

The Gardens of the Shinagawa Historical Museum

3_01_01



Shotekian Teahouse

Shotekian Teahouse was built in the late 1920s by Yasuda Zensuke of the Yasuda *zaibatsu* conglomerate inside his own estate, modeling after Rokusouan (a teahouse relocated to the Tokyo National Museum).

Many prominent industrialists and politicians from the prewar era, such as Takahashi Korekiyo, Fujiwara Ginjiro and Nezu Kaichiro were invited for tea ceremonies. This important, historical teahouse was preserved in its original form when the Shinagawa Historical Museum opened in 1985.

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*Suikinkutsu* (Water-drop Sounder)

A *suikinkutsu* is a garden adornment. An upside-down buried pot with a hole at the bottom provides the enjoyment of the sound of water dripping inside. The history of this adornment goes back to the Edo Period.

This *suikinkutsu* of the estate of Yasuda Zensuke was long forgotten, but it was rediscovered during the construction of Shinagawa Historical Museum in 1980.

Please pour water around the opening of the stone pot, and place your ear on the bamboo pole to enjoy the delicate sound of water dripping into the buried pot.

There is also a model which plays the sound of the *suikinkutsu* by pushing a button in the museum.

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Remains of Pit House (Reproduction)

The remains of pit houses used from the end of the 5th century to the end of the 7th century were discovered during the construction of Shinagawa Historical Museum. These ruins were named the Oi-Kashima archeological site.

A pit is dug to create the floor of the residence, which has four holes for pillars and an oven for cooking and heat.