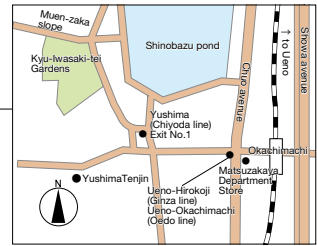


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Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens



Administrator ■ Tokyo Metropolitan Park Association

- Location Ikenohata 1-chome, Taito Ward
- Contact Information Kyu-Iwasaki-tei Gardens Administration Office tel: 03-3823-8340 (1-3-45 Ikenohata, Taito-ku 110-0008)
- Transport 3-minute walk from Yushima (Chiyoda line). 10-minute walk Ueno-Hirokoji (Ginza line).
10-minute walk from Ueno-Okachimachi (Oedo line). 15-minute walk from Okachimachi (JR Yamanote line).
- Closed December 29 to January 1
- Open 9 am to 4:30 pm (gates close at 5 pm)
- Admission General: 400 yen, Seniors 65 and older: 200 yen (Primary school and younger children / Jr. high school students living or studying in Tokyo: Free)
- Free days Greenery Day (May 4), Tokyo Citizens Day (October 1)



These gardens at one time were part of the Echigo Takada clan's Edo mansion. They eventually became to possession of the Iwasaki family who ran the Mitsubishi zaibatsu industrial group through former Maizuru clan governor Sukeshide Makino. Back then, the grounds consisted of almost 50,000 m² and 20 buildings.

After World War II, the grounds became national property and were used for a training center for the High Court. They fell under the jurisdiction of the Agency for Cultural Affairs in 1994, and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government has administered them since 2001. The western-style house and billiards hall were designated important cultural properties in 1961. The Japanese-style house main hall was also designated an important cultural property in 1969 along with the gate wall on the east side of the western-style house. The entire mansion including the residential area and brick walls and the survey map received designation in 1999.

The former Iwasaki mansion was built as the home for the Iwasaki family, founders of Mitsubishi, in 1896. Today, the western-style house, billiards hall, and Japanese-style house remain. The western-style house and billiards hall were designed by British architect Josiah Conder (1852-1920). Conder had come to Japan under the invitation of the Meiji government in 1877 to teach at the Imperial College of Engineering Department of Architecture (present-day University of Tokyo Faculty of Engineering Department of Architecture). While teaching, he designed more than a hundred western style buildings in Japan. The former Iwasaki mansion is the oldest Conder work standing today, and said to be his finest residential work.

Retaining part of the original daimyo gardens, the gardens of the Iwasaki mansion were formed by filling in a pond at the time of the main house construction, planting grass, and adding garden stones, stone lanterns, and an artificial hill. Like the architectural style, it was a mixture of Japanese and western techniques. The modern gardens with a grass garden laid the foundation for future mansion architecture.

Western-style house

The wooden two-story western house with basement is a western wooden architecture in Japan at the time. The outer walls use hinoki cypress siding and the roof is natural slate. Gorgeous Jacobean-style decoration is used throughout the interior. The fine design not seen in many of the western mansions built at the time gives an aura of those bygone days.

A veranda with a line of pillars is located on the south side, a colonial touch developed in South-East Asia territories. The first floor exhibits Tuscan style and the second floor Ionian style characteristics. Seamless English Minton tile sets the first-floor veranda.



Front of the western-style house



Grand staircase of the western-style house



Tile laid on the first floor Veranda

Opened / October 1, 2001 Area / 18,235.47 m² (granted use of state-owned property)

Trees / Tall trees: 420, Shrubs: 270 m², Grass: 3,400 m²

Main plants / Ginkgo, cherry, Himalayan cedar, Japanese ternstroemia, maple, palm, Japanese dandelion

Facilities / Western house, billiards hall, Japanese house

Japanese-style house

The Japanese-style house connected to the western house is based on the classic *shoin* style. At the time of completion, the house had a floor area of about 1,800 m², making it comparable in size the western house. The head carpenter is said to have been Kijuro Okawa, a famous craftsman who created many residences for notables in the Meiji government and the financial circles. The Japanese-style house remaining today was used for Iwasaki family affairs, and is covered with motifs of the three-diamond mark that was the Iwasaki family crest. Visitors are given a glimpse of pure Japanese-style architecture of the day through areas such as the main hall with its Japanese painting (Mt. Fuji and waves) by Gaho Hashimoto.



Shoin style garden's large stone wash basin

Billiards hall

An annex set off to the side of the western house built as a billiards hall differs in style from the Jacobean main house. It was built to resemble a Swiss cottage, very unusual in Japan at the time. The log cabin style walls made of walnut, engraved pillars, and protruding eaves incorporate wooden gothic design. The billiards hall is connected to the western-style house by an underground passage.



Gardens guide

Volunteers will guide you on the history and highlights of the gardens.

Available every day at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (free).

* Guide will not be available on Greenery Day (May 4) and Tokyo Citizens' Day (October 1) due to expected conjunction as it is a free admission day. The guide may be canceled due to weather conditions. Contact the service center for the availability of guides on the day of your visit.

