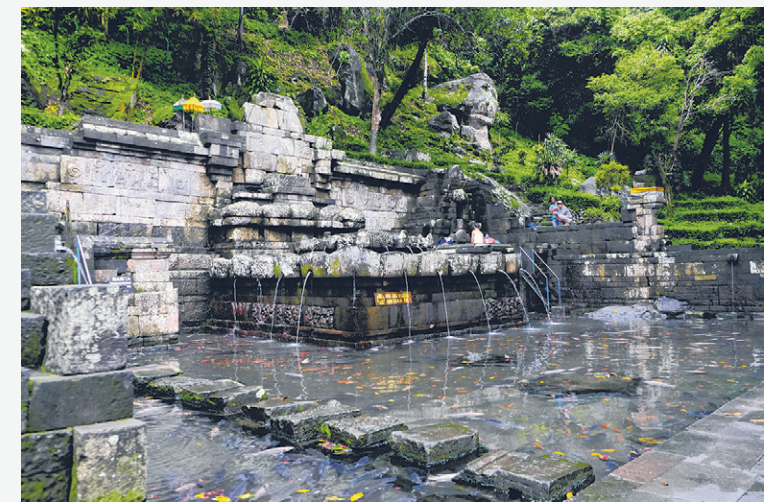


What did 14th-century Singapura look like?

In May, the National Parks Board launched two historical gardens to re-imagine what Fort Canning Park's 14th-century royal bathing place and garden might have looked like in the past. The new gardens reference South-east Asia's ancient gardens where royals would spend time at to draw inspiration and seek solace. The gardens of this period typically housed water features and courtyards. Ideally, they would be located on top of a mountain.



PANCUR LARANGAN

A freshwater spring once flowed from the face of Fort Canning Park at this location. Ladies of the royal court of Singapura used to bathe in it. The historical bathing places of the 10th to 14th centuries in Java, including Jolotundo (above), were referenced in this garden's design (below). The garden's water spout features (right) are based on a 14th-century royal bathing place in the Malayu capital of Bukit Gombak.



SANG NILA UTAMA GARDEN

The Majapahit-era brick ruins in Trowulan in East Java, including this split gate (left), were referenced to guide the brickwork and architecture of this Fort Canning Park garden (above). The high gates were designed to create seclusion from the outside world and also marked the transitions between zones or realms.

Fragrant flowers such as magnolias (right) and jasmine, which are significant in ancient Javanese culture, are included in the garden.



A mural wall made out of natural volcanic rock details life in Fort Canning over the past centuries.