

Director: Isoya Shinji (Emeritus professor, Tokyo University of Agriculture)
Japanese Garden Working Group for Futako-Tamagawa Park
Creator, Superintendent of Planning and Construction: Yasutaka Takasaki
Planning: Yoshiki Toda Landscape & Architect Co., Ltd.
Construction: Joint venture between Ishikatsu Exterior Inc. & Ryokushin Zouen Co., Ltd.
Park Name Adornment: Taigaku Odagawa (Reviewing Member, Mainichi Calligraphy
Exhibition and President, Ichiinkai)
Conservator: Setagaya City

七喜道人
園真帰

Kishin-en Garden



Setagaya City

● The Nexus of Nature and Culture in Setagaya

As the western gateway into Tokyo, Futako-Tamagawa is a region that aims for refinement in commerce, business, and culture, with its sights set on becoming a “center of liveliness” capitalizing on the area’s uniqueness. The area is one of the few picturesque retreats in Setagaya City with an abundance of natural scenery, from the greenery of the Kokubunji Escarpment to the waters of the Tamagawa River. This location has been historically home to a wide range of culture while developing as Tokyo’s resort spot, such as grounds for shrines and temples in the Edo period, a getaway for business and industry leaders during the Meiji and Taisho eras, and the establishment an amusement park during the Showa period.

As the core component of Futako-Tamagawa Park, Kishin-en bases itself on this rich scenery and culture, and is the first excursion-type Japanese garden created in the district of Setagaya to serve the citizens’ environmental well-being and children’s cultural upbringing.



● Guide to the Kishin-en within Setagaya Futako-Tamagawa Park

Date of Opening: April 14, 2013

Area at Time of Opening: About 5,800 m²

Location: Setagaya-ku, Tamagawa 1-16-1, Futako-Tamagawa Park

Creator: Yasutaka Takasaki

(Planning: Yoshiki Toda Landscape & Architect Co.,Ltd.)

Hours of Operation: 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. (March through October)

9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (November through February)

Closed: Tuesday (except holidays), and for New Year’s holiday

Cost of Admission: Free

Kyu Shimizu-tei Shoin Building Hours: Sunday, and public holidays, second Monday
(If the day is a holiday, building will be opened)

9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. (March through October)

9 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. (November through February)

Please direct inquiries to: Futako-Tamagawa Park Visitor Center 03-3700-2735
Tamagawa Parks Management Office 03-3704-4972

● The Purpose and Philosophy of Kishin-en

Isoya Shinji, Director

Japanese gardens express their ideals and objectives in the garden’s name. The spirit that went into this “Kishin-en” can be expressed in English as a “return to nature”. It is an invitation to examine the most genuine of forms, such as the origins of Japanese culture.

From the forested source of the river’s flow at Okutama to the Rokugou River estuary, the Tamagawa River stretches to 138 kilometers long. In Setagaya school songs, the children recite lyrics on the clear stream of the Tamagawa, the thick greenery at Musashino, the high peak of Mt. Fuji, and the richness of the four seasons. Kishin-en is a beautiful, modern Japanese garden that expresses our gratitude for this stunning nature, preserves our environment, and also serves as a symbol for Setagaya existing symbiotically alongside the natural world.

The garden has been set out with the aim to create a universal garden, where everyone from children to the elderly, may come in contact with flora and water, as well as a cultural space for first-hand learning about Setagaya’s atmosphere and Japanese culture and international exchange.

With your help, we would like to cultivate a garden making its mark in the 21st century.

● Enjoying Kishin-en

Yasutaka Takasaki, Creator

In the mornings, the water’s surface shimmers with the light from the *Shigure-tei* gazebo. In the afternoons, see the depth of the Tamagawa’s waters that catches one’s eye from *Kyu Shimizu-tei Shoin*. From the river banks just before sunset, have a gaze at *Kofuji* hill and the *Fujimi-dai* lookout. In heavy summer downpours, check out the green of the moss and the beautiful garden stones wet with rain. On days of heavy wind, observe the change in the expanding pattern of ripples on the water’s surface. Take a casual walk alone, chat with another, take in the fragrances carried by the wind on a revitalizing stroll, turn an ear to the sounds of children and the water, gently touch your palm against the river moss, or find with a stone that catches your interest. In this Japanese garden centered on the Tamagawa River, Mt. Fuji, and the Kokubunji Escarpment, we sincerely hope you will take a short while – or a longer while – and feel at ease.



Layout and Tour Pathways of Kishin-en

Kishin-en is a *Shukkei* garden expresses scenery in miniature. The garden takes as its theme sceneries from the source of the Tamagawa River to the present location. You can enjoy the river's flow from the mountains to the ocean, the park pathways that trace its topography, or the views of *Kofuji* hill and *Fujimi-dai* lookout outside the park.

Water Scenery: The *Mizuhi* of Tama, *Hatonosu*, the waters of *hake*, *Yasuji-no-taki* falls, *Tsuzumi-no-shima*, the river banks, and riverside views.

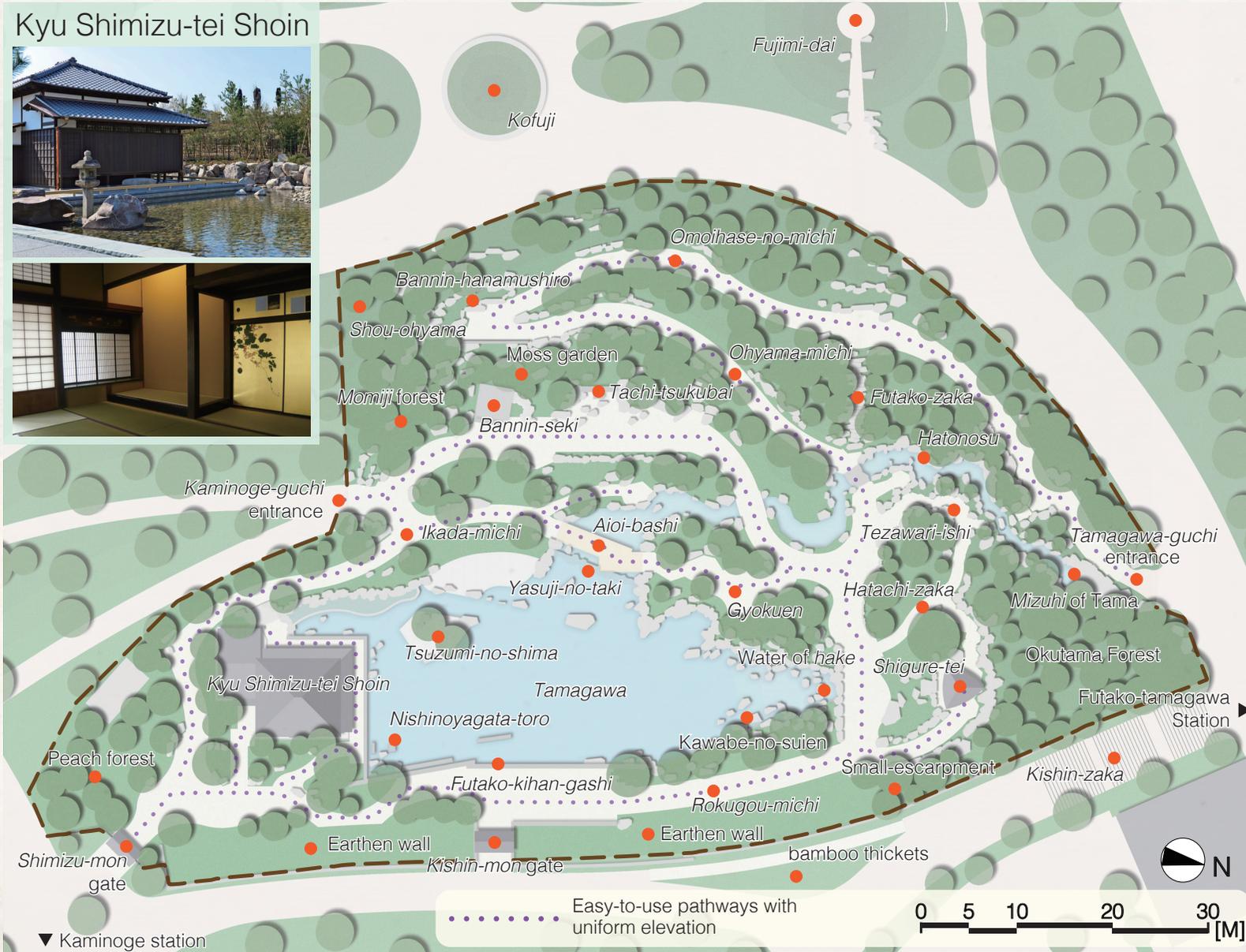
Green Scenery: Okutama Forest, *Momiji* Forest, Castanopsis trees, the Moss gardens, *Hanamushiro* flower beds, and the Bamboo thickets.

Pathway Scenery: *Omoihase-no-michi*, *Ohyama-michi*, *Ikada-michi*, *Rokugou-michi*, *Futako-zaka*, and *Hatachi-zaka*.

Please also enjoy the modern designs of some of the park creator's personal favorites: *Roji* Garden, *Bannin-seki* space, *Shigure-tei* gazebo, and *Aioi-bashi* bridge.

As Japanese cultural heritage, the park's featured work of architecture, the *Kyu Shimizu-tei Shoin* (former Shimizu's residence in traditional Japanese style), allows visitors to understand the features unique to Japanese architecture – the *tokonoma* space and *tatami* mat layout, the *en* verandas that connect with the garden outside, and the use *kutsunugi-ishi* (stone for taking off shoes) – while allowing them to experience Japanese culture in the form of things such as tea ceremony and flower arrangement. Oversight of the planning and construction of this house was provided to the district entirely by the Shimizu Corporation as a public service, making use of old materials from the former residence of the vice president of the Shimizu Group, located in Seta within the district of Setagaya.

Kyu Shimizu-tei Shoin



A Universal Design for All

The inclines and width of tour pathways at Kishin-en have been outfitted to allow for all visitors' easy walkability. Along the garden pathways, dotted with fragrant flowers, are the *Bannin-hanamushiro* flower beds, whose multicolored flowers are within reach while using wheelchairs, the *Bannin-seki* space that anyone can use, the *Tezawari-ishi* stone beside a stair, and the stone arrangements where one can encounter water.

Positioned at the heart of the park grounds is *Aioi-bashi* bridge, which was named after the idea of symbiotic union – complementary unions such as man and woman, or mankind and nature.

▼ Kaminoge station

The Water and Greenery of *hake*

Kishin-en embodies the scenery found at Kokubunji Escarpment (*hake*), where evergreens and broadleaf deciduous trees create its characteristic view. On the ground's surface, you can marvel at how the flowers change from season to season.

The uniquely umbrella-shaped *Shigure-tei* gazebo symbolizes the blessings brought on by rain. Rain that falls in the forest shows its form again on the ground's surface as the "waters of *hake*". One can understand the importance of the water cycle seen around the terrain at *hake* to the greater natural ecosystem of the Tama region.



Traditional Craftwork of Japanese Gardens

Kishin-en is home to traditional Japanese craftwork known throughout the world. These include various bamboo fences, the bamboo-leaved oak fences used to protect *Kyu Shimizu-tei Shoin*, and earthen wall constructions. Roughly 1,200 tons of building stones gathered from locations such as Izu and the northern Kanto region create an atmosphere unlike any other found in the gardens of the former capital of Kyoto. Experience the park creator's own distinctive stone arrangements and designs.

Preservation of Cultural Property and a Historical Legacy

The restoration of *Kyu Shimizu-tei Shoin* as one of the district's recorded cultural assets was originally intended to make effective use of the region's resources and to cherish the historic and cultural legacy.

On the floors of the lakes at Kishin-en are used Tamagawa Gravel that are taken locally, in order to reproduce the scenery that would have been found at Tamagawa River of ancient times. From the lyrics to Bokusui Wakayama's song with regards to Futako-Tamagawa – "when dandelions bloom on the sands of the Tamagawa River, there is one person I think about" – the island that float on the lake has been named *Tsuzumi-no-shima*. *Tsuzumi-gusa* is an old name for dandelions.

The *nishinoyagata-toro* garden lantern that floats in the garden ponds and the stones that dot the park have been donated by the district's Gotoh Museum.

The Clear Flow of the Tamagawa River

The park's water scenery begins with the source of the Tamagawa river at Mt. Kasatori's *Mizuhi*, forges a steep current as it flows through *Hatonosu* valley, cascades into a number of disarranged streams as it passes over *Yasuji-no-taki* falls, and arrives to form the Tamagawa River.

Long ago, the Tamagawa River was used to transport lumber from Okutama. *Ikada-michi* ("the rafting path") is a relic of that past, and even now, following alongside the Tamagawa River, you can walk along those old pathways.



Looking Upon Mt. Fuji

The slightly elevated hill at the western edge of the park, *Fujimi-dai* lookout, affords a chance to get a view of Mt. Fuji.

Mt. Fuji is an ancient symbol of Japan. In the *Buyo-tamagawa-hakkei-no-zu*, drawn in the Edo period to depict the scenery of the Tamagawa River basin, there is a "Tamagawa Fuji" in the center modeled after Mt. Fuji. In Kishin-en, this role is fulfilled by the *Kofuji* hill. If you climb up the mountain path *Futako-zaka* to *Fujimi-dai* lookout, the Tamagawa River will be down below, and allowing a gaze upon the real Mt. Fuji in the distance.



The Flavor and Culture of Setagaya

Within the district, there is an abundance of beautiful scenery as well as culture associated with it.

Omoi-hase-no-michi, *Ohyama-michi*, *Ikada-michi*, and *Rokugou-michi* are all names of old roadways found in Setagaya.

Futako-kihan-gashi, named after the *Futako-kihan* found in the *Buyo-tamagawa-hakkei-no-zu* drawing, is a spot where one can command a panoramic view of the expanse of the park.