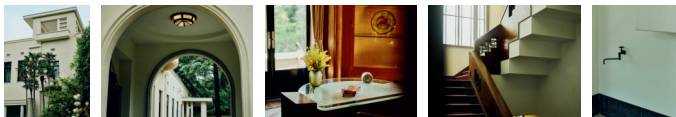


To members of the press:

The Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum is pleased to present the exhibition **Looking at Architecture 2025: A Mansion's Many Eras** from Saturday, June 7 to Sunday, August 24, 2025. This installment of the museum's annual Looking at Architecture exhibition focuses on the shifting role played by the museum's main building, which began as the residence of Prince Asaka. This exhibition will trace the memory of the building through artworks, photographs, and videos that offer a vivid look into its uncommon history as a residence, a stage of statecraft, a state guest house, and an event venue.

We would greatly appreciate the introduction of this exhibition to your audience.



Exhibition Information

Title	Looking at Architecture 2025: A Mansion's Many Eras
Dates	Saturday, June 7 - Sunday, August 24, 2025
Hours	10:00 - 18:00 (Last admission at 17:30)
Closed	Mondays (except July 21, August 11), July 22, August 12
Venue	Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum, Main Building & Annex
Exhibition admission	Adults ¥1,000 (¥800)/University students ¥800 (¥640)/ High school students and Seniors (65 and over) ¥500 (¥400)

*Figures in parentheses are group admission fees (for groups of 20 or more)

*Admission is free for elementary and younger students and for middle school students.

*Admission is free for visitors (and two accompanying persons) with a Physical Disability Certificate, Intellectual Disability Certificate, Rehabilitation Certificate, Mental Disability Certificate, or Atomic Bomb Survivor's Certificate.

*Admission is free for teacher-led educational visits by students from primary, middle, and high schools in Tokyo.

*Admission is free for seniors (65 and above) on the third Wednesday of each month.

*Advance reservations and purchase of tickets online are required on June 25 and July 2, 2025 for the "G(ALL)ERY Day"

Organized by Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture

With the annual co-sponsorship of Toda Corporation, Bloomberg L.P. **Bloomberg** Van Cleef & Arpels

Venue Information

Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum 5-21-9, Shirokanedai, Minato-ku, Tokyo

[Meguro Station] 7 minute walk from JR Yamanote Line East Exit, Tokyu Meguro Line Main Exit

[Shirokanedai Station] 6 minute walk from Toei Mita Line /Tokyo Metro Namboku Line Exit 1

TEL: Hello Dial operator service 050-5541-8600

WEB: www.teien-art-museum.ne.jp

Follow us on X, Instagram, Facebook @teienartmuseum



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Overview

The Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum building, a spectacular feat of Art Deco design, was completed in 1933 as the residence of Prince Asaka. Prince Asaka and Princess Nobuko were exposed to the latest Art Deco trends during their stay in Paris in the 1920s. Upon their return to Japan, they embarked on the construction of their own residence, and commissioned the French decorative artist Henri Rapin to design the interior decorations of the main rooms. The work was overseen by engineers and artisans from the Construction Bureau of the Imperial Household Ministry, then considered among the top architectural organizations in Japan. The resulting building is one of the country's finest examples of early Showa-era residential architecture. Having only undergone minor alterations since completion, it has been designated as a National Important Cultural Property due to its well-preserved original features.

Since its opening as an art museum in 1983, the Teien Art Museum has hosted exhibitions that present artwork within the architectural beauty of the former residence. The annual *Looking at Architecture* exhibition explores a different theme each year to introduce the museum's architectural charms. This year's exhibition focuses on shifting function of the mansion through the years.

The building has adapted with the times through varied historical eras before assuming its present form.

Fourteen years during which Prince Asaka's family called the residence home.

Seven years when former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida used it for political affairs.

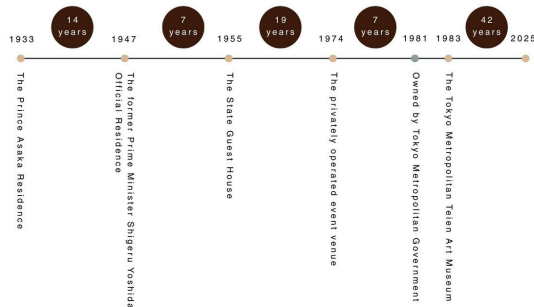
Nineteen years when it served as a state guest house, playing host to numerous state guests.

Seven years when it welcomed many people as a privately operated event venue.

Now entering its 42nd year as an art museum, the building has played many roles for different people over the years.

This exhibition presents artworks, photographs and video materials related to these different eras in order to trace the memories of the building. In addition, in order for visitors to fully enjoy the building itself, furniture and furnishings are used to reproduce the original appearance, the third-floor Winter Garden is accessible for special viewing, and window curtains are opened to reveal the view of the summer greenery outside. Visitors are invited to appreciate the architectural details and interior design.

Chronology



Salon, Main Building, Teien Art Museum



Second Floor Hall, Main Building, Teien Art Museum

Highlights

01

Enjoy the unique architectural spaces of an Art Deco mansion

During their stay in Paris, Prince Asaka and Princess Nobuko took inspiration from the Art Deco Exposition they attended in July 1925. After returning to Japan, they embarked on construction of a mansion incorporating these cutting-edge design elements. The architectural design was led by Yokichi Gondo, an architectural engineer in the Construction Bureau of the Imperial Household Ministry. In 1925, Gondo had also been directed to study architecture for a year in Europe and elsewhere. The full extent of inspiration he absorbed abroad was condensed into the former Residence of Prince Asaka. This exhibition will trace the roots of the residence's architectural appeal by drawing on rare items and photo albums connected to the European sojourns of the Prince and Princess, as well as Gondo.



Matsu Photo Studio, Salon of the Former Residence of Prince Asaka, c.1933

02

A stage for diplomacy

Postwar prime minister Shigeru Yoshida began to use the former residence of Prince Asaka as his official residence in the late 1940s, while serving as foreign minister and later as prime minister. When Yoshida traveled to the San Francisco Peace Conference in September 1951, it was from this residence that he departed as the representative of the plenipotentiary delegation. It is recorded that Yoshida developed various concepts at his official residence in preparation for the signing of the peace treaty that restored the country's sovereignty. After this building's role as an official residence came to a close in 1955, it next served as a state guest house for 19 years, hosting many state guests. Documents, photographs, artworks, and more tell the story of this period, presenting a view into how the mansion played a prominent role in Japanese diplomacy.



Study, Main Building, Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum

03

Looking at Architecture exhibition takes place in summer for first time in six years

The annual *Looking at Architecture* exhibition will be held during the summertime for the first time in six years. The curtains of the windows are opened to reveal the view of pleasant greenery in the garden, and the interior spaces of the mansion are recreated as they appeared when various people occupied them. In addition, the public can enjoy access to the Winter Garden on the third floor of the main building. Gallery in the annex will display works by Japanese and foreign contemporary artists related to the decorative arts that have been collected by the museum since its opening. In addition, a touchable installation will provide visitors with an interactive experience. Beginning with this exhibition, the museum will begin offering free admission to all visitors from Tokyo or elsewhere who are middle school age or younger. Please visit during the season of summer vacation or outings.



Winter Garden, Main Building, Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum

Photography in the museum

Photography is allowed in both the main building and annex during this exhibition. Please follow the rules below and listen to the instructions of staff when taking photos.

1. Please refrain from any activity that may disturb others.
2. Please do not use flash, reflectors, tripods, selfie sticks, or telephoto lenses.
3. Staff may ask you to refrain from taking photographs due to safety concerns.
4. Please refrain from taking video.
5. To avoid the risk of dropping equipment or damaging objects, please do not take photographs from above objects, or lean your body when taking photographs.
6. Photography is permitted for personal, non-commercial use only. Commercial photography requires advance application.
7. Please be aware that posting photos on social networking sites may violate the portrait rights of other visitors.
8. Please refrain from taking photographs for portrait purposes.
9. Actions that could damage artworks or the building are prohibited.

Related Events



Image : Minato City Local History Museum

Satellite Exhibition: *Intersecting Architectures*

—Former Institute of Public Health x Former Residence of Prince Asaka

This is a collaborative exhibition with the Minato City Local History Museum, located near the museum in the Former Institute for Public Health building, which was constructed during the same period.

The Minato City Local History Museum was built in 1938 as the Institute for Public Health, a national research institute dedicated to promoting public health among the citizenry. Its evolution from uncommon origins and rich architectural design have attracted wide interest. This exhibition will explain differences in uses and compare the designs of the two buildings, looking at architectural components and decorations made from wood, tile, plaster, and marble used in both buildings, and revealing the intersections between the two buildings that now serve as art and history museums.

Dates: Friday, June 13 – Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Venue: Minato City Local History Museum, 4th floor gallery

10-minute walk from the Teien Art Museum

Hours: 9:00-17:00 (open until 20:00 on Saturdays only)

Closed: Third Thursday of each month (or day before in case of national holiday)

Admission: Free



Photo: Hideki Okura

Sawa-kai

— Enjoy through touch and talk

The Former Residence of Prince Asaka is made of various materials including metal, glass, marble, and wood. Normally, visitors are not allowed to touch these materials in order to protect the building. This program is an opportunity for visitors to touch the building's materials, get sense of their texture and decoration, and share their impressions in a discussion.

Organized by Kozue Handa (Part-time lecturer, Meiji Gakuin University)

Date and Time: Saturday, June 28, 2025,

Morning Session 10:30-12:30 / Afternoon Session 14:30-16:30

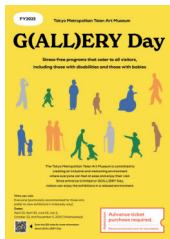
Admission: Free (valid exhibition ticket is required)

Participation: Junior high school students and older (visitors with visual and other impairments can participate)

Capacity: Six people per session (advance registration required)

Details regarding registration will be posted on the museum's website once available.

G(ALL)ERY Day



G(ALL)ERY Day

The Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment where everyone can feel at ease and enjoy their visit.

Advance online ticket reservations and purchases are required for G(ALL)ERY Day. Depending on the venue's capacity, same-day tickets may not be available. Reservations are not required for persons with a Disability Certificate, middle school and younger students, and others eligible for free admission. Thank you for your understanding.

Leisurely Art Appreciation Day

A chance for all visitors, with and without disabilities, to enjoy the Museum at their own pace.

On these days, visitors who may not feel at ease in busy museums can enjoy the art in a less crowded setting. The program will offer an environment in which wheelchair users and people requiring care or assistance will also be able to feel safe and comfortable.

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 10:00-18:00 (Last admission 17:30)

Baby Hours

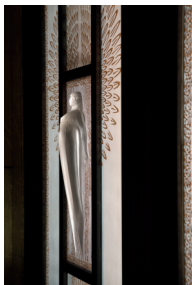
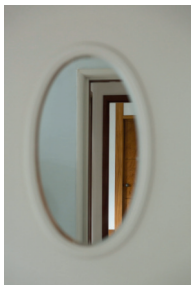
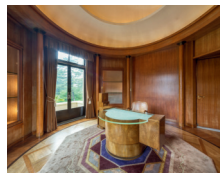
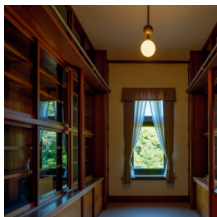
Bring your baby to the Museum!

This program offers a chance for parents, carers, and guardians of babies to enjoy our exhibitions at ease. During Baby Hours, visitors will be able to bring baby strollers into the main building,* which normally does not allow the use of strollers inside.

Date and Time: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 10:00—15:00 (Stroller accessible hours)

*As the Museum's main building is a designated "Important Cultural Property" that preserves most of its original architecture, there are many areas with narrow entrances or with steps. Please note that some larger mobility devices (such as stretcher chairs) and larger strollers will not be able to access all areas. We also ask visitors with mobility scooters for their cooperation in switching to one of our rental wheelchairs when entering the Museum.

Publicity Images



1. Cigar case used by Shigeru Yoshida, collection of Oiso Municipal Museum
2. Theodor Madsen, Manufactured by Royal Copenhagen, *Penguins*, c.1902, collection of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
3. Matsui Photo Studio, *Front exterior of the Residence of Prince Asaka*, c.1933, collection of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
4. Library, main building of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
5. Prince's Bedroom, main building of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
6. Study, main building of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
7. Princess's Bedroom, main building of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
8. The glass-relief doors in the Front Entrance Hall, main building of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
9. René Lalique, Electric clock, *Wild Roses*, 1926, collection of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum
10. Decorative frame in garden wall, garden of Tokyo Metropolitan Teien Art Museum

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