

## And the good news is....

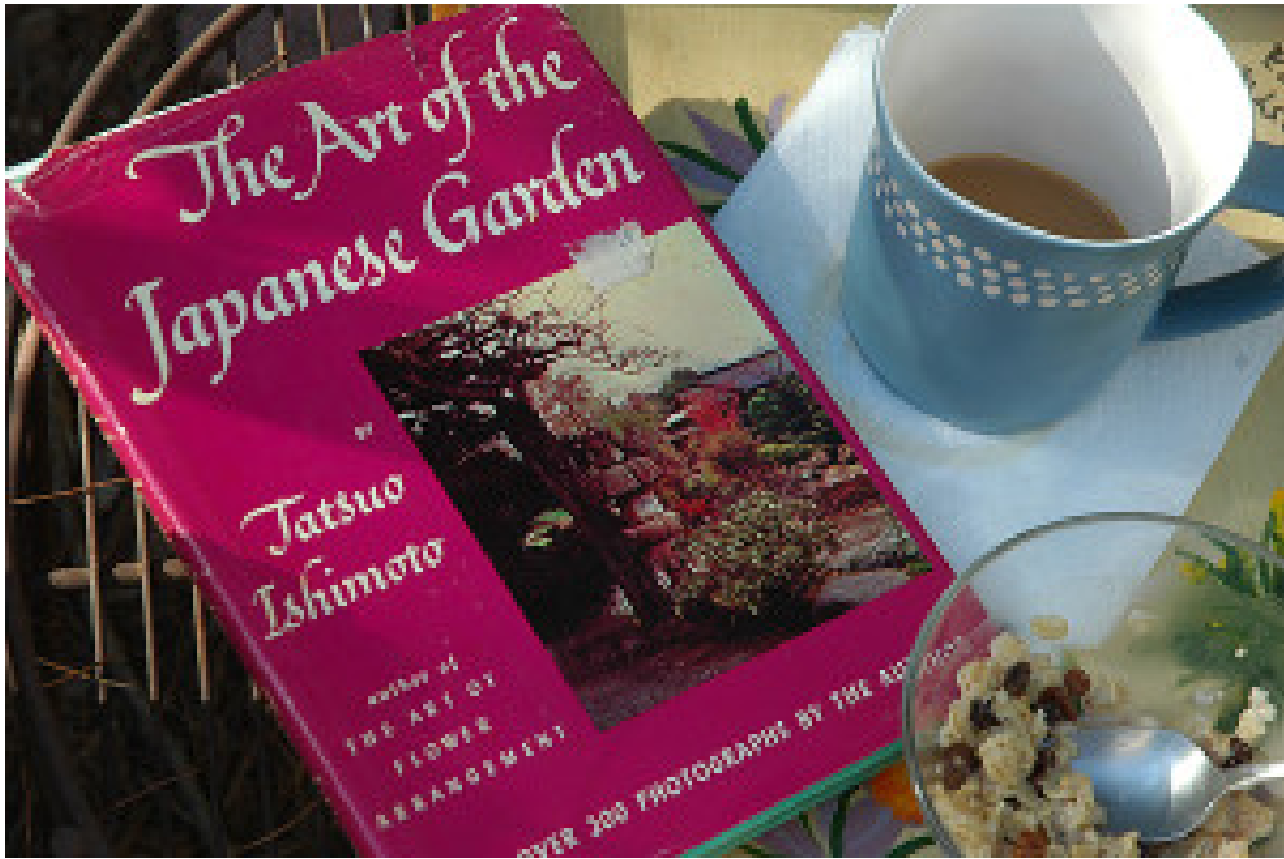
...my son is getting married. He and his fiancée would like to have a simple backyard wedding... in our backyard. And the deck that I have mentioned in previous posts has not improved over time. Now when I walk out on it I wonder which plank will be the next one to go. If the wedding is held in our backyard - and that still hasn't been determined - then the backyard relandscape will be on a fast track.

So what needs to happen, if the yard is to be usable for a gathering of about a 100 +/-?

1. Deck removed and surface under avocado made walkable.
2. East Garden paths completed.
3. All compost and green waste either mulched and used, or disposed of.
4. Surface under oak tree made walkable.
5. Screen west side of backyard.
6. Flowers, flowers, flowers and more flowers (native wildflowers preferred).

So this weekend I was looking through my favorite landscape design book, "The Art of the Japanese Garden," by Tatsuo Ishimoto, published in 1958 by Crown Publishers. What I like about the gardens in this book is that there are no lawns, they are small, private residential gardens, they attempt to bring nature into the garden, their use of stones, boulders, and natural-looking bamboo fencing, Japanese landscape design has been used with Craftsman architecture.

So with a cup of coffee, a bowl of cereal and a beautiful day I sat in the woodland garden dreaming of my backyard make-over. Here are some more pictures of the backyard woodland garden.



Path into woodland garden. Containers with herbs are kept on the back porch in easy reach of the kitchen.

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I planted some vegetables in the East Garden. The plants in six-packs miraculously survived a week of nearly 100 degree weather. They were root bound and starved for sun since I kept them in the shade on the back porch hoping they would make it through the heat wave. The garden is bounded by rocks and large containers to keep them out of Milo's reach (and he does so like to water the garden!).

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Upon entering the yard from the side gate, one sees the small vegetable garden. My husband installed a small trellis on the south side of the dilapidated deck. I planted some edible and ornamental peas. Now that the deck is in question, this may change.

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Lettuce, Swiss chard, celery and a couple of pots of herbs will provide dinner salads for the next few months.

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Suggestions? And yes, we are on a budget.