

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

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# 61

## JAPANESE EXHIBITION HOUSE OPENS IN MUSEUM OF MODERN ART GARDEN

A Japanese house with sliding walls, a tea ceremony room attached to the main building by a bridge, a curved roof of cypress bark, and broad verandas overlooking Japanese gardens and a pool will open to the public on Sunday, June 20, in the Museum of Modern Art Garden, 11 West 53 Street. The house, first built in Japan and then shipped to New York, will remain on view through October 12.

The exhibition house was designed by Junzo Yoshimura, leading Japanese architect and Professor at the Tokyo University of Fine Arts. It is sponsored by the America-Japan Society in Tokyo and private citizens in Japan and the United States and the Museum of Modern Art. It was reassembled in the Museum Garden under Mr. Yoshimura's supervision with the aid of Japanese craftsmen.

The Museum of Modern Art selected an example of Japanese architecture, based on 16th and 17th century prototypes, as its third House in the Garden because of the unique relevance of traditional Japanese design to modern Western architecture. Arthur Drexler, Curator of Architecture and Design, points out in a leaflet the Museum has published for visitors to the exhibition that the four important characteristics which give Japanese architecture this relevance are post and lintel frame construction, flexible room arrangements, close relation of indoor and outdoor areas, and the ornamental quality of the structural system itself.

Visitors may enter at 4 West 54 Street, or through the Museum. Because the floors of Japanese houses are covered with fragile straw mats, called tatami, visitors must remove their shoes before entering the building. Paper slippers provided by the Museum may be worn inside the house and kept as souvenirs of the exhibition.

The house, which might have been built by a 16th or 17th century Japanese scholar, government official, or priest, contains a main room called shoin, a second large room, a 4-mat tea ceremony room built of cryptomeria, pine, bamboo and ochre-colored Kyoto earth, a bath with a sunken wood tub, a kitchen with a stove made of earth and waxed plaster, galleries, verandas, and a bridge connecting the tea ceremony room with the main section of the house.

Isolated columns of hinoki (Japanese cypress) support the massive curved roof which is covered with 20 to 50 layers of cypress bark. Sliding interior and exterior

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The Museum of Modern Art will present a special showing of the Japanese film, "Jigokumon" (Hell's Gate"), in the Museum auditorium Tuesday evening, June 22 for invited guests and members of the press.

"Jigokumon," which won the highest award at the 1954 Cannes Film Festival, will be presented by its producer, Masaichi Nagata, president of Daiei Motion Picture Company, Tokyo. The Daiei Company also produced the Venice Festival Award film "Rashomon," which has already been shown in the United States, and "Golden Demon" which won the Golden Harvest Award (equivalent to the American "Oscar") at the first Film Festival of Southeast Asia, held earlier this year in Tokyo.

The first Japanese film to be photographed in Eastman Color, "Jigokumon" was produced by Mr. Nagata and directed by Teinosuke Kinugasa. It is based on the historic events at the beginning of the "Heiji era" (1195 A.D.) of Japanese history and was filmed, in part, on the island of Mayajima at the historic temple of Itsukushima.

Mr. Nagata will arrive in New York June 19 for a one week visit before returning to Japan via Los Angeles, where he will be the guest of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at a private screening of "Jigokumon."

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