



North Wing and Small Islands of the Pond Garden The Pond Garden of Heian-Period welcomed the Emperor with musical performance on a boat during his visits.

KEYWORD OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

LEGACY

'Legacy' is becoming a social trend to preserve valuable historical architecture and built environment rather than demolish and rebuild. We as landscape architects carry social, cultural and environmental responsibilities. It is very important for us to preserve the legacy of the site and translate them into modernity in order for everyone to understand, appreciate and enjoy the place for many decades to come.

When we approached the Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto project, we put the historical and geographical context of the site as our first priority to retrieve the memory of this extravagant place. We then transformed the legendary aristocrat's garden villa (Syakusuien 積翠園) with modern elegance and beauty by traditional garden design techniques (Boating/Strolling style garden 池泉舟遊庭園) in both contemporary and artisanal style.



Vicinity Map



Plan

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL KYOTO

- Address : 445-3 Myohoin-mae Kawa-cho, Higashiyama-ku, Kyoto
- Business Owner : Kyoto Higashiyama Hospitality Asset SPC
- Architectural Design : Kume Sekkei Co., Ltd.
- Exterior Design : Landscape Design Inc. (Schematic, Preliminary, and Detail Design)
- Construction Supervisor : Fumihiko Murase
- Exterior Construction and Partial Design : SEIBU Landscape Co., LTD.
- Completion Date : June 30, 2016
- Size : Land area: 20,433.55 m², Building Area: 7,999.32 m²



Restoration of the Water Fall
A cascade restored with rearranged existing stones and relocated water source from a well.



View of the Garden from the Tea House Guest Room Wing oriented where the main room of the villa used to be, to secure the view of the whole Garden.



Layout Drawing The orientation of the Restaurant Terrace and Tea House to enjoy the deep view of the Garden.



S.1:1500

The restoration of the Pond Garden

The Pond Gardens in the Higashiyama District all share the same characteristic, where the ponds were created by collecting water running down from the mountain creeks. We have inherited the same method and restored water circulation for the pond which was the main focus of this project.

There are two sacred islands nestled and cuddled along the garden stroll, floating individually on the tranquil pond. The design ideology originated from ancient China and was popular during the late Heian-Period. The ambience of the strolling garden is further enhanced with the compliment of stone bridges, meditative pathways, water fall, tea house and stone arrangements resembling boats drifting in the pond. Plants of foreign species were removed and replaced with native plants to restore the original forest floor.



Restaurant Terrace A modern day moon viewing terrace to enjoy the seasons in the Garden.



Yodomari-ishi Stone were arranged to resemble the boats crossing to the Sacred Islands.



Focal Water Fountain Water feature represents the Higashiyama's Water Spring with the adjacent Temple's forest as a backdrop.

Inheritance of Cherished Garden Culture in Kyoto

The guest rooms are located where the historical villa used to be placed, so as to beautifully capture the whole garden scenery and pond landscape from the rooms. The serenity of the landscape setting together with crystalline water pond creates a fabulous location for the celebration of Kyoto garden culture and Japanese traditional cultural events and seasonal festivities, such as cherry blossom viewing, moon viewing, snow viewing, tea ceremonies and banquets in this unique modern Kyoto garden setting .



Bamboo Forest Approach A 100m long Bamboo Forest approach to the hotel secures tranquility from the bustling urban setting.



Entrance Gate Scenic Simulation



Main Entrance Gate In order to harmonize with the roofed-mud wall of the adjacent Temple, natural ashlar stacking was used for the Entrance Gate. And the Security Room is contained within the walls.

The Creation of Scenic Sequence through Inheritance of Historical Streetscape

The roofed mud wall, garden forest, and roofing of the temple adjacent to the site, is a precious scenic heritage. The approach to the Hotel is designed to unify with these historical elements and by "borrowing" the scenery of them.

The borrowing methodology used in Japanese Garden to integrate with the surrounding, creates a distinctive scenic sequence of a Japanese-style Garden. By simulating series of designs of the Main Entrance Gate, we created the authentic style and identity of the Hotel and simultaneously designed and enhanced the historical streetscape.