



## 太陽軒 Taiyōken

2014年9月

埼玉モダンたてもものレポーター

埼玉県民生活部国際課国際交流員 ジェーン・ホマーディング

Jane Hommerding, Coordinator for International Relations

and Reporter for *Saitama Modern Architecture*

International Division, Department of Public Services

Saitama Prefectural Government

September 2014

文化財でもレストランでもある太陽軒は、川越市で百年近く続いてきました。営業は1922年から続いてきましたが、現在の建物は1929年に建てられ、2003年に改修しました。2階の懐かしい和室や当時のデコレーションから「太陽」をモチーフにしてモダンな特徴まで、お客さんは当時の日本と現代の日本とのフュージョンを楽しめます。

Both a historical site and a fully functional restaurant, the Taiyōken has stood in Kawagoe for nearly a century. Though the business was first established in 1922, the current building dates back to 1929 and underwent necessary renovations in 2003. Visitors can enjoy the fusion of past and present Japan, from the nostalgic feel of the Japanese-style rooms upstairs and decorations from the original store to the modern features that evoke the “sun” (*taiyō*) in “Taiyōken.”



The building today, and a picture of a photo of the building in the late 1920s.

Below, mosaic tiles in front of the building and the air conditioner covers are modern “sun” additions.



外観でも内観でも目立つ太陽軒の特徴は、色ガラスです。型ガラスが赤、青、黄、緑の色ガラスから出来ている当時の窓は一部しか残っていませんが、改修で入れ替えられた窓は建物に似合うことが優先され、慎重に選ばれました。この窓のガラスは周りの照明等によって、赤からピンクそして紫まで、緑や青といった色が変わっていく感じがします。一階にある部屋の3つの窓の幅が異なります。ガラスパネルのサイズを調節したため窓は標準サイズではないことが分かります。2階の半円形の窓はもともとガラスがなく、道に直接開いていたらしく、2階よりも高い山車が出る川越まつりの日は来客がその窓の前に集まり、見物したという話を聞きました。建物の維持のため、今はその窓にガラスが入られた方がいいとは分かっていますが、一度そういう窓から川越まつりを経験してみたいなと思います。

One feature that makes the Taiyōken notable inside and out is its extensive use of colored glass windows. The original windows, some of which still remain, were either figured rolled-plate glass or colored glass in red, blue, yellow, and green. Newer windows in other colors were added later; though the colors of these windows seem to change depending on the light – from red to pink to purple, along with blues and greens – they were carefully chosen to blend well with the rest of the building. The windows were also not of a standard size; this is evident in one of the downstairs dining rooms, where the three windows on one wall are all different widths, with glass panel sizes adjusted accordingly. The semicircular window on the second floor originally had no glass at all – it was open to the street below. During the Kawagoe Festival, where floats can reach more than two stories tall, guests could gather by the window to better see anyone on the upper part of a float. Although I realize that it's probably better for the inside of the building to have glass in that window now, I thought I'd like to experience the Kawagoe Festival from an open-air second story window myself!



Figured rolled-plate glass, original colored glass (red and green), modern colored glass.



The semicircle window – perfect for festival watching.

太陽軒の2階には和室がありますが、洋風のテーブルやいすもあります。畳は畳表だけが張り替えた当時のものなので、畳床が普段より柔らかく、いい意味でふかふかに感じると思います。畳縁のパターンは当時使用したものに近い柄でしつらえてあります。最も変わっていない部屋は、ダイニングルームの反対側にある小さな和室です。木で出来ている富士山や海の景色を描いている「室内窓」があり、部屋には当時のしつくいや飾り物が今も残っており、海の波や雲の雰囲気を出しています。私が訪れた日は残念ながら曇りでした。しかし、芸術品の富士山が見られて嬉しかったです。

The second floor of the Taiyōken features more Japanese-style rooms, though guests sit at Western tables and chairs. All the tatami mats in the dining rooms are from the 1920s; that is to say, the core of the tatami remains the same while the outer covering has been periodically updated, giving the tatami a softer (even pleasantly squishy?) texture than usual. The edging on the tatami, whose pattern is unavailable in modern shops, has also gone almost unchanged. The room that has changed the least is the small room across the hall from the dining rooms with an “indoor window” depicting a carved scene of Mount Fuji and the ocean. The blue trimming in the room creates an atmosphere of ocean waves; this blue paint, plaster, and other decorations are as they were when the building first open. Though it was cloudy the day I visited the Taiyōken, I was glad to see “Mt.Fuji” through the window anyway!



A Japanese room on the second floor.



“Ocean wave” trimming in the small Japanese room.



Tatami detail in the room above. Mt. Fuji “indoor window” in the small Japanese room.

2階は当時のガラス（赤・緑のガラスの写真を参照）があり、お手洗いや改修した時、一部に当時建物に使っていた木を再利用しました。1階は修復・改装されましたが、電灯器具や1920年代以降の記念品や木彫りの壁パネルや全体的な雰囲気には、オリジナルの特徴がまだ残っています。一番気に入ったのは、アンティークのフラミンゴ形の飾り物です。昔の木製の冷蔵庫の扉は現在カウンターの後ろにあります。当時は現在のダイニングルームになっている部屋にあり、通りに面した窓からお肉を販売するために使われていたそうです。カウンターには1920年代以降のビール瓶があり、少なくともビール瓶で時の流れがわかります。レジも当時の小さな壁穴の場所から、ビールや木製の冷蔵庫と一緒にカウンターの近くに移動して行きました。このようなものが「歴史感」を演出し、太陽軒で食事する時を楽しんでくれます。太陽軒は、今でもクラシックな特徴のあるモダン建物として存在し、誰でも楽しい時間を過ごせるところになっています。

The second floor also has the original glass (the red and green colored glass shown earlier), and some of the wood in the bathrooms is from the original building. The first floor was remodeled extensively, but some even still features of the original building remain in the light fixtures, memorabilia from the 1920s onward, wooden wall panels, and overall atmosphere. My favorite was the old flamingo decorations. The door of old wooden fridges, now behind the counter, were originally used in one of the present dining rooms to sell meat through a small window to the street. The

counter also has beer bottles from the 1920s onward; this, at least, shows the obvious progression of time. The cash register has moved from its original hole-in-the-wall space to join the beer and wooden refrigerators by the counter. All these touches add to the feeling of history, making the Taiyōken a fun place to stop by for some food. Thanks to the relatively recent preservation efforts and renovations, this modern building with a fusion of classic features is still available for anyone to enjoy.



One of the dining rooms on the first floor, with original flamingo lamps; flamingo near the staircase.



Original wood still used in the bathrooms; a chest that outdates the building; beer through the ages.



Left: The tiny space where the cash register used to be, now home to an old ink bottle and glass.

Right: The original wooden refrigerators, now a decoration behind the counter.