



Restored Japanese Garden
"Karesansui Garden"

View of Karesansui Garden (Dry Zen Garden) from the indoor porch 'Engawa'.
The white wall was newly designed and installed.



Evening View of the Karesansui Garden

KEYWORD OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN



LEPUTING

This landscape project was regenerating one of the historical houses built in the southwestern part of Taipei City during the Japanese colonial era (1985- 1945) into a cultural and commercial complex.

The site is located on the south side of National CKS Memorial Hall, and the area was called "Nishiki-cho". This used to be the residential district for upper-mid ranking officials and there are still many of the old Japanese houses remained as abandoned. The former Japanese dormitory clusters including "LEPUTING" were registered as Taipei City's Historical Buildings in 2006. In 2013, the Taipei City Cultural Affairs Bureau launched the "Old House Cultural Movement" to regenerate these historical buildings and solicited ideas to private companies for restoration and revitalization. This project was born as part of this cultural movement.



SITE PLAN
● Japanese Dormitories of "Nishiki-cho"



Existing Garden and Building Before Renovation.

LEPUTING

Address: No.67, Sec. 2, Hangzhou S. Rd.,
Da'an Dist., Taipei City
Principal uses: Restaurant, Gallery
Developer: Lead Jade Life & Culture
Architect: LVDAJI Architects
Landscape Architect: Landscape Design Inc.
Garden Consultant: HAKONEUEKI LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION Co.,Ltd.
Design area: 332m2
Building scale: single-story house

Culture and Restoration

On site, there were remains of landscape elements from approximately 100 years ago, such as large stones and old lanterns. Our design approach starts from reading the site carefully and make use of the existing trees and landscape elements.

The garden on the north side of the entrance, was named "Nishiki", inspired by the name of this area during the Japanese colonial era and the Plant Dyeing Gallery within the complex. We designed the "Nishiki Garden" with contemporary essence in contrast to the "Karesansui Garden (Dry Zen Garden)" with the theme inspired by silk fabric.

In the "Some Garden" (meaning Dye in Japanese), located at the entrance approach leading to the building complex, plant species for dyeing fabric were selected and a sculpture made from waste materials of the building was placed to create an exciting atmosphere for the visitors. By holding art events by collaborating with local plant dye artists and sculptors, the long forgotten building has been revived as a new attraction to the area.

The restaurant was also featured in the Michelin Guide Taipei 2019 for not only their cuisine, but also the dining experience in the rich environment. It is now a popular spot for local gourmands as well as tourists from Japan.





Nishiki Garden

Introducing Japanese garden designs and techniques while using local plant species of Taipei



Some Garden

Selected species which can be used for plant-based dyeing. The deer sculpture was made by a local artist with recycled scrap wood from the building.

Japanese garden made overseas

In order to regenerate the subtle traditional Japanese garden design, it was important that the landscaping techniques, such as the delicate detailing and finish, are carefully carried out throughout the site.

To extend the correct knowledge of traditional Japanese gardening techniques and to create high-quality landscaping, the designing and construction process was done closely in collaboration with Hakone Ueki Co., Ltd., a gardening specialist in Japan, and provided technical construction supervision on site.

The design and construction of this project, and the collaboration between Taiwan and Japan, promoted an understanding of Japanese garden culture and gave us a sense of the possibility of integrally disseminating Japanese landscaping design and construction techniques overseas.



Technical guidance on site by Japanese gardener

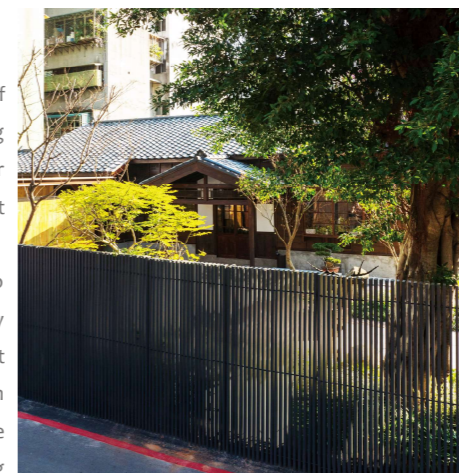


View of Karesansui Garden from the west

Cityscape design

The site is located in the southwestern center of Taipei City, and is close to the Zhongzheng Memorial Hall, one of Taiwan's three major tourist attractions, honoring the first president Chiang Kai-shek.

At the boundary of the site, we took into consideration of designing the cityscape by using a black lattice designed on both the front and back sides to make the garden space an ambiguous boundary that can be felt from the street regardless of the building's opening hours.



The atmosphere of a beautiful garden extends out to the street



Guidance on garden maintenance and technique

Maintenance in the subtropical climate

The city of Taipei is classified as the same humid subtropical climate category as Japan. However, Taipei is located at almost the same latitude as Okinawa and Ishigaki Island and the environment, such as the climate and vegetation, is completely different from the temperate zone of mainland Japan. It is difficult to create a Japanese garden in this subtropical environment and cannot be maintained in the same manner as mainland Japan.

We provided on-site technical guidance regarding garden maintenance while keeping a good relationship with the owner, and this technical guidance scheme contributes to the management of the environment by proposing the optimal methods as a designer together with the construction team that collaborated during the gardening phase.