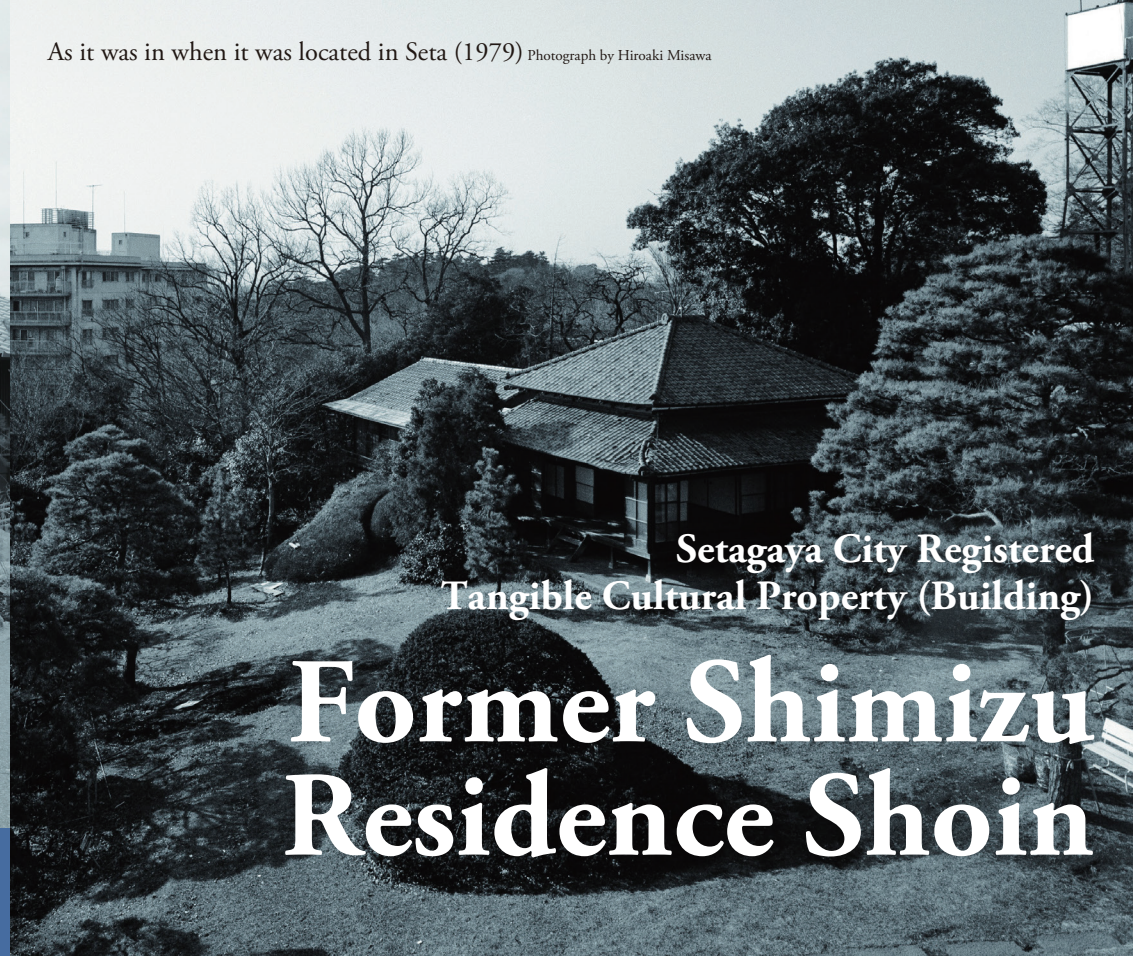


As seen restored and relocated in 2013 Photograph by Joe Shimizu



As it was in when it was located in Seta (1979) Photograph by Hiroaki Misawa



Setagaya City Registered  
Tangible Cultural Property (Building)

# Former Shimizu Residence Shoin

## Visitor Guide

### Open Days/Hours:

Open weekly from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sundays,  
public holidays, and the second Monday of every  
month (except for December 29th through January 3)  
Closed at 4:00 p.m. from November to February

### Admission:

free

### Location:

Kishin-en Japanese garden, Futako Tamagawa Park  
1-16 Tamagawa, Setagaya City

### Transportation:

The Tokyu Denentoshi Line, or Oimachi line  
About a 9-minute walk from Futako Tamagawa Station  
About an 8-minute walk from the Oimachi Line at  
Kaminoge Station

## Setagaya Digital Museum

Please visit the site and learn of the culture  
and history of Setagaya by accessing many  
archived cultural resources and old photo-  
graphs that are not normally viewable by the  
public.



To access the site, please go to:  
<https://setagayadigitalmuseum.jp/>

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According to local lore, in 1910, the Former Shimizu Residence Shoin was built as a detached structure on the Shimizu Family's property in Nakanegishi (now the Taito City). In 1919, along with the main house, it was relocated to the family estate in Seta.

The area was spanning the Kokubunji Cliffs around Okamoto, Seta, and Noge was characterized by secondary residences of the business and political communities from the Meiji period (1868-1912) through the beginning of the Showa period (1926-1989). It was in a corner of one such area where the Shimizu family's estate was located. In 1952, the property was sold and became the site of the Nissan Tamagawa Hospital. Fortunately, The Shoin and other structures were repurposed for use as welfare facilities.

However, in 1979, plans were made to demolish these structures to clear the way for construction of a hospital ward. At that time, Setagaya City appraised the building as an example of modern Japanese architecture and proceeded to dismantle and archive the Shoin's components to ensure its candidacy as one of Setagaya's cultural properties.

In 2013, the Former Shimizu Residence Shoin was finally moved and restored at Kishin-en, a Japanese-style garden at Futako-Tamagawa Park, thus breathing life into this example of modern Meiji-era Japanese architecture.

## Revival of Shoin

### Passing the Tamagawa history to the new generation

In 2013, Setagaya City constructed Kishin-en, the city's first "strolling" garden. The concept behind the garden's design was "the creating and perpetuating Japanese traditional spatial aesthetics for future generations," that were inspired by Setagaya's features and native environment. The Former Shimizu Residence Shoin has become a feature of the garden.

The Former Shimizu Residence Shoin was relocated and restored by the Shimizu Corporation as part of their philanthropic activities. Their support consisted of providing for design and construction costs. Moreover, the corporation worked on the building's restoration (that included seismic reinforcements) while keeping in mind as the importance of accuracy in the details and the preservation of traditional architectural practices.

The building's history, from foundation to relocation, has been preserved and protected so as to be passed down to future generations in Futako-Tamagawa. It stands now as a monument to the preservation of Setagaya's unique and valuable resources for all city residents now, and into the future.



Of the Shoin's original materials, about 60% survived. Beams, roof frame, roofing tiles and other missing parts had to be replaced. Fortunately, much of the material from the interior remained, making it possible to restore it to its pre-demolition state.

The interior plan features a small scale layout with an 11 tatami-sized shoin and a 5-mat tsuginoma (additional room).

## Traditional Japanese

### - Techniques inherited



The hanging light fixtures from the center of the shoin (main room), also in the tsuginoma (additional room), were recreated from photographic references.

The latticework on the coffered ceiling of the shoin (main room) and the tokogamachi (the raised alcove on the bottom transverse trim) of the shoin as well as frame of the arching katoumado "fireplace window (named for its distinctive shape)" of the tsuginoma (additional room) were finished in black lacquer. Damaged areas were refinished and their original beauty restored.

Photograph by Joe Shimizu

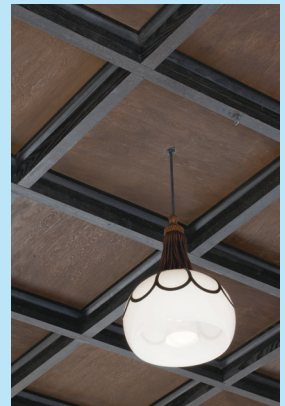
## architecture

### from the past -

Restoration of the golden sliding doors and tenbukuro (storage shelf) abutting the alcove, and the transoms of part of the ornate window frame, were re-created from photographic references.

The beautiful sliding doors feature images of kudzu and wisteria painted on a background of gold leaf. The two paper pieces of the tenbukuro's sliding doors, feature painted images of bush clover, waterfowl, willow trees, and butterflies. The transom portions of the decorative window were created from straight-grained paulownia wood featuring designs of chrysanthemums and flowing water.

Severe damage marred many of the other features of the shoin, such as ceiling panels, fittings, and the like, but all were faithfully restored down to the smallest details using a few surviving photographs from when the shoin was dismantled.



## The Former Shimizu Residence and Study:

### Setagaya City Registered tangible cultural property

The Former Shimizu Residence Shoin was recognized for its cultural significance. It was registered as the "Former Shimizu Residence Shoin" by the city as a tangible cultural property on March 29, 2013. The restored residence now features a newly built entrance and also a kitchen.

The building carries the character of modern Japanese architecture and is rare example of the many villas that lined the Kokubunji Cliffs from the end of the Meiji period through the early Showa period.

