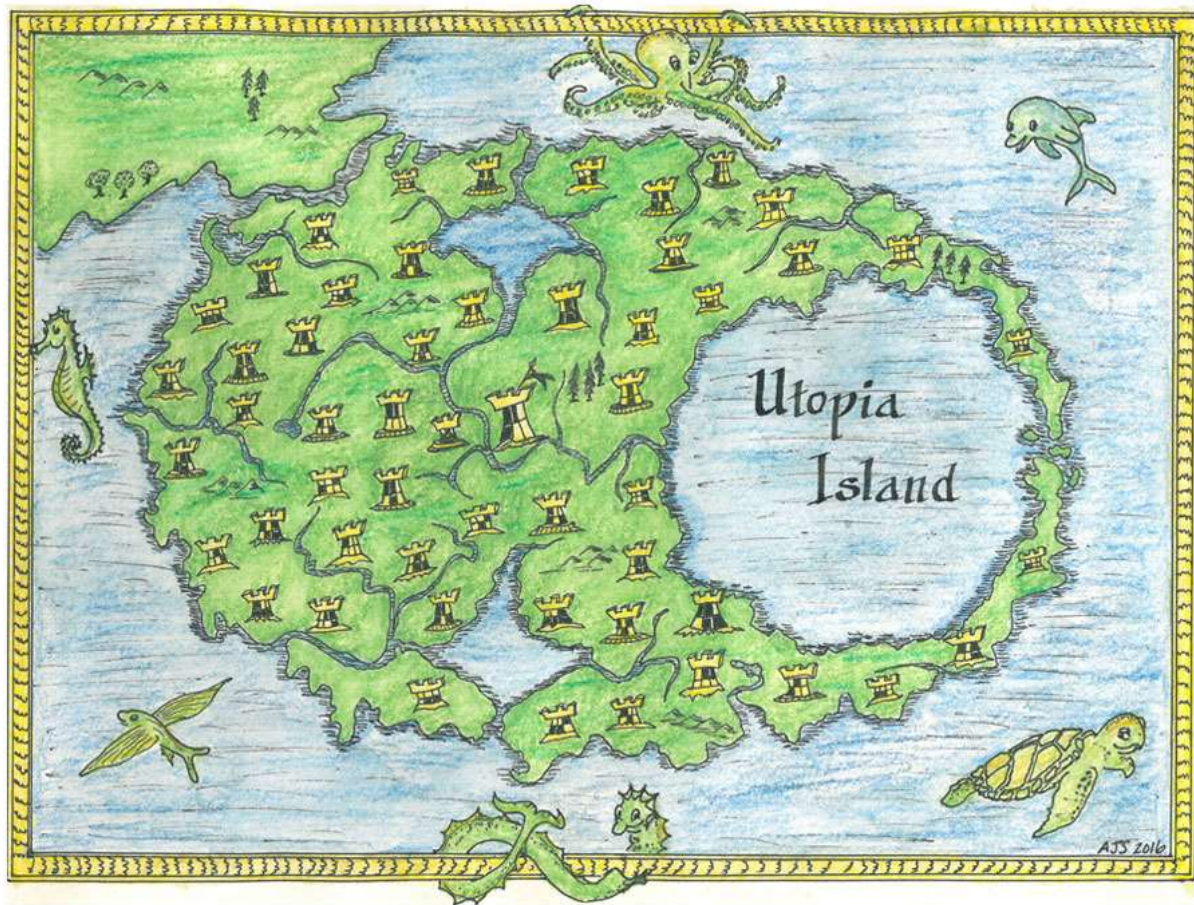
Utopia

A **utopia** is an imagined [community](#) or [society](#) that possesses highly desirable or nearly perfect qualities for its citizens. The term was coined by [Sir Thomas More](#) for his 1516 book [Utopia](#), describing a [fictional island](#) society in the south [Atlantic Ocean](#) off the coast of [South America](#). The opposite of a utopia is a [dystopia](#), which dominates [fictional literature](#).

A utopia focuses on equality in such categories as [economics](#), [government](#) and [justice](#) (a non-exhaustive list), with the method and structure of proposed implementation varying based on ideology. [Lyman Tower Sargent](#) argues that utopia's nature is inherently contradictory because societies are not [homogeneous](#) and have desires which conflict and therefore cannot simultaneously be satisfied. According to Sargent:

There are socialist, capitalist, monarchical, democratic, anarchist, ecological, feminist, patriarchal, egalitarian, hierarchical, racist, left-wing, right-wing, reformist, free love, nuclear family, extended family, gay, lesbian and many more utopias [[Naturism](#), [Nude Christians](#), ...] Utopianism, some argue, is essential for the improvement of the human condition. But if used wrongly, it becomes dangerous. Utopia has an inherent contradictory nature here.

Thomas More's Utopia



Zororastrian/Islamic Paradise

In **Islam**, **Jannah** (**Arabic**: جَنَّة *Jannah*; plural: *Jannat* **Turkish**: *Cennet*), lit. "paradise, garden", is the final abode of the righteous and the **Islamic believers**, but also the **Garden of Eden**, where **Adam** and **Hawa** dwelt is called *Jannah*.

The **paradise garden** is a form of **garden** of **Old Iranian** origin, specifically **Achaemenid** which is formal, symmetrical and most often, enclosed. The most traditional form is a rectangular garden split into four quarters with a pond in the center, a four-fold design called *chahar bagh* ("four gardens"). One of the most important elements of paradise gardens is water with ponds, canals, rills, and fountains all being common features. Scent is an essential element with fruit-bearing trees and flowers selected for their fragrance.

The word "paradise" comes from the ancient Persian word for an enclosed garden, and the art of landscaping is arguably Iran's great cultural legacy; *qanats*, underground ducts bringing melted snow from the mountains, have artificially irrigated the arid plateau of Iran for the past two and a half millennia. Hobhouse, a veteran garden historian and designer, elegantly explains the continuity of the aesthetic ideas that govern Persian gardens, with their rills of water and tree-lined alleys underplanted with roses and violets. Her account, accompanied by Jerry Harpur's spectacular photography, spans more than two thousand years of design, leading us from the remnants of Cyrus the Great's capital, Pasargadae, to Persian-influenced gardens as far afield as Quebec. ♦

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeDZYdosmOk>

<https://www.akdn.org/our-stories/gardens-paradise-past-and-present>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeDZYdosmOk> (Persian Garden)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elcT_ayinh0 (taj mahal)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Og6cTlwBTrk> (Moroccan Courtyard in MET)
- <https://painting.tube/paradise-found-islamic-culture-documentary-timeline/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGqeHzOEMLo>

Paradise Garden

- <http://www.heritageinstitute.com/zoroastrianism/garden/>

Zoroastrians created lush gardens or **baghs** (also see our Overview page's section on [Lush Gardens - Paradise / Bagh - Pairidaeza](#)). By one [legend](#), Zarathushtra too is said to have tended and developed a paradise-like community garden from an otherwise barren landscape.

The word paradise comes from the Old Iranian word for exceptional gardens, pairi-daeza, which in later years was shortened to parideiza and then to paridiz. Pairi means all around, thoroughly and ultimate, while the precise meaning of daeza is uncertain. However, as a compound word, pairidaeza came to mean a celestial garden, a heavenly paradise on earth. The description of the Garden of Eden as paradise is derived from the Persian Avestan pairi-daeza, and some would say, was located in the northern Iranian Zagros mountains (see [Gardens of Ancient Tabriz](#) below).

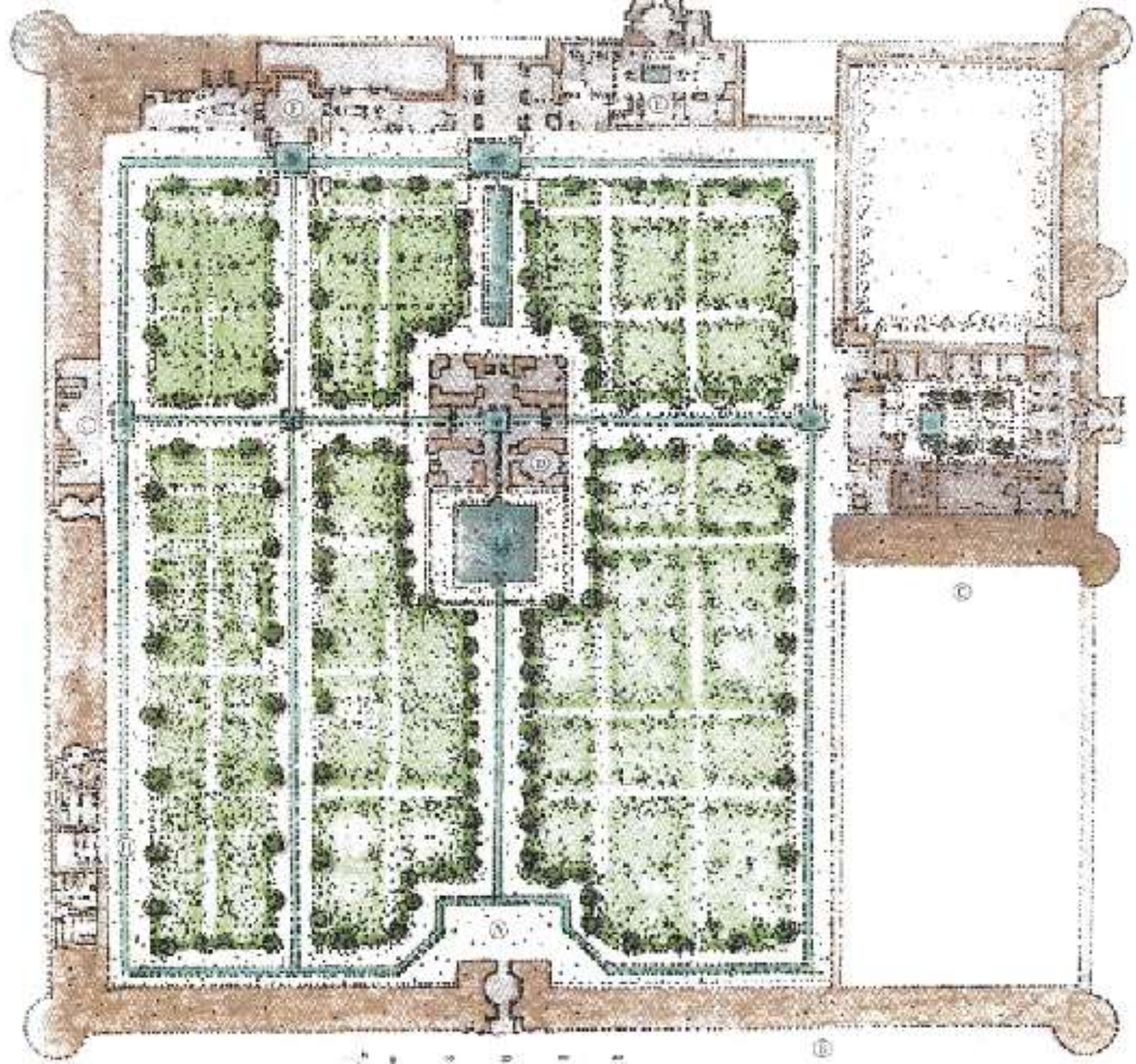
Classical Hellenic writers called Persian gardens paradeisos / paradeisoi.

The [Hanging Gardens of Babylon](#), one of the seven wonders of the world, were built based on the Median (western Iranian) gardens in the Zagros mountains.

The [chahar-bagh](#) gardens of the Taj Mahal are a descendant of the formal chahar-bagh gardens at King Cyrus' palace in [Pasargadae](#).

With the correct selection of trees, herbs and plants, the pairidaeza baghs were places that could include amongst the vegetation grown within, essential health giving plants of the [haoma](#) / [barsom](#) family.

When all the elements of the pairidaeza baghs are considered together, they form an integrated composition of shade, micro-climate, vegetation, refuge, and healing.









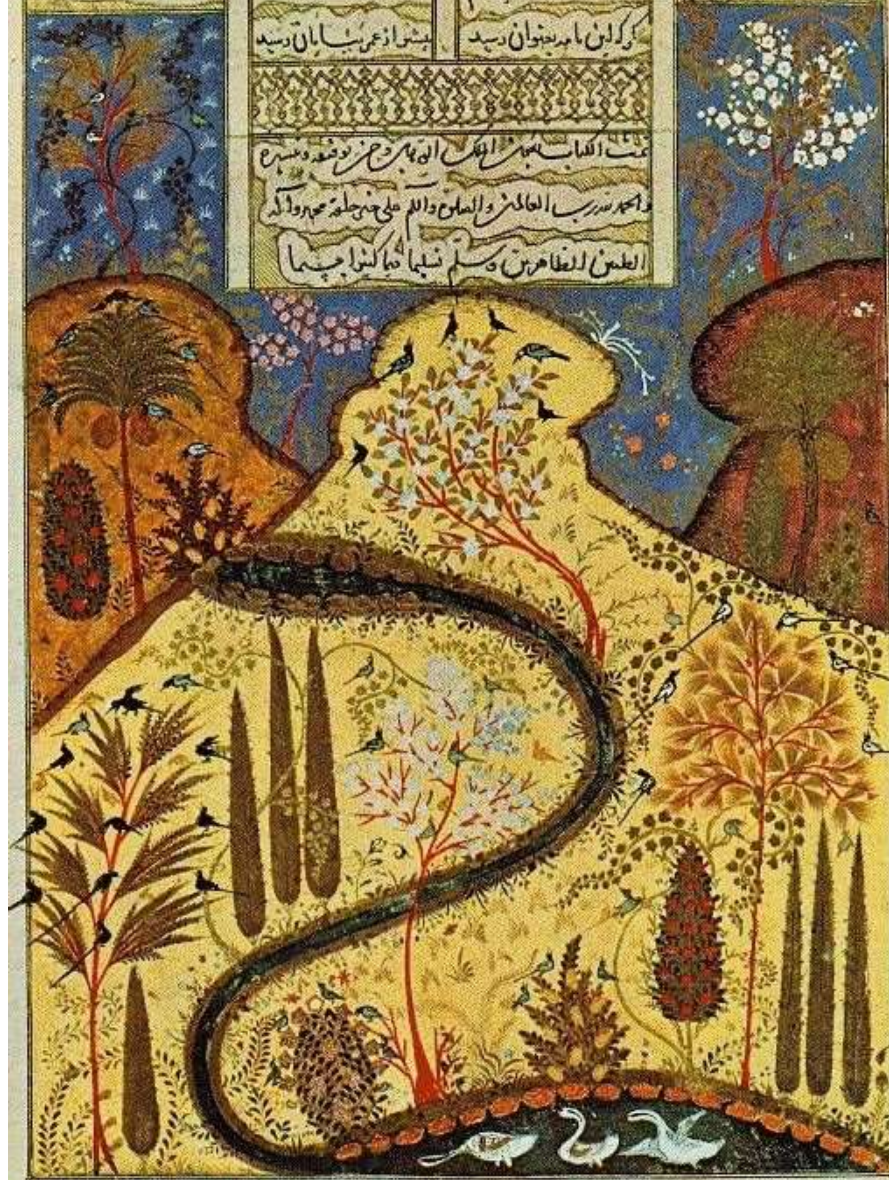








كتاب الفوائد
في معرفة الله تعالى
والملائكة والروح
والنار والجنة
والجحيم والسموات
والارض والخلق
والصالحين والفساق
والنبيين والرسل
والانبياء والمرسلين
والصالحين والفساق
والنبيين والرسل
والانبياء والمرسلين



سن
اولازہ
ن من
ن لوی

تن
ه
ن
ن
سید

شیخ
الحکام
سید

نیم تنی ناز از انوش هست
کرد نظامی دبی ز بود
کوی هنگامه و روز صبح
بابل برآمده حیفان کای غلام

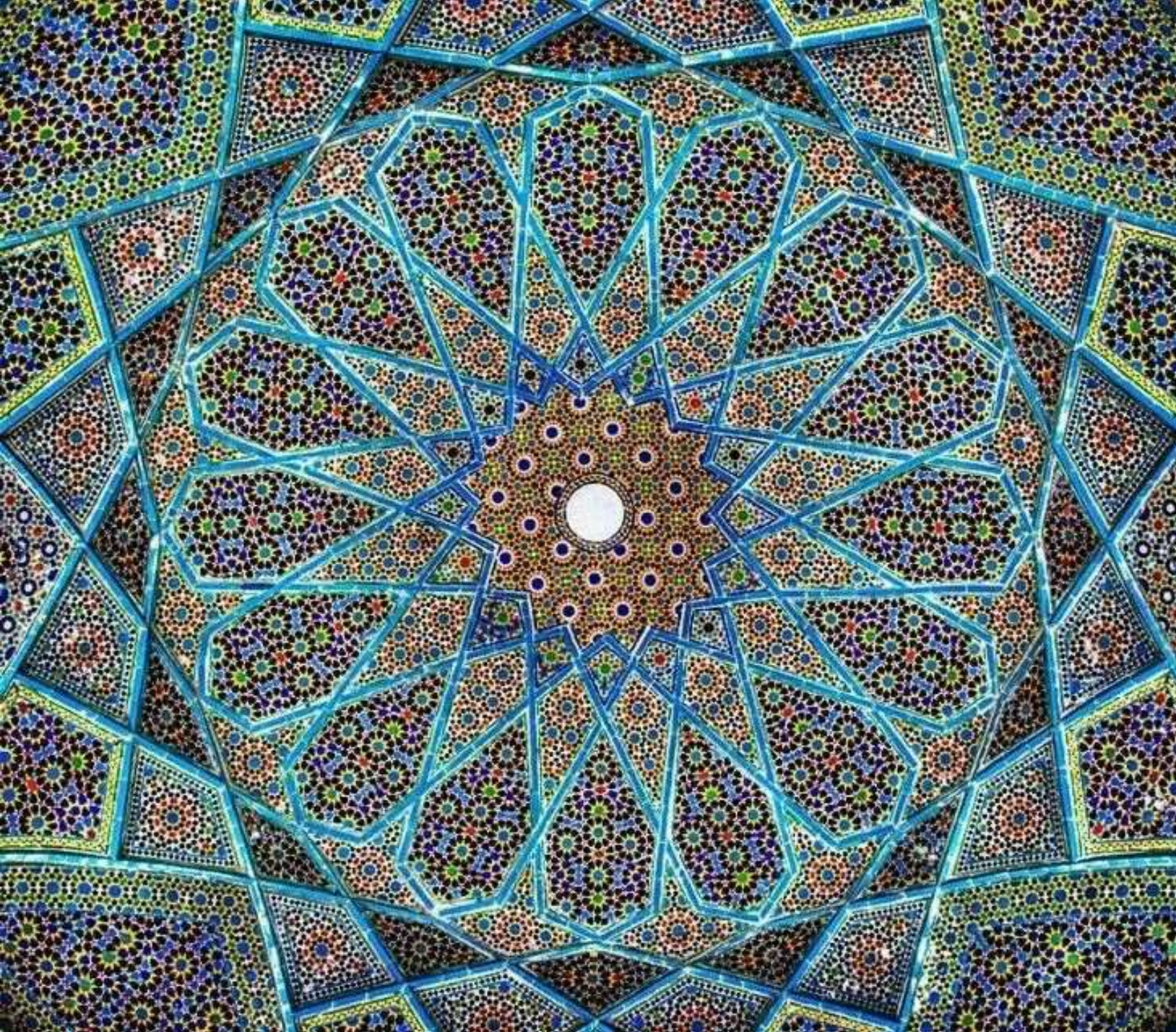


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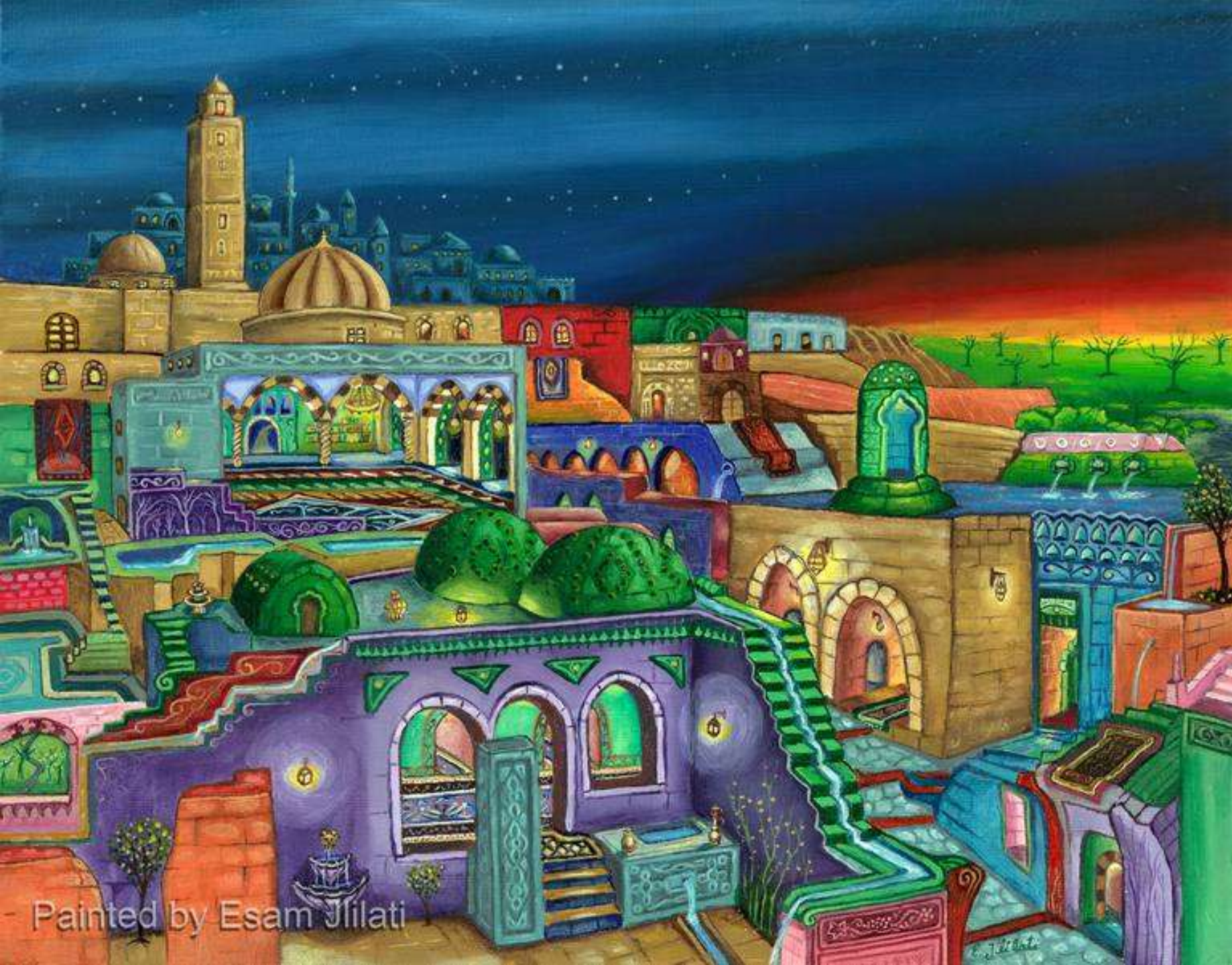












Painted by Esam Jilati

The Garden of Earthly Delights

The Garden of Earthly Delights is the modern title given to a [trptych oil painting](#) on [oak panel](#) painted by the [Early Netherlandish](#) master [Hieronymus Bosch](#), between 1490 and 1510, when Bosch was between 40 and 60 years old.

Little is known of Bosch's life or intentions; interpretations of his intent have ranged from an admonition of worldly fleshy indulgence, to a dire warning on the perils of life's temptations, to an evocation of ultimate sexual joy. The intricacy of its symbolism, particularly that of the central panel, has led to a wide range of scholarly interpretations over the centuries. Is the triptych's central panel a moral warning or a panorama of paradise lost? Dystopia/Utopia?

The triptych is intended to be read sequentially, the left and right panels portraying [Eden](#) and the [Last Judgment](#) respectively, while the main subject was contained in the center piece. It is not known whether *The Garden* was intended as an [altarpiece](#), but the general view is that the extreme subject matter of the inner center and right panels make it unlikely that it was intended to function in a church or monastery, but was instead commissioned by a [lay patron](#).

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/videos/hieronymus-bosch-the-garden-of-earthly-delights>



Shakers

The **United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing**, more commonly known as the **Shakers**, are a [millenarian nontrinitarian restorationist Christian sect](#) founded circa 1747 in England and then organized in the United States in the 1780s. They were initially known as "Shaking [Quakers](#)" because of their ecstatic behavior during worship services. Espousing [egalitarian](#) ideals, women took on spiritual leadership roles alongside men, including founding leaders such as [Jane Wardley](#), Mother [Ann Lee](#), and Mother [Lucy Wright](#). The Shakers emigrated from England and settled in Revolutionary [colonial America](#), with an initial settlement at [Watervliet, New York](#) (present-day [Colonie](#)) in 1774. They practice a [celibate](#) and [communal](#) lifestyle, [pacifism](#), uniform [charismatic worship](#), and their model of [equality of the sexes](#), which they institutionalized in their society in the 1780s. They are also known for their simple living, architecture, technological innovation, and furniture.

During the mid-19th century, an [Era of Manifestations](#) resulted in a period of dances, gift drawings, and gift songs inspired by spiritual revelations. At its peak in the mid-19th century, there were 2000-4000 Shaker believers living in 18 major communities and numerous smaller, often short-lived, communities. External and internal societal changes in the mid- and late-19th century resulted in the thinning of the Shaker community as members left or died with few converts to the faith to replace them. By 1920, there were only 12 [Shaker communities](#) remaining in the United States. As of 2019, there is only one active Shaker village: [Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village](#), in Maine. Consequently, many of the other Shaker settlements are now museums.

<https://socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu/religious/the-shakers-a-utopian-community-founded-in-u-s-1776/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEypPmT61cQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVzuShZCcSY>

Simple Gifts

Joseph Brackett, Jr., 1848





Hancock Shaker
Village,
Berkshire County,
Massachusetts







to give of
Love a tree of life
By holy spirits given.

August 1857.

To help you
Love this world of sinners
And show your path to heaven



My love is increasing,
The tempests should beat, and floods
may descend,

My love is increasing,
I'll stand by your side, be your
Mother, & friend.

From Mother Ann,

To Nancy Cook.

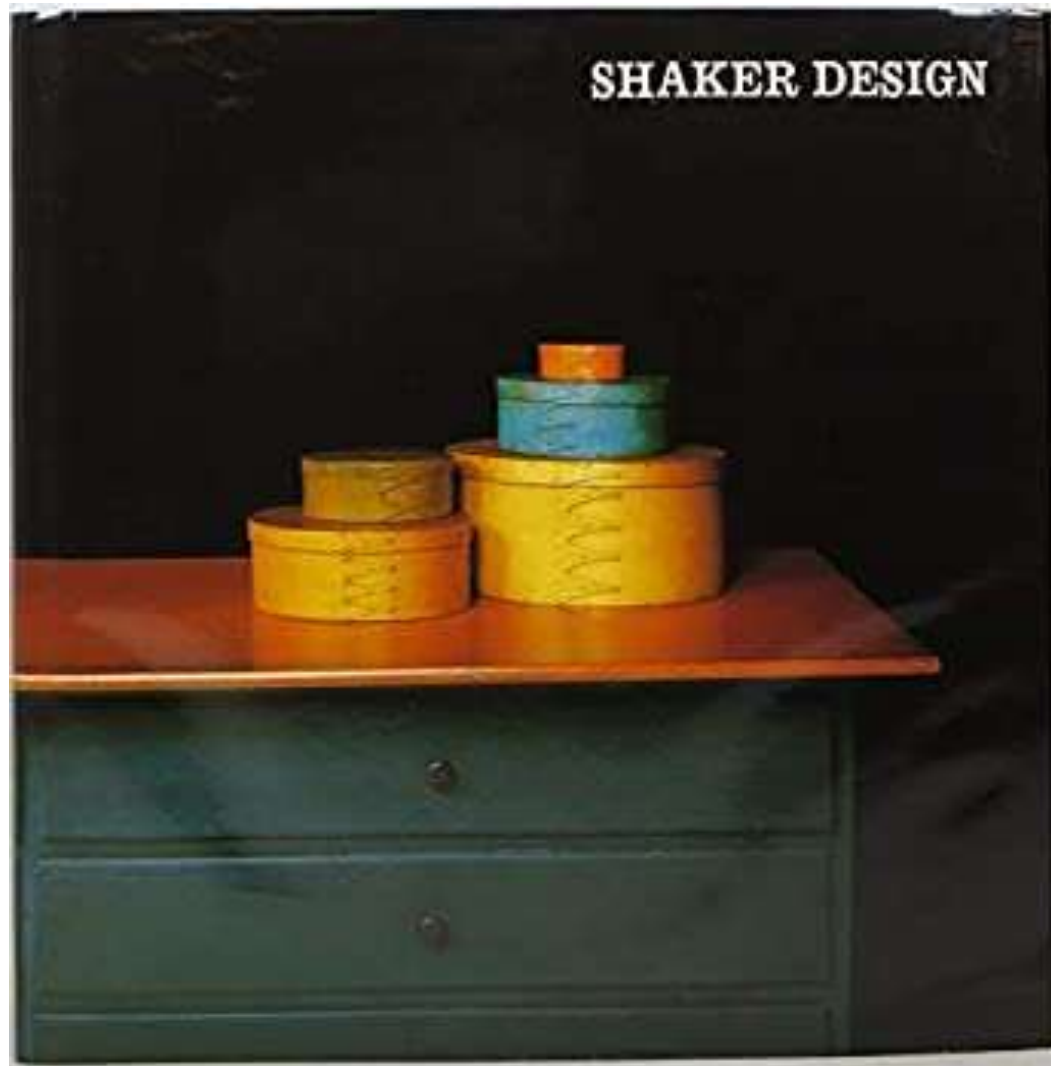


Witnessed by

Polly Lawrence



SHAKER DESIGN





The Sweet Birch or Myrica

The Sweet Birch or Myrica is a small tree, growing to the height of 10 or 12 feet, with a trunk that is covered with a thick, white, lichen-like growth. The leaves are small, narrow, and pointed, with a serrated margin. The tree is found in wet places, and its bark is used for medicinal purposes. It is also a valuable source of wood, which is used for making charcoal and for other purposes. The tree is native to the United States, and is found in many parts of the country.

Shaker Furniture

Furniture was made thoughtfully, with functional form and proportion. Rather than using ornamentation — such as [inlays](#), [carvings](#), metal pulls, or [veneers](#) — which was seen as prideful or deceitful, they developed "creative solutions such as asymmetrical drawer arrangements and multipurpose forms to add visual interest."

Furniture was made of cherry, maple or pine lumber, which was generally stained or painted with one of the colors which were dictated by the sect, typically blue, red, yellow or green. Drawer pulls for dressers or other furniture were made of wood.













Shaker Seed Company

The **Shaker Seed Company** was an American [seed company](#) that was owned and operated by the [Shakers](#) in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. In the latter part of the eighteenth century, many Shaker communities produced several vegetable seed varieties for sale. The company created innovations in the marketing of seeds – including distributing, packaging and cataloging – all of which changed the horticultural business model forever. They invented paper seed packets.

The [Mount Lebanon Shaker Village](#) in [New Lebanon, New York](#), was the most successful and the first to use the name Shaker Seed Company in advertising.^[2] As its stationery reveals, the company adopted the phrase "[Experto crede](#)" as its [motto](#), noting its establishment in 1794.



SHAKERS CHOICE VEGETABLE SEEDS.



SHAKER SEED CO. D.M. Mount Lebanon, N.Y.

PEAS

BEANS

CORN

CUCUMBER SALSIFY

CUCUMBER CARROT PARSNIP

SQUASH

TURNIP

TOMATO

R

Locus Amoenus

Locus amoenus ([Latin](#) for "pleasant place") is an [idealized place](#) of safety or comfort. A *locus amoenus* is usually a beautiful, shady lawn or open woodland, or a group of idyllic islands, sometimes with connotations of [Eden](#) or [Elysium](#).

A *locus amoenus* will have three basic elements: trees, grass, and water. Often, the garden will be in a remote place and function as a landscape of the mind. It can also be used to highlight the differences between urban and rural life or be a place of refuge from the processes of time and mortality.

In some works, such gardens also have overtones of the regenerative powers of [human sexuality](#) marked out by flowers, springtime, and goddesses of love and fertility.













Locus Amoenus

- ENTER Studio and OBR created a pop-up installation designed in the image of an ornamental Baroque garden with modern and playful flair. Created for the famous international flower show Euroflora 2018 in Genoa, Italy, the pop-up landscape—known as “Locus Amoenus”—comprises 1,200 white pinwheels arranged like a floating flowerbed encircling a timber patio.







Henri Rousseau (1844-1910)

Henri Julien Félix Rousseau was a French post-impressionist painter in the Naïve or Primitive manner. He was also known as **Le Douanier** (the customs officer), a humorous description of his occupation as a toll and tax collector. He started painting seriously in his early forties; by age 49, he retired from his job to work on his art full-time.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MneHoFGclg>



LOVEHOMEART









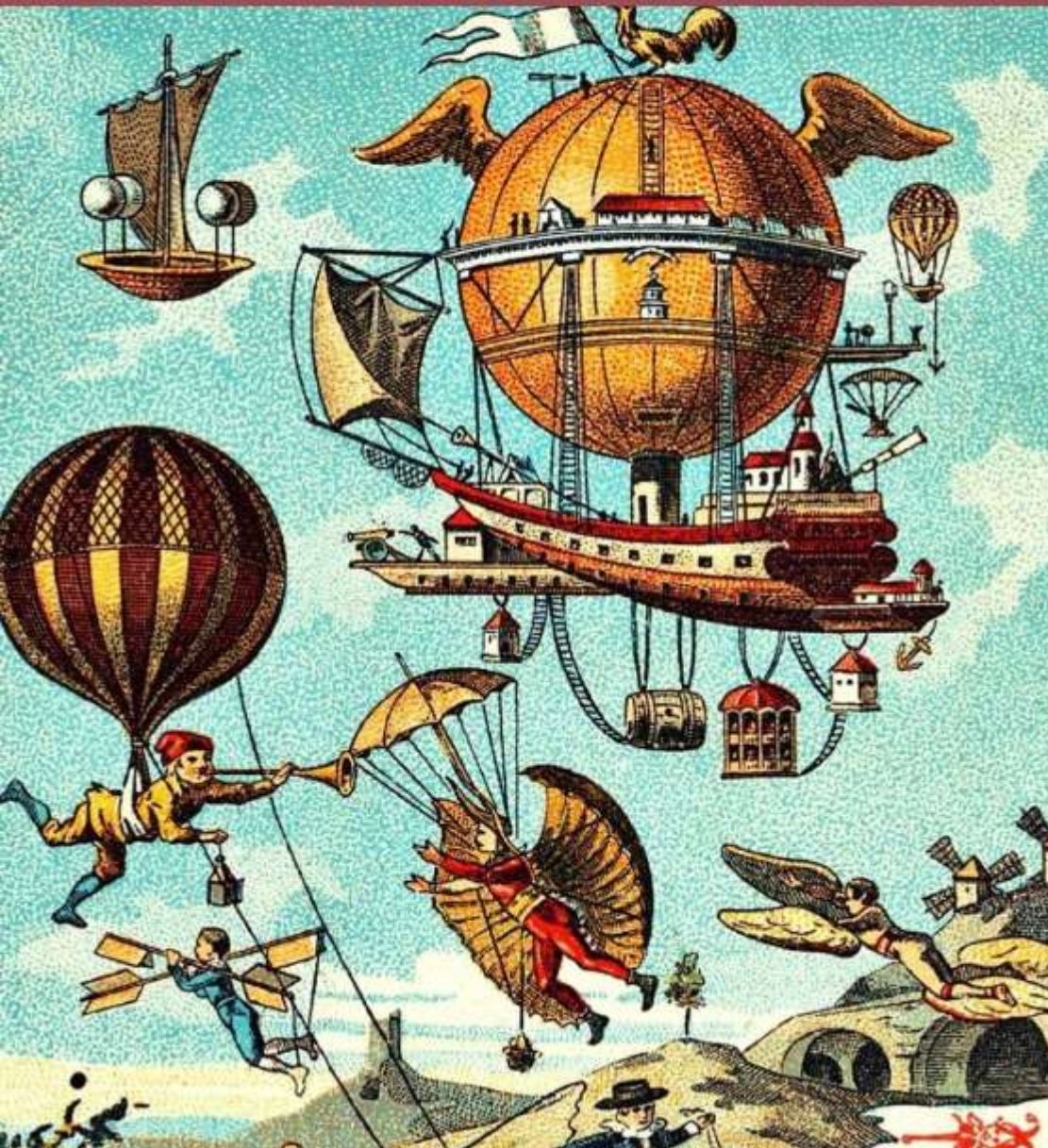






H.G. WELLS

A MODERN UTOPIA



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuWRxJFkvC4>

Parisian utopian housing complex

<https://theconversation.com/smart-cities-the-promises-and-failures-of-utopian-technological-planning-114405>

Nowa Huta

Nowa Huta (*The New Steel Mill*) is the easternmost [district](#) of [Kraków](#), [Poland](#). With more than 200,000 inhabitants, it is one of the most populous areas of the city. Until 1990, the neighbouring districts were considered expansions of the original Nowa Huta district, and were linked by [the same tramway system](#). They are now separate districts of Kraków.

Nowa Huta is one of only two planned [socialist realist](#) settlements or districts ever built (the other being [Magnitogorsk](#) in Russia) and "one of the most renowned examples of deliberate [social engineering](#)" in the entire world. Built as a [utopian ideal city](#), its street hierarchy, layout and certain grandeur of buildings often resemble [Paris](#) or [London](#). The high abundance of parks and green areas in Nowa Huta make it the greenest corner of Kraków.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrqv1UbF6nU>



Futuristic Utopia

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QjPLn9WPVo&feature=emb_re_l_end (long)
- <https://theconversation.com/these-six-utopian-cities-of-the-future-will-help-you-re-imagine-life-on-earth-70280>

Yugoslavia

- <https://www.moma.org/magazine/articles/19>

Monsanto House of the Future

The **Monsanto House of the Future** was an attraction at [Disneyland's Tomorrowland^{\[1\]}](#) in [Anaheim, California, USA](#), from 1957 to 1967. It offered a tour of a futuristic home, and was intended to demonstrate the versatility of modern plastics.

Sponsored by [Monsanto Company](#), the House of the Future was made possible by Monsanto, the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#) (MIT), and [Walt Disney Imagineering^{\[1\]}](#). With this project, Monsanto wanted to demonstrate plastics' versatility as a high-quality, engineered material.^[4] The design team for this innovative structure included MIT architecture faculty [Richard Hamilton](#) and Marvin Goody (founders of Goody Clancy) and MIT civil engineering faculty [Albert G. H. Dietz^{\[5\]}](#), Frank J. Heger, Jr. (a founder of [Simpson Gumpertz & Heger](#)) and Frederick J. McGarry. The MIT faculty worked with the Engineering Department of Monsanto's Plastics Division, including R. P. Whittier and M. F. Gigliotti. The house, featuring four symmetric wings cantilevered off a central core, was fabricated with glass-reinforced plastics.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sk2YBA_oa1A

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUOTVPVQZNo>



Brasilia

Brasília was [planned](#) and developed by [Lúcio Costa](#), [Oscar Niemeyer](#) and Joaquim Cardozo in 1956 in a scheme to move the capital from [Rio de Janeiro](#) to a more central location. The landscape architect was [Roberto Burle Marx](#). The city's design divides it into numbered blocks as well as sectors for specified activities, such as the Hotel Sector, the Banking Sector, and the Embassy Sector. Brasília was chosen as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) due to its [modernist architecture](#) and uniquely artistic [urban planning](#). It was named "City of Design" by [UNESCO](#) in October 2017 and has been part of the [Creative Cities Network](#) since then.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37zF36oq0jE>











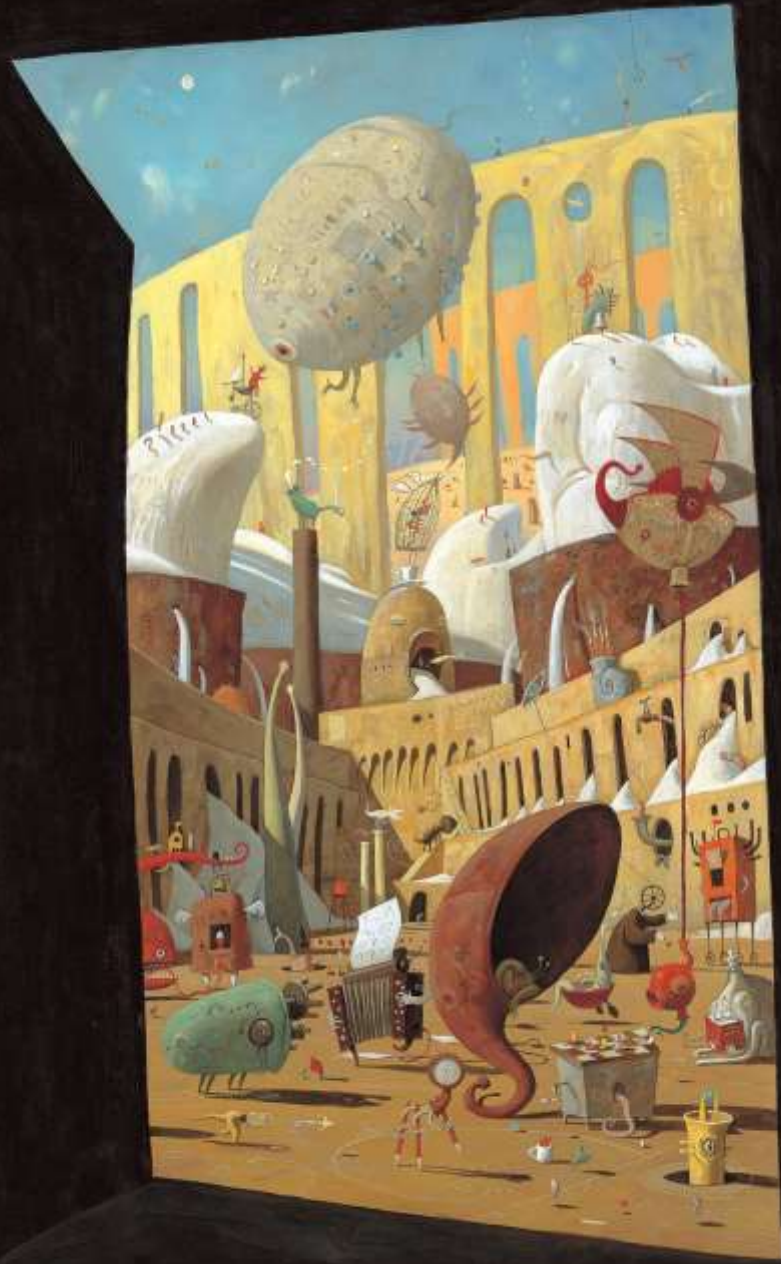












Shaun Tan - "Utopia"

Ben Böhmer



Artistic Utopia

- <https://vernissage.tv/2010/01/27/utopia-matters-from-brotherhoods-to-bauhaus-deutsche-guggenheim-berlin/>

Assignment suggestions

- What is your idea of paradise on earth?
- Create a depiction of your “Happy Place.”
- Create a plan for an utopian city or village.
- Create an ideal landscape.
- Depict abstract ideals that mean something to you (equality, peace, community, etc.). You can depict them abstractly or concretely.
- Create an earthly paradise (or an artwork based on your own garden).