

MAP AND DIRECTIONS



✿ BY CAR:

From I-76 Take Exit 341/Montgomery Dr. from I-76/Schuylkill Expressway. Turn west on Montgomery Dr. and take the **first left** on Horticultural Dr. at the sign for the Horticulture Center and the Japanese House and Garden. Drive through the black iron gates and follow Horticultural Dr. past the greenhouses to Shofuso. Park in the onsite parking lot.

From Belmont Ave. Turn east on Montgomery Dr. toward the Schuylkill River. Take the **first right** on Horticultural Dr. at the sign for the Horticulture Center and the Japanese House and Garden. Drive through the black iron gates and follow Horticultural Dr. past the greenhouses to Shofuso. Park in the onsite parking lot.

✿ BY SEPTA:

Take the **Route 38 bus** from Center City or the Wissahickon Transfer Station to the **Please Touch Museum** stop at Memorial Hall Drive. Walk left onto Avenue of the Republic and continue toward Belmont Ave. A marked footpath to Shofuso will be on your right; **turn right** onto the footpath and walk toward Shofuso.

✿ BY PHILLY PHLASH:

Take the purple **Philly Phlash shuttle** from any pickup point in Center City or West Philadelphia to the Please Touch Museum. Walk left onto Avenue of the Republic and continue toward Belmont Ave. A marked footpath to Shofuso will be on your right; **turn right** onto the footpath and walk toward Shofuso.

SHOFUSO JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER

Lansdowne & Horticultural Dr. Philadelphia, PA 19131
JAPANPHILLY.ORG

SHOFUSO HISTORY

Shofuso (松風荘 Pine Breeze Villa), Japanese house and garden, was commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York as a gift from the people of Japan to the United States, part of a larger, cultural diplomatic effort to foster new ties between the two countries following the Second World War.

The project began in October 1950 in New York, when artist, Isamu Noguchi, and then president of the Tokyo Mainichi newspaper, Honda Chikao, met with Philip Johnson, then Director of MoMA's Department of Architecture and Design, to discuss the idea of exhibiting a life-size traditional Japanese house. The house was to be displayed in the MoMA's courtyard as an extension of its "House in the Garden" series. Honda agreed to organize resources in Japan to cover the costs of acquiring, dismantling, and transporting the house to the U.S., while MoMA was responsible for the costs of shipping and reconstructing the house in New York. MoMA's ability to execute the project was largely due to the generosity of Blanchette F. Rockefeller and John D. Rockefeller III, and their commitment to promoting Japanese art and culture.

By 1952, MoMA curator, Arthur Drexler, was assigned to this project and traveled to Japan a year later to conduct research on Japanese architecture. After intensive study with Japanese masters, Drexler focused his attention on *Shoin-zukuri* architecture, particularly the Kojo-in Guest Hall, in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, an early example of the *Shoin-zukuri* style dating from the beginning of the 17th century.

MoMA selected a Japanese architect, Yoshimura Junzo, to design the house based on his deep knowledge and understanding of classical Japanese architecture. They also recognized the value of his experience working in both Japan and in the U.S. with his mentors, the designer-architect duo, Noémi Pernessin Raymond and Antonin Raymond. While in Japan, Drexler held a number of meetings with Yoshimura and Sekino Masaru, the historical consultant and then Director of the Commission for the Preservation of National Treasures. Yoshimura was commissioned to design *Shoin-zukuri* architecture, and Ito Heizaemon, a master carpenter from Nagoya, was recommended by Sekino to build the house. On his own initiative, Yoshimura raised funds to hire the famed landscape gardener Sano Tansai of Kyoto to assist him on the garden design.

Yoshimura, Ito, Sano, and their colleagues arrived in New York in early 1954 to assemble and build the house and garden. All the materials were shipped

from Nagoya in 636 crates. Five weeks later, the team paused to celebrate the ridge pole raising ceremony. The house was fitted with carefully selected objects and artworks including *fusuma* paintings by the Japanese living treasure of Japanese painting, Higashiyama Kaii. Shofuso opened to the public at MoMA on June 20, 1954 and was in view for two seasons. Seen by almost a quarter million visitors, it was the most popular MoMA exhibition of that era.

After the close of the exhibition, Shofuso found a permanent home in Philadelphia, a site that Drexler believed was more suitable and a "much more handsome setting than it had in New York." The location was near the 1876 Centennial International Exhibition in West Fairmount Park where the Japanese bazaar and garden were displayed. In 1905, the *Nio-mon* (Temple Gate) from the 1904 World Fair in St. Louis was installed, along with the Japanese garden designed by a local Japanese landscape architect named Muto, who had also built a Japanese garden for the nearby Morris Arboretum. Sano designed the garden specifically for this new location in West Fairmount Park and modeled it after the garden at Kojo-in to connect Shofuso's Japanese origin, while elevating Muto's existing garden. Shofuso reopened in Philadelphia on October 18, 1958.

During the 1960's and '70s, Shofuso fell into a state of disrepair due to the City of Philadelphia's lack of resources to upkeep the site and frequent acts of vandalism. Luckily, funds were raised to renovate Shofuso ahead of the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976 by prominent members of the local Japanese American community and the City of Philadelphia, in collaboration with the Japanese government. Yoshimura also returned to Philadelphia to consult on the preservation of the house.

In 1982, the Friends of the Japanese House and Garden (FJHG) was formed by Shofuso's volunteers and caretakers to safeguard the historic site. A small group of dedicated Japanese Americans later succeeded FJHG's first Board President, Dr. Mary Watanabe, including Reiko Nakawatase Gaspar, Hiroshi Uyehara, Steve Yanai, and Yuichi Ozawa. Thanks to the FJHG, Shofuso's one-of-a-kind hinoki bark roofs were restored in 1999 by traditionally trained Japanese roofers from the Nara-based Tanigami Roofing Co., Japanese artist Hiroshi Senju's signature waterfall *fusuma* murals were installed in 2007, and additional roof preservation was completed in 2010 and 2017. By 2013, Shofuso's historic significance was recognized by its designation to the Philadelphia Register of the Historic Places.

To this day and for generations to come, the house in the garden continues to fulfill its purpose of providing the public a direct experience of classical Japanese architecture, right here in Philadelphia.

VISIT SHOFUSO





BECOME A MEMBER

Membership to the Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia grants you access to year-round Japanese arts, business, cultural programs, and events in the Philadelphia area. Members receive discounts on JASGP programs and events, enjoy members only nights, free admission to Shofuso and more.

VISIT US
JAPANPHILLY.ORG

GROUP TOURS

Take an in-depth guided tour of the house, with optional add-ons including a *matcha* tea tasting, *kamishibai* storytelling, or origami. Tours for groups of eight or more are available by appointment Wednesday through Friday, from April to October. Contact info@japanphilly.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram | [@shofuso](#)
Facebook | [@shofuso](#)
Twitter | [@shofuso](#)
Newsletter | japanphilly.org/newsletter

OUR FUNDERS



HOURS OF OPERATION

April through October:
Wednesday - Sunday 11am-5pm
November through Mid-December:
Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm

ADMISSION

- ✿ \$14 for adults
- ✿ \$9 for seniors, college students with ID and children 5-17 years old.
- ✿ \$2 ACCESS card holders with ID, plus up to four family members for \$2 each.
- ✿ Free for members, children under the age of 5 and active duty military ID holders, plus up to five family members, and teens 13-19 with the Philly STAMP pass.
- ✿ Purchase tickets in advance at JAPANPHILLY.ORG/SHOFUSO

Administrated by



EXPERIENCE JAPAN IN PHILADELPHIA

Appreciating the natural beauty of Philadelphia and its four distinct seasons is a large part of Shofuso's programming. Following Japanese tradition, JASGP hosts family friendly events throughout the year. Enjoy Shofuso Cherry Blossom Festival and Children's Day in the spring, *Tanabata* star festival and *Obon* Lantern Ceremony in the summer, Ikebana Exhibition, *Otsukimi*, and *Yokai* weekend in the fall, and *Shichigosan* and *Oshogatsu* in the winter.

Tea Demonstrations, *Taiko* Workshops, Group Tours and After-School Programs are available throughout the season for children, family, and adults.

Shofuso is a National Historic Place under the provision of the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission.