



have observed, recorded, tended to, and cultivated the same plants that are around us every day. Plants and their magic are integrated into our history—in how we farm, what we eat, what we wear, and how we live.

The ways that we have interacted with our plants, and with the gardens we tend, have changed over time, of course. We can only imagine the first gardens, or how they came to be, because the process of gardening itself would have evolved so naturally and integrally with our own evolution—from the knowledge shared within communities and passed down through the generations.

With records of the first civilizations, we have a clearer idea of what gardens began to look like, as formalized relationships with nature were crafted. Ancient Egyptian tomb paintings depict acacias in orderly rows; records of Zen gardens and water gardens were chronicled in China and Japan; the tiered Hanging Gardens of Babylon appear in Hellenic texts detailing the wonders of the world. The Greek philosopher Epicurus espoused his values of self-sufficiency, simplicity, and peace from the school he founded, which became known as The Garden. Later, the Roman architect Vitruvius attempted to set to paper

“Everything—from the food we eat to many of the clothes we wear—all started from plants.”

