



## **FACT SHEET**

### **H.U. Lee International Gate & Garden On the grounds of the Statehouse Convention Center Downtown Little Rock Little Rock, Arkansas**

#### **Background**

The H.U. Lee International Gate & Garden is an exquisite South Korean gate and garden, containing foliage, symbolic statues and structures, including a fountain and reflective pool. Its purpose is to educate people about the late Haeng Ung Lee's (Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee) contributions to society, the country of South Korea and the Songahm Taekwondo style developed by Eternal Grand Master Lee. The gate welcomes people to Little Rock and Arkansas.

#### **H.U. Lee**

No individual in his lifetime did more to advance martial arts throughout the world than Eternal Grand Master Haeng Ung Lee. In 1977, Eternal Grand Master Lee followed his dream and created a fellowship of martial artists that grew into the largest martial arts organization in the world, the American Taekwondo Association (ATA). Since 1977, the ATA international headquarters has been located in Little Rock and now supports more than 1,200 schools in eight countries worldwide. Eternal Grand Master Lee lost his life to cancer in October 2000 but his legacy is everlasting, continuing to change lives with more than one million men, women and children who have been positively influenced by the ATA.

#### **Reason For Being**

- Serves as a gift of appreciation from ATA and its international members and supporters to Arkansas
- Provides a lasting tribute to Eternal Grand Master H.U. Lee
- Serves as an educational tool regarding Songahm Taekwondo
- Serves as a symbol of friendship between America and South Korea

#### **Who Made It Possible?**

- A combination of people:
- The Lee family, specifically Eternal Grand Master's widow, Mrs. Sun C. Lee who is Chairman of the American Taekwondo Association,
- Members of the American Taekwondo Association (ATA), and
- General public, through a public fund-raising campaign

#### **Cost**

Approximately \$1.4 million

## **Structures Contained In This Edifice**

All structures will have description copy to the side, explaining their significance.

- 1) Gate**

Gates are common throughout Asia in palaces. Serves as a sign of welcome
- 2) Garden**

To serve as a downtown respite
- 3) Two Korean Foo Dog statues**

Located at entrance to Gate, to each side  
Symbolizing protection  
South Korean hand-carved
- 4) Statue of an ATA male student and an ATA female student, both bowing**

Located in area just behind gate, one of first things seen upon entering the gate  
Bowling represents greeting and respect  
Each stand six feet tall  
Uniformed in ATA attire
- 5) Reflective pool with seating area all around it**

Reflective pool, in the shape of the Songahm star  
27 feet wide
- 6) Fountain**

Represents the spreading of knowledge  
Nine feet tall (9 & 3 are significant numbers in Asian culture)  
Fountain contains three bowls  
Top Bowl: Three dragon heads  
Middle bowl: Six dragon claws  
Bottom bowl: Nine Songahm stars
- 7) Bust of Eternal Grand Master Lee**
- 8) Wall of Vision**

Located behind bust of Eternal Grand Master Lee  
Displays names of ATA Masters  
11 feet tall  
Made from Chinese black granite, built by South Korean artisans
- 9) Bee Ryong Bong**

Staff of the flying dragon  
Songham Taekwondo's most valued artifact used in martial arts ceremony  
From bottom to top, contains pictorial history of Songahm Taekwondo  
Sculpted in Hot Springs, Arkansas by David and Bre Harris of Arkansas Light & Time Design
- 10) Harubang Statues**

These large statues will stand guard over the garden  
Harubangs originally stood guard outside the gates of the Cheju Town Fortress in Cheju Island, South Korea, and these statues are a gift from the island  
The Harubang's comical expressions with bulging eyes, long broad nose and slight smile can now be found everywhere on Cheju Island  
Made from basalt or lava rocks
- 11) Statue of turtles**

One big turtle and eight small ones  
Made of polished granite  
Two feet tall, three feet wide, four feet long  
Symbolize long life. Nine turtles together symbolize the unity and strength of family
- 12) Brick pavers**

Located in areas behind Gate  
Made of various colors of Bluestone  
Names of donors engraved in English
- 13) Four benches**

Made of polished and raw granite  
To be used as place of respite

## **Gate Specifics**

### **Measurement, Other**

Base approximately 25 feet long, nine feet wide and 30 feet high

With walls (on each side), gate measures 39 feet long

Gate weighs 80 tons

Walls are made of Arkansas river rock and concrete.

Roof of gate is clay tile from South Korea

Gate is made of Douglas Fir

Painted in many primary Korean colors – considered to be closely related to the five cardinal elements of um and yang: blue with wood, red with fire, yellow with earth, white with metal, and black with water

### **Assemblage**

The wood was purchased in the USA, sent to South Korea for cutting and shaping and returned to Little Rock, Arkansas for installation and painting.

South Korean artisans came to Little Rock to build the gate (completion time: 2 months)

The South Korean team that built the gate has been together almost 30 years  
Team is well known in South Korean

## **Garden Specifics**

Designed to provide color throughout the year

The following plants / trees / shrubbery are contained in the garden:

- Trident maple trees
- Kwanzan cherry tree
- Mugo pine
- Japanese bloodgood tree
- Bamboo
- Gardenias
- Azaleas
- Weeping Cedars
- Adagio grass
- Andola junipers
- Jasmine
- Pampas grass
- Persimmon trees
- Japanese maple trees
- Hinoki cypress trees
- Snowball trees
- Fescue sod
- Cypress mulch throughout
- Native Arkansas boulders used throughout

## **Gate & Garden Opening**

The H.U. Lee International Gate & Garden will observe its official dedication on Friday, June 22 at 10:30 a.m. on the site. State and foreign dignitaries and ATA leadership will participate in a news conference ceremony. The date coincides with the ATA World Championships hosted in Little Rock at that time.

## **More Information**

Go to [ataonline.com](http://ataonline.com) for downloadable photographs of the Gate & Garden.

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