

**Komazawa University's Kounkan (Designated a Historic Building by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government)**

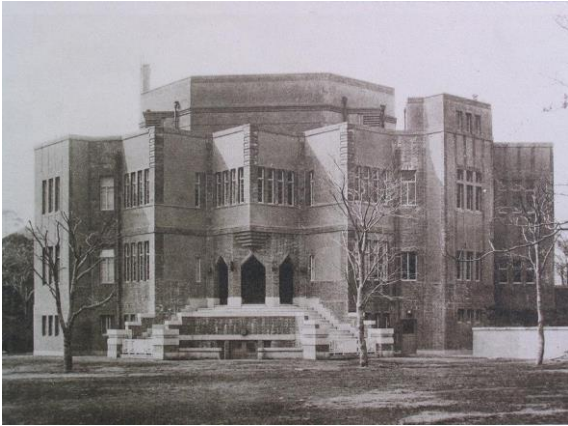


PHOTO 6: The Exterior of the Just-Erected *Kounkan*

The *Kounkan* was erected as one of several recovery projects after the Great Kanto Earthquake as well as to commemorate the university's accreditation as a full-fledged university in 1928. As one of the main campus buildings, it initially served as the university library. Its construction features an open, high-ceiling hall at its center supported by two large beams interlocked with a number of lightening-shaped supports. One can see the influences of Frank Lloyd Wright motifs, the late 19th-century Secessionist movement, and Expressionism all of which were new cutting edge styles during the Taisho period, when the building was built.

The symbolic feel to the hall space at the center of the building, which functioned as a reading room, reflects the architect's intention to honor the act of reading as a noble act. The originality of the design and the freedom it evokes makes this building a truly representative one for the architect, *Eizo Sugawara* (1892-1968).

**Use of the Facilities**

■ **Entrance to the Facilities**

- \*Please sign in at the museum reception (Free Admission)
- \*Don't hesitate to ask to use the museum's accessible features such as the wheelchair ramp, elevator, or the wheelchair-accessible restrooms.

■ **Hours of Operation**

Monday- Friday : 10:00-16:30

Please note that entrance to the exhibit rooms is discontinued 15 minutes before closing.

**Closed: Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays, Komazawa University Holidays**

■ **Directions**

A 10-minute walk from "Komazawa Daigaku" Station on the Tokyu Denentoshi Line. (Please note that there is no parking facility for cars, so please use public transportation)

Address: 1-23-1 Komazawa, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154-8525

Queries: Tel (03) 3418-9610

Fax(03) 3418-9611

Website:

<https://www.komazawa-u.ac.jp/facilities/museum/>

E-mail : [zenpaku@komazawa-u.ac.jp](mailto:zenpaku@komazawa-u.ac.jp)

■ **Notes on Visiting the Facility**

- \*Please don't touch the items on display.
- \*Please do not photograph or otherwise reproduce the items on display.
- \*No smoking, eating, or drinking.
- \*No use of cellular phones.
- \*Please do not disturb other patrons of the museum.

**The Museum of  
Zen Culture and History,  
Komazawa University**



## Overview of the Facilities



PHOTO1 : Buddhist Altar and Statues of the Buddha and the Dual Founders of *Soto Zen (Dogen and Keizan)*

The Museum of Zen Culture and History was established to commemorate the 120th anniversary of Komazawa University founding. It is housed in the Kounkan, which was designated a historic building by the Tokyo Metropolitan government, preserving its legacy and making full use of this building at the center of campus.

The exhibition space can roughly be divided into three parts. The first floor is the home to the permanent exhibition, which features the distinct legacy of Komazawa University, Zen culture and history. The second floor houses other exhibitions highlighting the university itself, including a survey of the university's history from its start as a Zen educational center for monks during the early modern period. Finally, in the basement are classroom and other spaces of the university's museum studies program.

We hope this museum, which actualizes the concept foundational to our school's mission "The Oneness of Practice and Study," will not only be of value to our university, but to the wider culture and society.

### ■ First Floor

Visitor's Entrance and Reception

#### ■ Permanent Exhibition Space (The World of Zen)

The space is divided into Exhibition Room A, a symbolic space, and Exhibition Room B1-5, which features Zen history and culture, centering on *Soto Zen*.

#### ■ Exhibition Room A: What is Zen?

The Buddhist altar and the statues of the Buddha and the dual founders of *Soto Zen (Dogen and Keizan)* at the center of the room gives order to the museum's symbolic space.



PHOTO 2: A Replica of *Eiheiji* During the Edo Period

#### ■ Exhibition Room B1: The Roots of Zen

This exhibition focuses on the very beginnings of the Zen tradition and traces its establishment into a Buddhist school.

#### ■ Exhibition Room B2: The Establishment and Growth of *Soto Zen*

This exhibition follows the establishment of Japanese *Soto Zen* by *Dogen* and the subsequent growth of the school in various regions through the institution building efforts of *Keizan*

#### ■ Exhibition Room B3: The World of the "*Shobogenzo*" and "*Denkoroku*"

This exhibition follows the establishment of Japanese *Soto Zen* by *Dogen* and the subsequent growth of the school in various regions through the institution building efforts of *Keizan*



PHOTO 3: Exhibition Room A

#### ■ Exhibition Room B4: The Lineage of Zen Monks

This exhibition introduces Zen monks from the medieval, early modern, and modern periods explaining the role *Soto Zen* has played from a social history perspective.

#### ■ Exhibition Room B5: The History and Culture of Zen

This exhibits introduces the multifaceted culture and arts unique to Japan born from the influence of Zen.

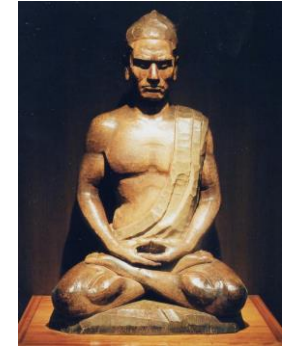
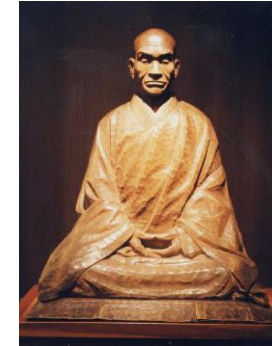


PHOTO 4: "A Replica of Zen Master *Kodo Sawaki* in Seated Zen Meditation" and "*Banryu*(Earth-Bound Dragon) " By *Masachi Kaneyasu*



PHOTO5: "A Stone Relief of the Life of *Shakyamuni Buddha*" by *Kiyoshi Masuzawa*

### ■ Second Floor

- The University History exhibitions Room (Permanent).
- Special Exhibitions

### ■ Basement Floor (Not Open to the Public)

Facility for Lectures and Practicum for Museum Studies (A space not just in theoretical learning, but hands-on, practical learning for students of museum studies.)