

## DUTCH STYLE GARDEN

The *Dutch style* garden had a significant role in English garden history.

The Dutch classical garden style emerged in the Netherlands in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting a Dutch interpretation of the Vitruvian-Albertian architectural principles of symmetry and harmonic proportion. This century also saw the emergence of the Dutch canal garden characterised by a distinctive framework, enclosed by canals and trees. The garden laid out by Prince Frederik Hendrik at Honselaarsdijk is considered the prototype of this style of garden.



The illustration of Honselaarsdijk shows a moated palace and gardens bordered by canals. A central axis brings together the palace and gardens. Enclosed gardens, laid out symmetrically, consist of elaborate parterres, circular hedged walks and orchards. This style was adopted by the provincial governors and owners of substantial town houses, although much more modest in scale! These gardens could also include utilitarian or horticultural areas. Parterres often included rare and exotic flowers, reflecting the knowledge and expertise of Dutch horticulture.

The Dutch canal garden evolved during the 17<sup>th</sup> century becoming heavily influenced by the extensive ornamentation of the baroque style. Many notable gardens of that time also included French garden design elements of parterres de broderie, fountains, sculpture and geometrical forms of topiary. This engraving of Het Loo, showing the gardens created for William of Orange and Mary, typify this style.



With the accession of James I in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and peace on the continent, England was once again open to outside influences and garden design was not immune to this! The 17<sup>th</sup> century saw the introduction of features typical of the formal French and Italian style gardens: symmetrical layouts with the architectural alignment of house and garden, use of water, fountains, parterres and topiary. Design elements were often given an English twist, for example, parterres were often designed with grass, or made of turf cut to shape and filled with coloured earth or gravels. The Dutch style influence manifested itself in the enclosure of gardens with hedges or walls in geometrical or symmetrical fashion, parterres edged with box or other dense and clipped shrubs and areas of artificial water. Paths were laid out to make it possible to walk around the garden without damaging any of its features.