



## 旧鋳物問屋鍋平別邸(川口市母子・父子福祉センター) Heigoro Merchant House

2015年1月

埼玉モダンたてもレポーター

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January 2015

川口市にある旧鋳物問屋鍋平別邸は国指定登録有形文化財で、現在は川口市母子・父子福祉センターとして使われています。主屋は明治末期に完成し、蔵は昭和2年ごろ、離れは昭和14年に増設されました。建てたのが鋳物問屋・鍋屋の4代目島崎平五郎。現在は川口市母子・父子福祉センターとして母子相談や教育講座、各種集会が行われます。

The Heigoro Merchant House, located in Kawaguchi, is a designated national cultural site currently used as the Kawaguchi Single-Parent Family Center. The original structure was built in the early 1900s, with additions completed around 1927 (storage building) and 1939 (detached room), by Shimazaki Heigoro IV, proprietor of a successful iron casting business. Now, as the Kawaguchi Single-Parent Family Center, it hosts educational programs for parents and children as well as gatherings and consultation sessions for single parents.

一般的に和風の建物ですが、洋風のところもあるので建築の面白さが伝わります。小さな廊下で主屋につながっている離れがこの特徴を生かしています。木彫り、木材の種類の多さ、飾り、お庭の景色などが見た目に魅力的で落ち着かせてくれましたので、離れで長い時間を過ごしました。離れは玄関や主屋から離れておりリラックスができる場所ですので、来賓を迎えるために使われていました。離れの一歩気に入ったところは、やはり木彫りでした。(どんな建物でも込み入った木彫りがあったら一目ぼれです。)木彫りの裏には結晶ガラスがあり、独自の景色になりました。

The house overall is constructed in a traditional Japanese style but has Western twists. These are the most apparent in the detached room which, despite its name, is connected to the main structure via a small corridor. I spent the longest time in this room, finding its wood carvings, variety of wood, other decorations, and garden view both calming and visually interesting. (One of the staff members was kind enough to offer me tea!) The detached room was used to welcome guests, who could relax away from the hustle and bustle of the entryway and main structure. My favorite feature of this room, as with many of the buildings I've visited, is the intricate wood carvings above the doors. These carvings had frosted glass on the outside, making for an unusual background.





The same carving as the previous photo, but from directly below.

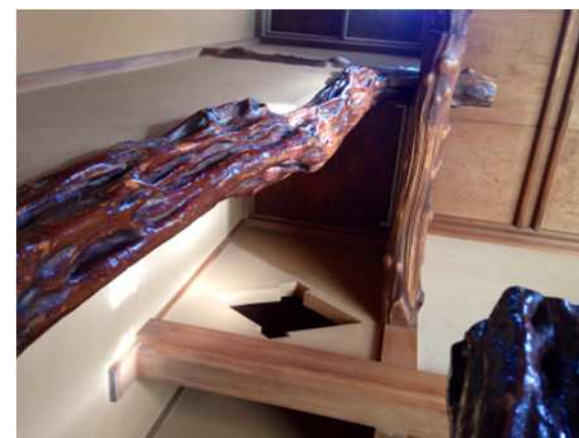
離れには様々な飾りがありますが、見過ごされやすいのは木材の多様さと高いクオリティー。まず目を引き付けるのが、黒檀（コクタン）の柱です。天然のままで、畳に合うよう切られたのではなく、畳が天然の黒檀に合うよう、畳の方が切られました！黒檀以外の天然な柱（明るい色の木）はエンジュで、その形は美的魅力があります。最後に、木彫りや天井が屋久杉からできています。そう、あの1000年以上生きてきた、今は切ってはならない屋久杉です！

Though there are other freestanding decorations in the room, one feature that may be overlooked is the wide variety and high quality of woods used. First, there is the ebony branch, whose shape remained natural and uncut during the building process. At the time of construction and today, ebony is a rare and valued wood in Japan. Rather than cut the tree to fit the tatami mat, the tatami

was cut to fit the tree! The other natural pillars (the lighter wood) are from Japanese pagoda trees; their shapes provide aesthetic flair. Finally, the wood carvings and the ceilings were made from Yakusugi (Yakushima cedar) trees. These trees are over one thousand years old, and none are allowed to be cut down today.



Various angles reveal all the varieties of wood and a close-up of the ebony branch over the tatami.





天井が割に高いですが、その理由は昔、火鉢があったからです。掃除するときまで、すすで真っ黒になっていたそうですが、今は元の状態で、きれいに光っています。戸と天井の間の距離が以下の写真を見ればよくわかります。

The ceiling is relatively high for a detached room, but this is because there used to be a hibachi, or brazier, in the middle of the room for heat. The high ceiling compensates for the smoke and soot emitted by the hibachi. Before cleaning, the ceiling used to be almost black from soot, but has since been restored to its original state. You can appreciate how high the ceiling is relative to the doorway in the picture below:



以上の写真には見づらい細かいところが少し見えます。よく見れば、障子の棧(さん)が床に沿って下向きに傾いていることがわかります。ほこりをたまりにくくする賢い工夫です。写真にもう一つ特徴が見えます。それは、ベネチアから輸入された青色とクリアのすりガラスです。このガラス窓は換気口としても使うことができます。

This picture allows a glimpse into a detail that is difficult to see. If you look carefully, you can see that the wooden strips running horizontally across the screens are angled downward rather than level to the floor. This is a clever way to make dusting easier -- because of the angle, more dust falls to the floor instead of accumulating on the doors. Another feature visible in this photo is the blue and clear frosted glass, imported from Venice. These glass panels can also be used as vents:



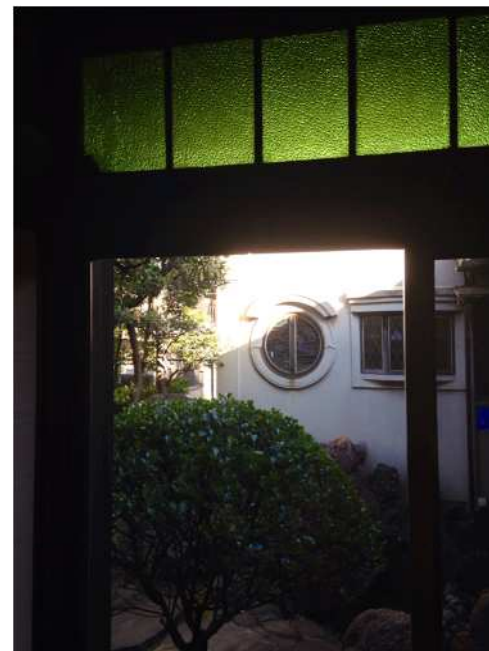
離れと主屋をつなげる廊下も、内も外も面白い木彫りなどがあります。天然な木、天然をまねする木、人工的なパターンまで共存し、興味深い景色になります。

Heading out of the detached room, the corridor to the main building also features interesting carvings, both inside and out. Wood in its natural state, wood imitating nature, and manmade patterns coexist to make a fascinating picture.



やっと、最も「洋風」といえるところにたどり着きます。外から見ると、これがなんなのかわかりづらいかもしれませんが...

Finally, we arrive at the most "Western" part of the entire structure. From the outside, it may be difficult to tell what it is....



緑色のガラスやステンドグラスがありますが、このステンドグラスはいかに素晴らしい部屋にあるのでしょうか？この部屋へ導いてくれる廊下に、真ん中に鏡のある、アメリカから輸入されたガラスで作られた壮麗なモザイクや（当時の建物によく出てくる？）ブドウの蔓の飾りがありますが...

There are colored green glass and stained glass windows...what splendid room awaits? Leading into this room, there is a glorious mosaic, made with glass pieces imported from the United States and a mirror in the middle, and (the ever ubiquitous) grape vine decorations....





下の写真ですが、左のが男子トイレ、右のが女子トイレです。この精巧なステンドグラスはベネチアから輸入されたものです。

The picture on the left is from the men's stall, the right is from the women's. This elaborate stained glass was imported from Venice



そこから進むと、大理石の足掛かりがあるモザイクの道の終わりには...まさかシンク？ そう、ステンドガラスのある部屋は、お手洗いです！（シンクの上のかわいいカタツムリに注目！）人生で入ったお手洗いで、もっともカラフルな部屋かもしれません。

A mosaic path, complete with marble stepping stones, leads to -- a sink? Yes, the room with the stained glass is the bathroom! (Note the adorable snail over the sink.) This may be one of the most colorful bathrooms I have ever set foot in.



全面的に、旧鋳物問屋鍋平別邸（特にお手洗い！）をお勧めします。一軒の建物で様々な建築的・美術的な特徴が見えることも、現在の川口市母子・父子福祉センターの大事な仕事について学ぶこともできますので、この素晴らしい建物をぜひ見に行ってみてください！

Overall, I highly recommend a trip to the Heigoro House (especially the bathroom!) -- not only can you see a host of architectural and artistic features all in one place, you can also learn about the modern-day Family Center and the important work that continues in this magnificent house today.