

Self-Guided Tour

1 Entry/Gift Shop Enter the single open Entry Gate of “mystic profundity”. The creator’s vision of hiding part of the whole to avoid total exposure is incorporated throughout the Garden’s design.

2 Dry Garden In the Dry Garden, or karesansui, a large grass-covered mound represents Tortoise Island, a symbol of longevity. Upright stones symbolize Horaisan, the island of immortals and everlasting happiness. The gravel symbolizes the ocean with raked patterns expressing waves, and a path leads to a wisteria arbor.

3 Water Garden The Water Garden is a magnificent sight in summer, when water lilies and lotus flowers bloom.

4 Snow Viewing Lantern The Snow viewing lantern is a gift from Nagoya, Los Angeles’ Japanese sister city.

5 Boat Landing A Boat Landing made of hand-hewn granite stones can be found amid areas covered by black pebbles, representing beaches, and the lake, an expression of the sea, is where mythological islands of good fortune are found.

6 Heavenly Floating Bridge Heavenly Floating Bridge, or Amano-Hashidate, is considered one of the most scenic spots in Japan.

7 Tea Garden In the Tea Garden, or Roji which means walk, stepping stones are the main design element. The water basin and bamboo spout are for guests to purify themselves before entering the Teahouse.

8 Shoin Building The Shoin Building, which adjoins the Teahouse, symbolizes the residential dwelling of aristocrats, upper-class monks, and Samurai during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

9 Main Gate The Main Gate, roofed with Ichimonji tiles, typifies the entry of an aristocrat’s residence.

10 Arbor An Arbor in the sukiya style, overlooking the lake, is a place to rest, meditate and view the Garden.

11 Waterfall The Waterfall’s three levels represent heaven, man, and earth.

12 Crane Island Crane Island is a symbol of longevity and good fortune.

13 ZigZag Bridge A ZigZag Bridge, or Yatsunashi, with iris plantings was derived from the eleventh century “Tale of Ise”.

14 Weeping Willow The Weeping Willow Tree is symbolic of the female persona—kind, loving and bending, while the Black Pines represent the male persona—warlike, strong and unbending.

“Simplicity means the achievement of maximum effect with minimum means.”

DR. KOICHI KAWANA, GARDEN DESIGNER



SuihoEn
The Japanese Garden

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芳
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