

Small Yard Japanese Garden Plan

Map your serene layout and plant placement for calming morning tea.

Transform your small yard into a balanced, traditional retreat. Use this placement grid and plan to install a meditative landscape perfectly scaled to your space.

● Essential Garden Dimensions

1/3 of mass

Bury stone 1/3 deep for stability

6-foot screen

Hide the path's end for mystery

1/4-in size

Use crushed granite for raked lines

1/2 candle length

Pinch candles for cloud-pruned pine

4-6 in drop

Set drip basin for sound resonance

15-18 in

Deck height for ideal viewing angle

22-24 in

Stepping stone spacing for unhurried walking

Min. 36-42 in

Porch depth for cushion and table

Create Visual Tension

Arrange your anchor stone, pine, and basin to form a scalene triangle with three unequal sides, leaving at least 3 feet of empty space between major elements.



● Select Your Engawa Wood

Find your row: **Maintenance preference**

Maintenance preference	Your pick	Why
Minimal oiling	Thermally Modified Ash	25+ years; deep charcoal gray
Traditional oiling	Hinoki Cypress	20-30 years; rich silver patina
Yearly sealing	Western Red Cedar	15-20 years; soft silvery gray
Frequent sealing	White Oak	10-15 years; light weathered tan

● Map Your Scalene Layout

- 1 Anchor First** Place your heaviest anchor stone first to establish the primary visual weight in the yard.
- 2 Position the Pine** Plant the evergreen across the yard to create the longest side of the triangle.
- 3 Tuck the Basin** Set the water basin closer to the porch to maximize the acoustic resonance.

● Check Before You Build

- Measure yard boundaries to confirm the 1-foot grid scale fits perfectly.
- Mark North orientation to ensure your shaped pine gets adequate daily sunlight.
- Verify ground slopes 1 inch per 4 feet away from the foundation.
- Check for intense afternoon sun to decide if synthetic bamboo is needed.

● Grid & Placement Notes

Enjoy the peaceful rhythm of your morning tea in your beautiful new garden!