

PROJECT GOALS AND HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Project Narrative

LANDMARK STATUS

The Seattle Japanese Garden was designed in 1959 by Kiyoshi Inoshita and Juki lida of Tokyo Metro Parks and was the earliest postwar public construction of a Japanese-style garden on the Pacific Coast of the United States. Much of the original design shown in the 1959 drawings was completed in 1960 except for a large Clubhouse at the north end of the garden overlooking the pond toward the south. Also not realized were two site elements associated with this Clubhouse – an access driveway and parking area, and a zoukirin or mixed forest.

In 2008 the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board issued a Report on Landmark Designation with the following conclusion:

The features of the Landmark to be preserved include: the entire site as described in the Japanese Garden Boundary Description, including structures, site elements and plant material located within the site boundaries, excluding the existing south entry gate and ticket boot, the service area structures, the pump house, the existing electric light standards, and the chain link fencing.

THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S STANDARDS

The proposed design for the site improvements and garden structure will respect the cultural context of the existing garden. As a landmark, the proposed work acknowledges the design review required by the Seattle Landmarks Board and The Secretary of the Department of Interiors Standards for Historic Rehabilitation that the Board has adopted. The relevant standards for this project state:

The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided. (Standard 2)

Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken. (Standard 3)

Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved. (Standard 5)

New additions ... shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment. (Standard 9)

New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired. (Standard 10)

These standards and accompanying guidelines call for a new construction to be unobtrusive in the garden and harmonious in scale and materials. The guidelines suggest the following:

- A building that is distinguished as contemporary rather than a replica of a historic style
- A simple building form with a simple roof slope.
- A structure with repetitive framing members
- Exhibited framing members and joint details
- Natural finishes and colors
- Enclosures, surfaces and devices that minimize or obscure nearby traffic noise from outside the garden to assure contemplative viewing.









Project Narrative

PROPOSED SITE IMPROVEMENTS

The original rectilinear development of the north end of the pond was intended to represent a fishing village and boat landing or harbor. The stone retaining walls were built late in the original construction effort and consist of relatively small basalt stones. This material has been questioned since all of the stone used throughout the garden is granite from the Bandera area of Snoqualmie Pass which was specifically selected by Juki lida during field visits to the mountains. Over time the existing basalt retaining walls have settled and buckled. The proposal is to replace these existing walls with traditional Japanese Ishigaki walls of granite.

The existing pathways at the north end of the pond do not meet accessibility standards with stairs and slopes exceeding the maximum allowed. This proposal will adjust and relocated existing pathways and create new ones for accessibility while maintaining the character of the garden.

The 1959 drawings were done without adequate survey information and the original location shown for the Clubhouse is not feasible due to very steep slopes. This proposal shifts the design with a new Garden Structure toward the east on the terraced slope north of the pond. This location also minimizes impact on the garden by reducing the amount of regrading required and shortening the service driveway length.

There are several courtyards proposed adjacent to the proposed Garden Structure that emphasize indoor/outdoor connections. The Moon Terrace is located adjacent to the Garden Structure at a slightly lower elevation and it will be used as an outdoor gathering area for special events. The Entry Courtyard serves as the entrance to the structure and as an overflow area from the main gathering space. The Shade Courtyard between the main structure and the separate restroom/support wing will be used as a secondary circulation and support area. All of these courtyards will utilize gravel, stone and concrete paving and reflect the existing paving materials in the garden.

PROPOSED GARDEN STRUCTURE

The design goal of the Garden Structure is to create a facility that respects the history and sensitivity of the Japanese Garden, from the careful treatment of the site to the character of the structure and materials used, and one that is appropriately sized for the garden. The main structure is aligned with its long side facing south toward the pond and a secondary small support structure is separated at the east end.

The form and scale of the structure as well as the finish materials and colors will reflect the existing character of the garden.

The primary building element when viewed from the garden is the roof structure, which is a gable form to relate to other structures in the garden. The roof area over the conditioned gathering space is slightly raised to accommodate a layer of insulation and clad with metal shingles to match the roofing at the existing garden gatehouse. Surrounding the main roof is a thinner steel panel assembly to allow deeply cantilevered roof overhangs.

To maximize the indoor/outdoor connections the exterior walls facing the garden are sliding glass door panels. Layered in front of these glass doors is a series of sliding wood slat panels with a pattern that frames the view of the garden – a feature that reflects traditional Japanese design principles. On the east side a projection screen is provided as the focus of presentations, and this solid wall will also help mitigate traffic noise from Lake Washington Boulevard.















Project Goals

Garden structure, Ishigaki garden wall replacement, accessible pathways, terraces, and service access

- Respect the historical condition to meet The Secretary of the Department of Interiors Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
- Explore the potential for the Club House shown in the original 1959 design of the Japanese Garden, located on the north hill facing the garden toward the south.
- Provide an overlook/viewpoint with a panoramic view of the garden to enhance the visitor experience.
- Provide a gathering space for special events such as the annual Moon Viewing celebration.
- Provide a space for education and cultural purposes such as craft demonstrations, workshops, art displays, dance and musical performances.

- Provide a covered structure with the ability to be enclosed for security, comfortable for gatherings of modest size with the ability to accommodate larger groups in an outdoor terrace space.
- Create a facility that reflects the design and sensitivity of the Japanese Garden, from the careful treatment of the site to the character of the structure and materials used, and appropriately sized for the garden.
- Integrate the building and the garden emphasize indoor/outdoor connections to create an immersive experience.
- Rebuild north end walls with appropriate stone and construction methods.
- Provide ADA access from an extension of the northwest path system.













Historical Resources



Seattle Japanese Garden Opening



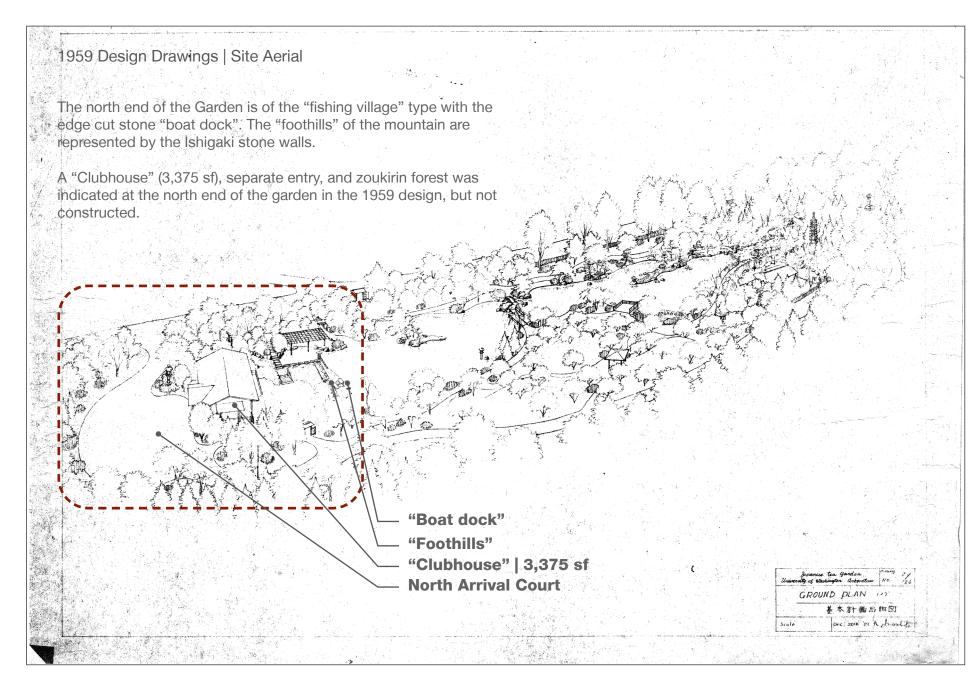
Juki lida



Property of University of Washington Libraries, Special Collection

Seattle Japanese Garden construction





- 1959 Original Design
- 2001 Seattle Japanese Garden: Comprehensive Overview
- 2003 Washington Park Arboretum Historic Review, ch10. The Japanese Garden
- 2008 Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board Designation

The flow of water, which originated at the high mountain ranges, transforms itself as it continues its way through the landscape; first it turns into a waterfall, then into a stream, washing the bank by a tea hut, and finally becomes a lake. At the lakeshore are a variety of features such as a rock promontory, an inlet, and steep slopes, through which water continues its way, until it reaches a village (an image of the village symbolically represented by a cherry grove, iris paddies, and a moon viewing hill). At the village, there appears an island connected to the shore by two different bridges. At the end of the lake is a stone paved boat launch, which symbolically represents a fishing village. There, the water disappears from one's sight, leaving the expectation that it will be joining the greater ocean.

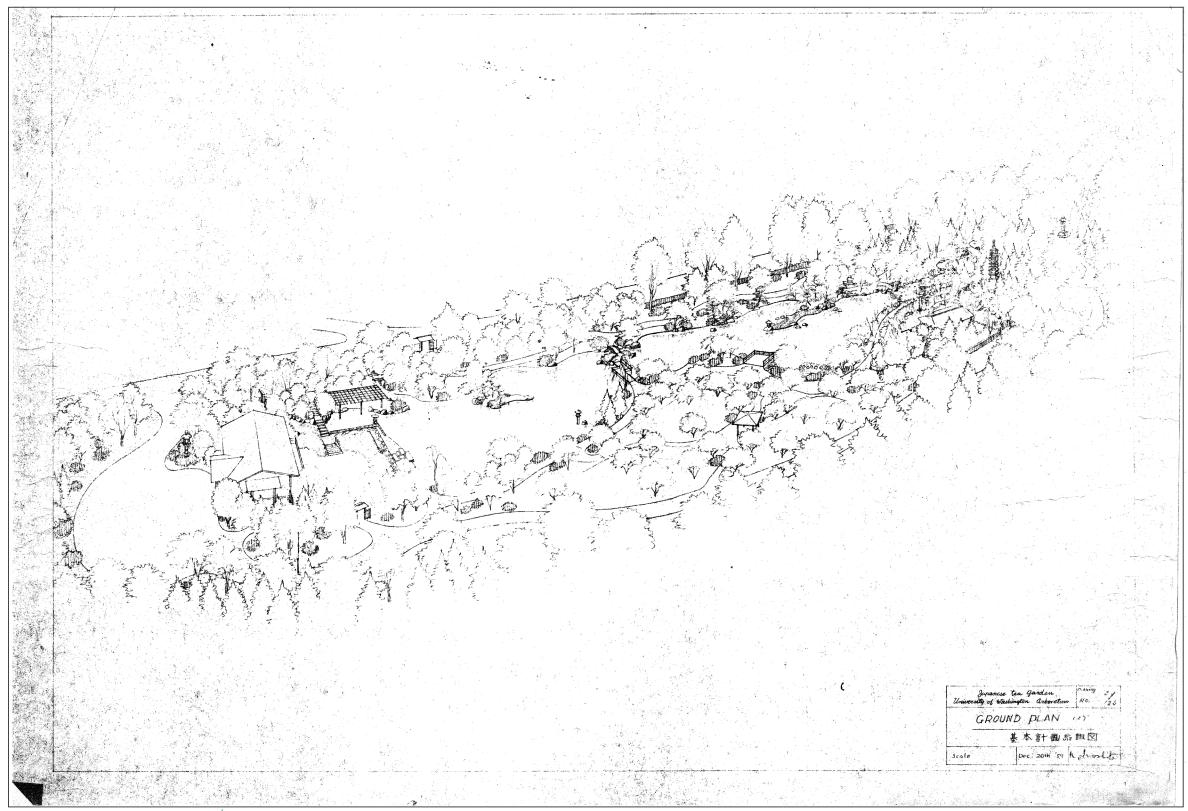
-Kiyoshi Inoshita 1959 design intent

Seattle Japanese Garden North Wall and Structure





Historical Resources | 1959 Site Aerial







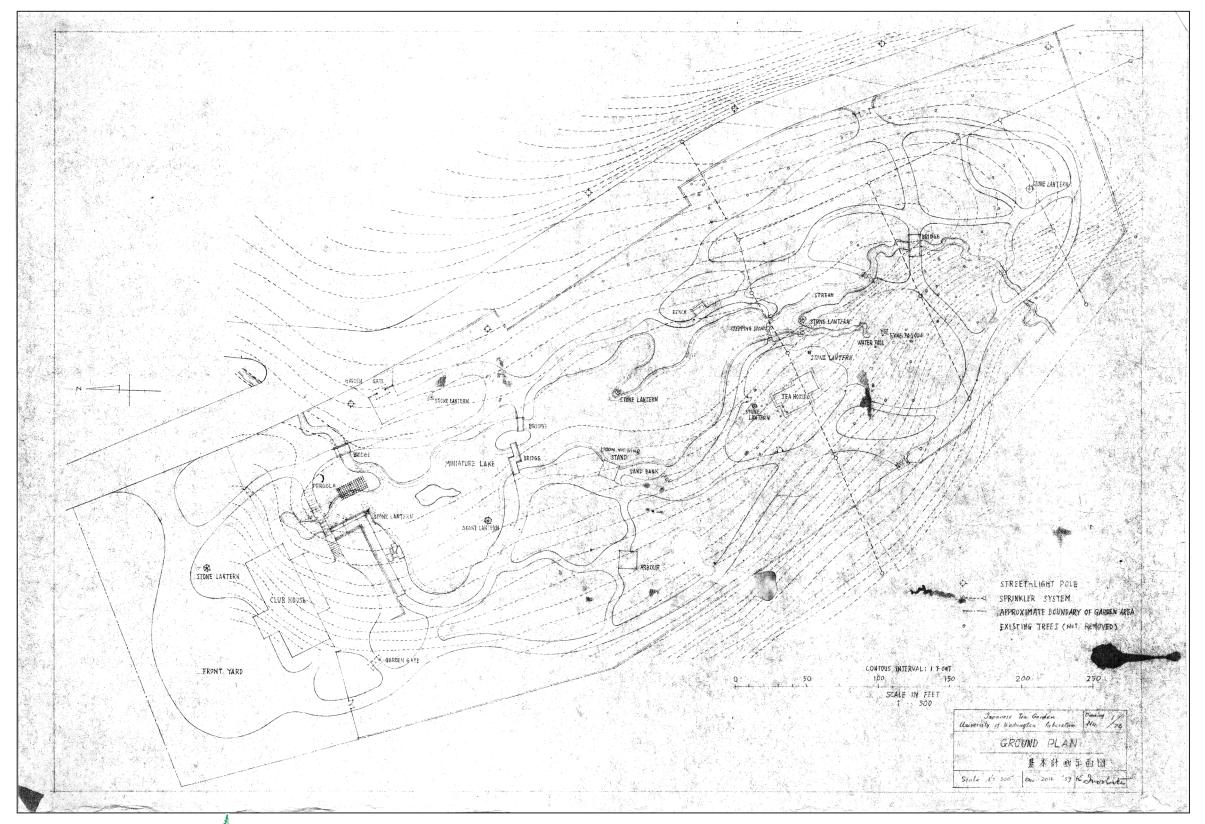






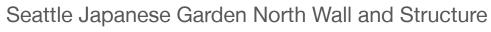


Historical Resources | 1959 Ground Plan







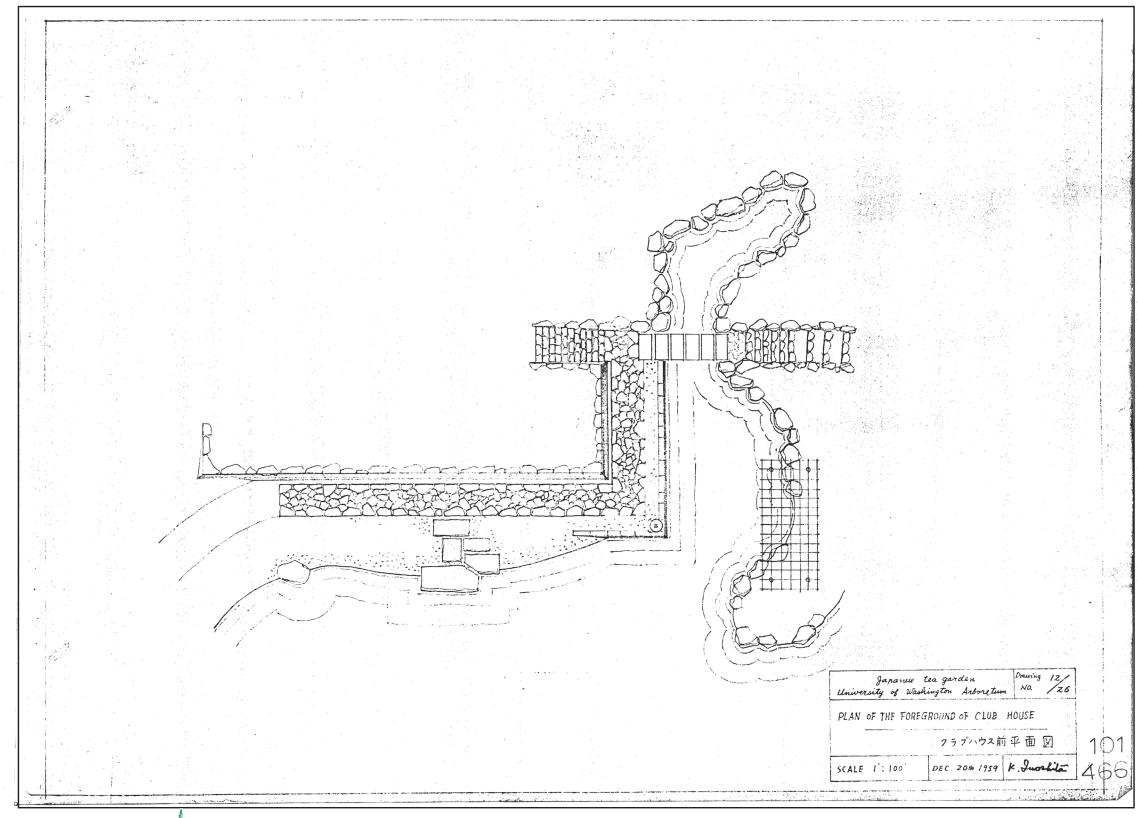








Historical Resources | 1959 Plan of the Foreground of Clubhouse





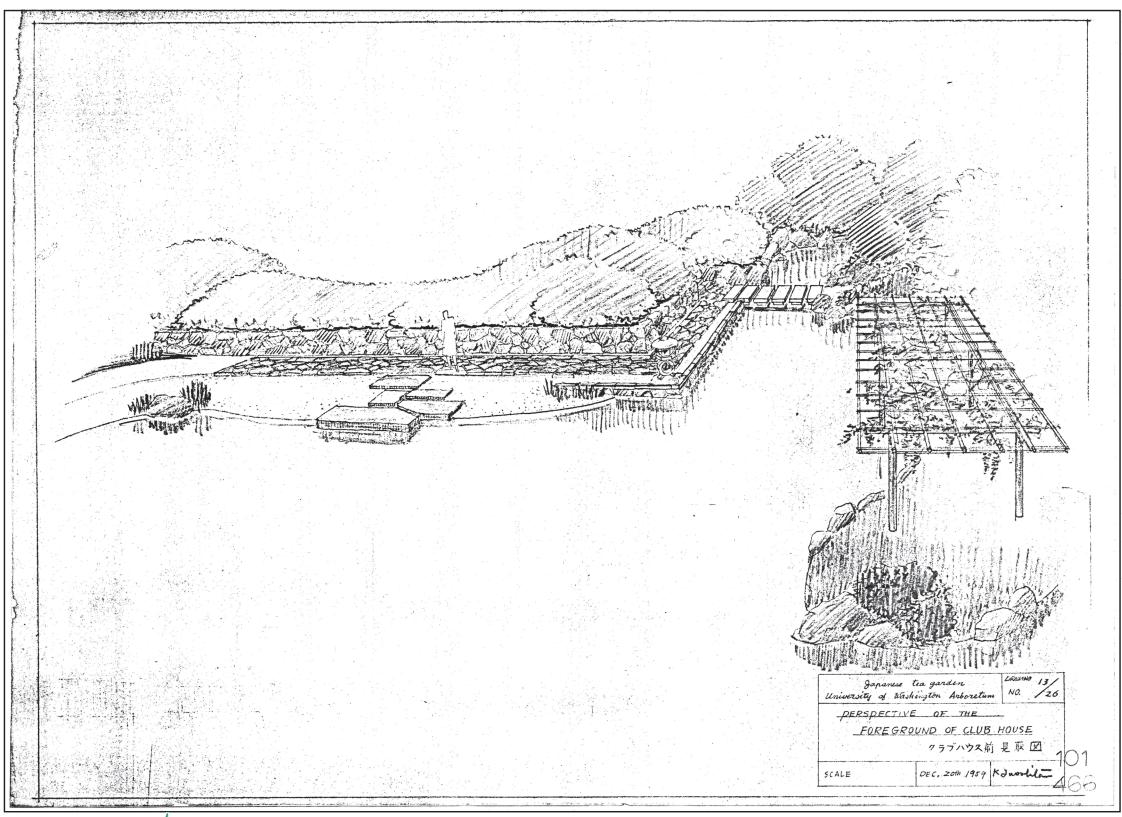






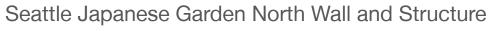


Historical Resources | 1959 Perspective of the Foreground of Clubhouse















Existing Built Character



Original Entry Gate



Entry Structure and Plaza



Machiai



Wisteria Trellis



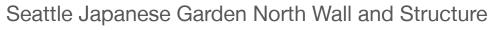
Azumaya



Stone Site Walls

























Existing Site Plan w/ Enlarged Proposed Work Area













Existing Site Images Within Proposed Work Area











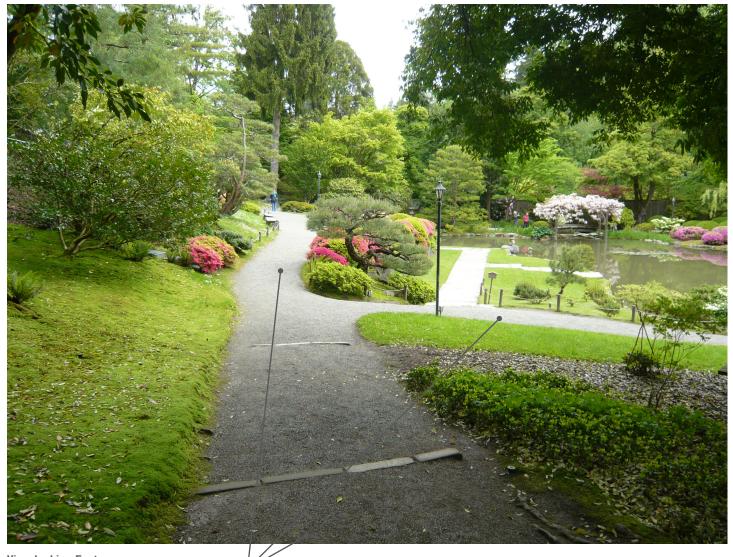






Existing Site Images Within Proposed Work Area





View looking East
Modify site pathways and service access
Site grading, select tree removal/replacement, typ













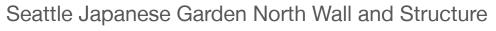
Existing Site Images Within Proposed Work Area

















LIVING JAPANESE TRADITIONS

Continuation of Living Japanese Traditions



Katsura Rikyu Imperial Villa | 17th Century



Nakashima Arts Building | 1960-75





Tea House | 2018

Challenges with Replication

- Replication is discouraged by The Secretary of the Department of Interiors Standards for Historic Rehabilitation.
- Cost / maintenance / durability
- Conformance to Building and Energy Code
- Traditional building material availability and construction knowledge
- Traditional building typologies are not all appropriate for contemporary use and program
- Avoid theme park feel

Continue the spirit of traditions by using Japanese Design Principles as a starting point to guide the articulation of space



Interpret Japanese Design Principles to meet contemporary needs













Japanese Design Principles and Articulation of Space / Boundaries



Miegakure Hide and Reveal



Shakkei Borrowed Sceneries



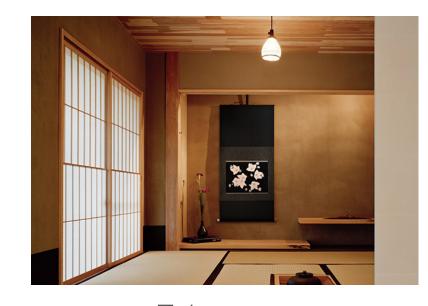
Genkan Entry and Threshold



En Transitional veranda, shoji, glass door, mado, sudare, koshi, noki



Ma Time and Space



Tokonoma Alcove













Japanese Design Principles | Shin-Gyō-Sō System



Shin Formal



Gyō Semiformal



Sō Informal



Shin-style paths are often made of dressed natural stone cut to square or rectangular shapes. They are mostly laid out in straight lines and can be found as approach to a gate or the main hall of a temple.



Paths in the semiformal Gyo-style are a combination of dressed stone and naturally shaped stone.



The So-style garden paths are designed to look as natural as possible. Unfinished stones in different sizes and styles are combined to create paths that wind around shrubs and trees.







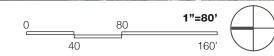




SITE AND GARDEN DEVELOPMENT

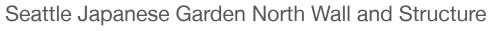


Site Map





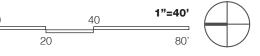








Site Plan



Legend - New / Updated

- 1 Harbor
- 2 Foothills
- Moon Terrace
- 4 Water Feature
- 5 Entry Court
- 7 Ishigaki Walls
- 8 Village
- 9 North Courtyard
- 10 Relocated Kobe Lantern
- 6' wide Accessible Pathway
- 12 Cart / Service Path
- 13 8'-10' Service Drive
- 4 6' high Fencing and Gate

Legend - Existing

- 15 6' wide Accessible Pathway
- 16 Azumaya
- 17 Signature Oak Tree
- 18 Large Cedar Tree
- 19 Wisteria Arbor













Site Plan Enlargement

Parks & Recreation





December 2023





Legend

- Accent boat dock stone paving in Iris planting
- Foothills

Held up by Ishigaki walls low planting areas provide framed views into the garden and enhance borrowed scenery of the landscape

Moon Terrace

Large open gathering space with Gyo style (semi-formal) paving, built-in wood benches, ramp to upper entry court, terraced seat walls, and Ishigaki walls

Water Feature

Accent planting with an winding trail through ponds and landscape up to the hilltop Village

Entry Court

A welcoming transitional space with Shin style (formal) paving, accent built-in benches, and encased in Ishigaki walls

Engawa

Wood veranda wrapping around the pavilion with built-in benches allow for extended use of the interior space; brings gardens into the building

Ishigaki Walls

A mix of stone and stone veneer walls, these consistently show character of semiformal Ishigaki walls in line with traditional Japanese craft.

Village

Proposed Pavilion and Restroom Building Complex integrated into and atop the hillside

North Courtyard

Gathering area with Gyo style (semi-formal) paving, planting, and enclosed fencing and gate

Relocated Kobe Lantern

Nestled into the hillside it acts as an intentional eye stop for visitors to enjoy

- 6' wide Accessible Pathway
- 8-10' wide Cart / Service Path
- 20' Service Drive

Turn around area with room for (3) standard parking stalls

- 6' high Fencing and Gate
- 6' wide Accessible Pathway
- Large Cedar Tree

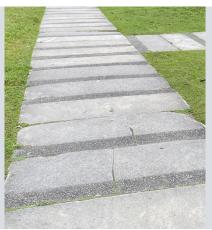


EXISTING

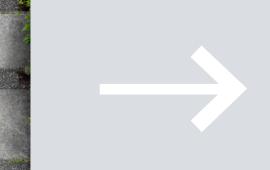


NEW CHARACTER

Pathways

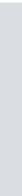


EXISTING





NEW CHARACTER



Courtyard

Terrace &

















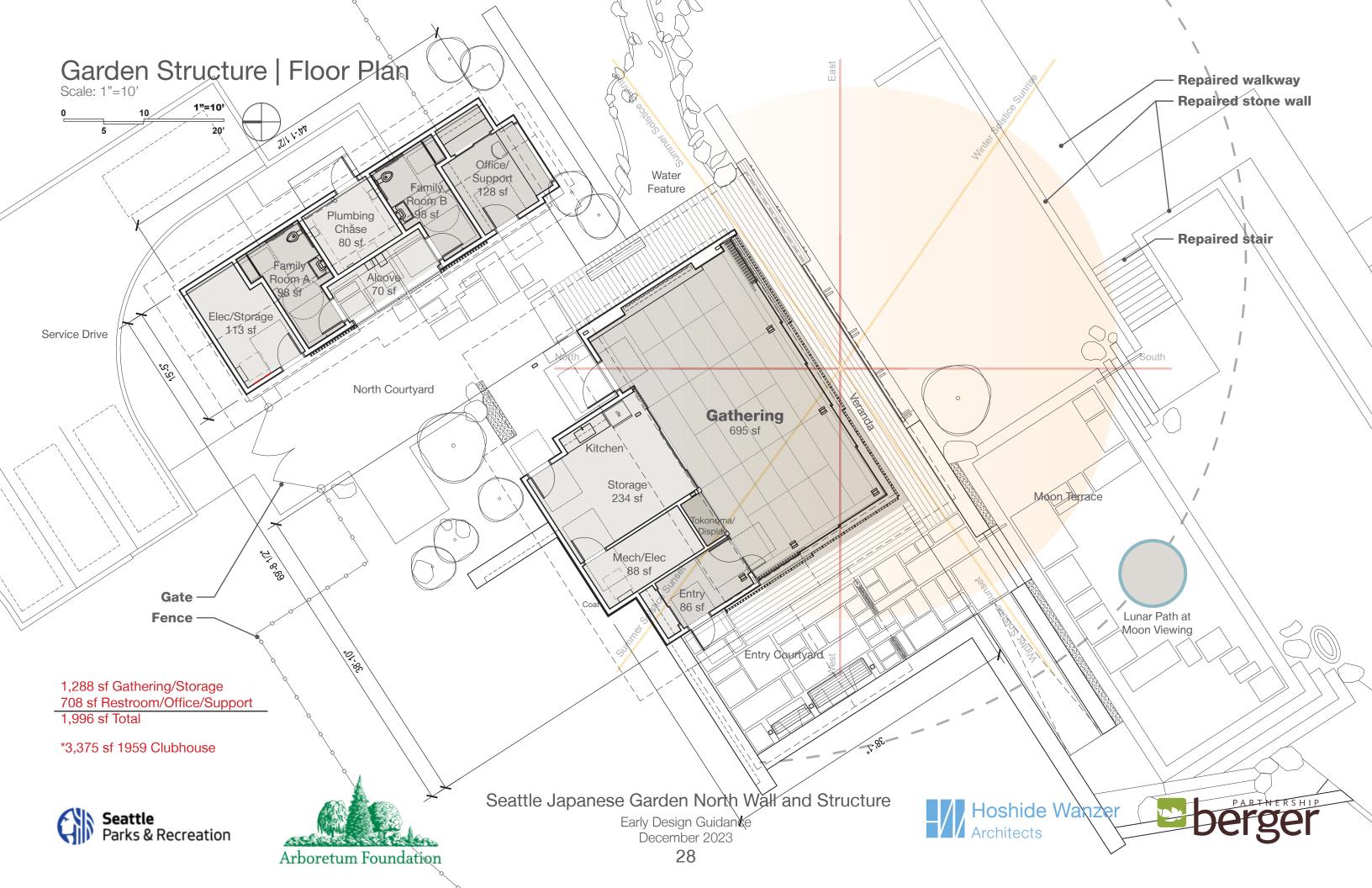






LIVING JAPANESE TRADITIONS GARDEN STRUCTURE DESIGN













Nakashima Arts Building | 1960-75

Precedent Studies: Katsura Rikyu Imperial Villa | 17th Century





Perspective Rendering:





Perspective Location Diagram









Interpretation of Principles "Before" Images









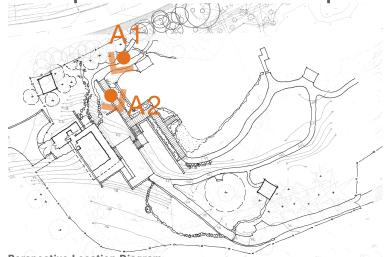






Interpretation of Principles | Additional Views - Hide and Reveal from East Pathway

Precedent Studies:

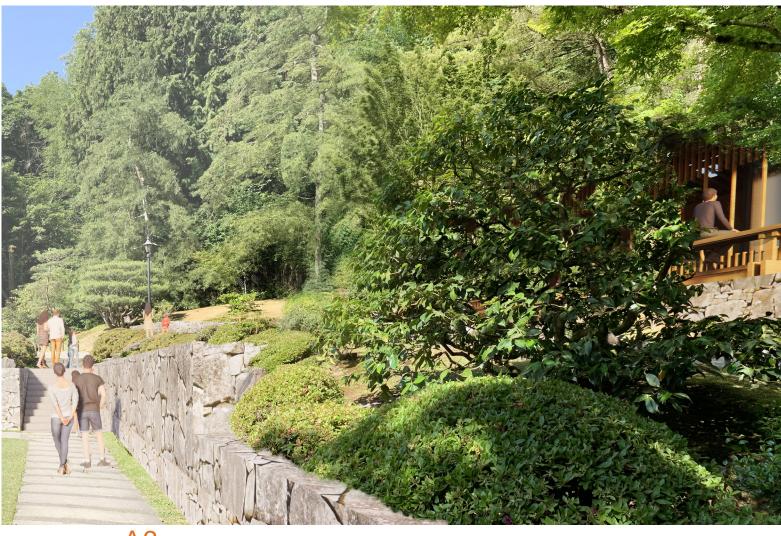




Jisho-ji | 15th Century

Perspective Location Diagram





Perspective Rendering: A

View from Wisteria Trellis

Perspective Rendering: A 2

View along Pond Edge at Ishigaki Wall







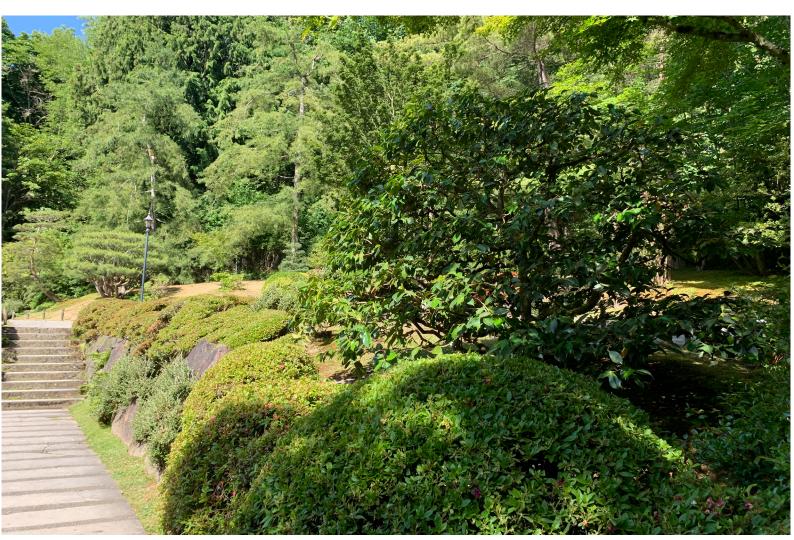






Interpretation of Principles | Additional Views - Hide and Reveal from East Pathway "Before" Images























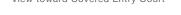
Nezu Museum | 2009

Precedent Studies: Meiji Jingu Museum | 2019



View toward Covered Entry Court

Perspective Rendering:





Perspective Location Diagram









Interpretation of Principles "Before" Images





















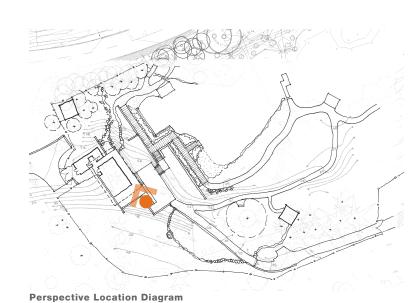


Nezu Museum | 2009

Precedent Studies:

Shofu-so | 1954, Elizabeth Felicella

Jonan-gu Shrine | 11th Century





Perspective Rendering:













Interpretation of Principles "Before" Images

















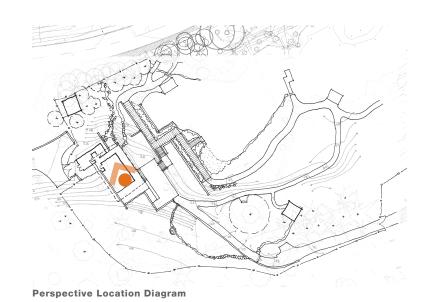






University Unitarian Church | 1959

Zuisho-ji Temple | 17th Century - 2018 Renovation





Perspective Rendering:

Interior of Gathering Space looking east toward the presentation wall















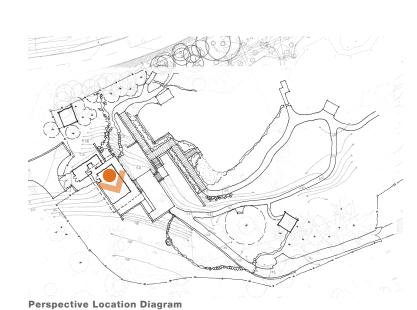


Nakagawa Machi Bato Hiroshige Museum | 2000

Precedent Studies:

Nakashima Arts Building | 1960-75

Kyukyodo Kyoto | 2021



Perspective Rendering:

Interior of Gathering Space looking west toward the Entry Court









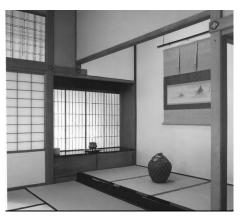




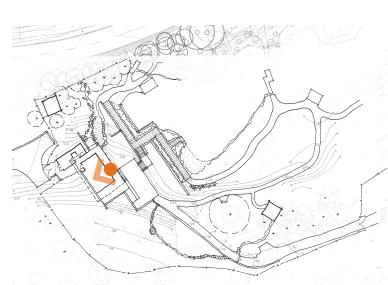




Shugakuin Rikyu Imperial Villa | 17th Century



Tokonoma



Perspective Location Diagram



Perspective Rendering:

Interior of Gathering Space looking north toward the Tokonoma and Entry









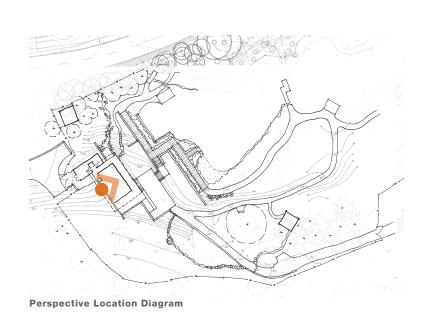








2 Koho-an Temple | 18th Century





Perspective Rendering:

Interior of Gathering Space looking south toward the Pond and Garden











Material | Garden Structure



WARM WOOD UNDERSIDE



STEEL PLATE ROOF



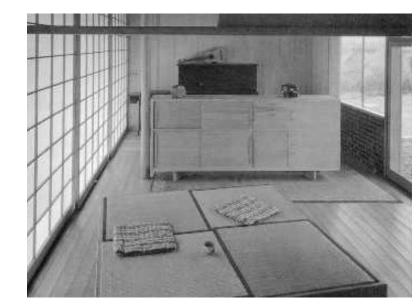
EXPRESS STRUCTURE



WOOD SLATS AND GLASS



ELEVATED WOOD VERANDA



TATAMI MAT MOBILE PLATFORM ON CONCRETE FLOOR





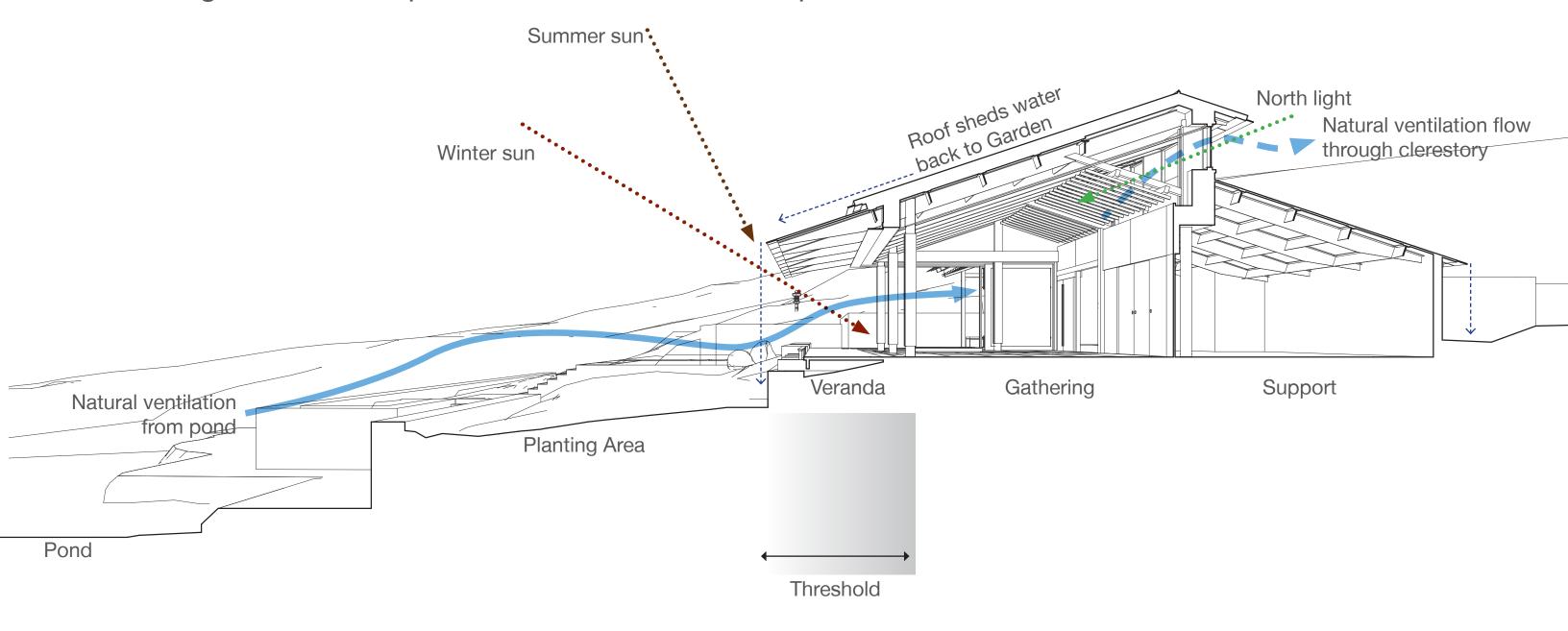








Garden Structure | Section Embracing Traditional Japanese Environmental Principles





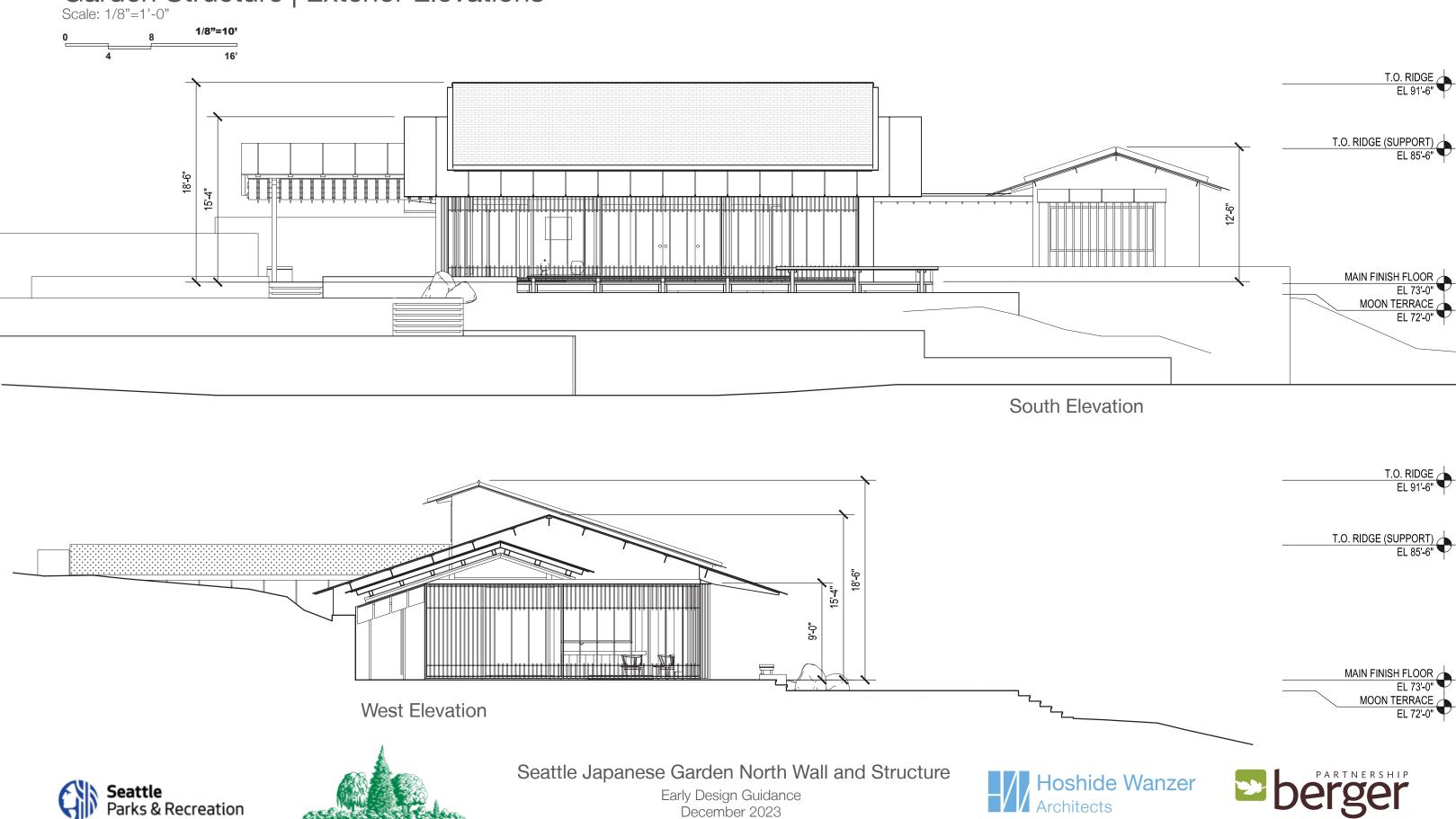






Garden Structure | Exterior Elevations

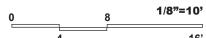
Arboretum Foundation

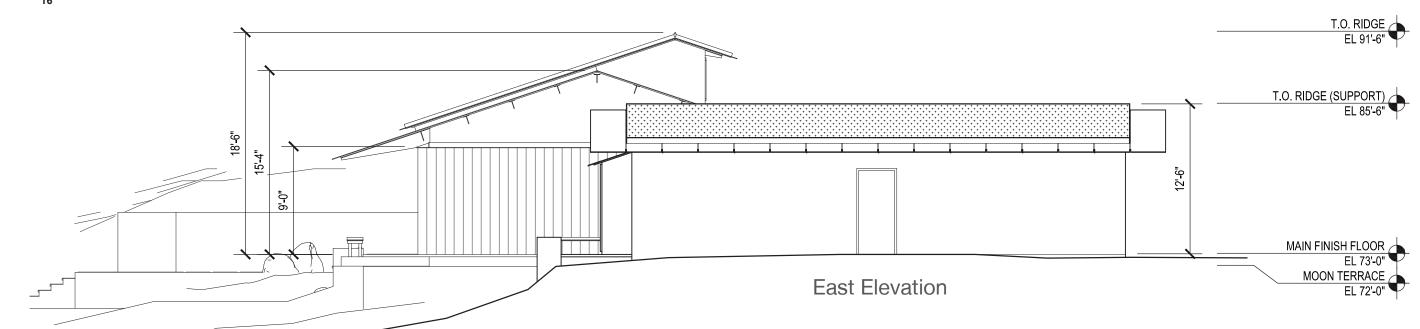


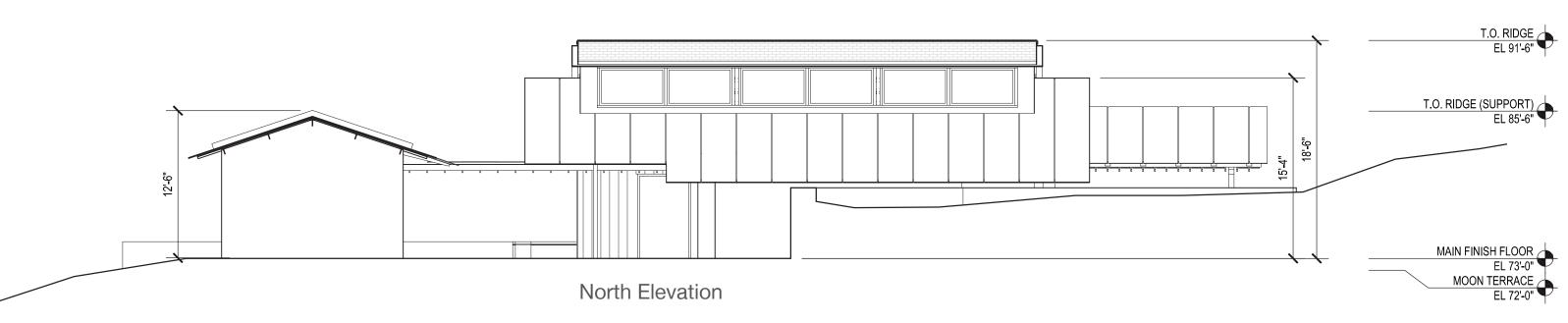
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Garden Structure | Exterior Elevations













Seattle Japanese Garden North Wall and Structure



