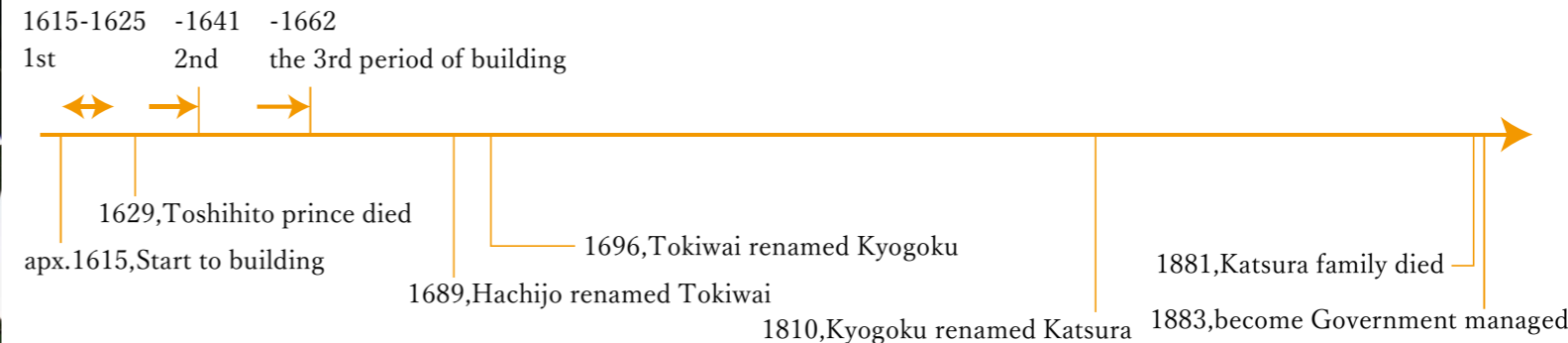


# Kyoto Katsura Imperial Villa

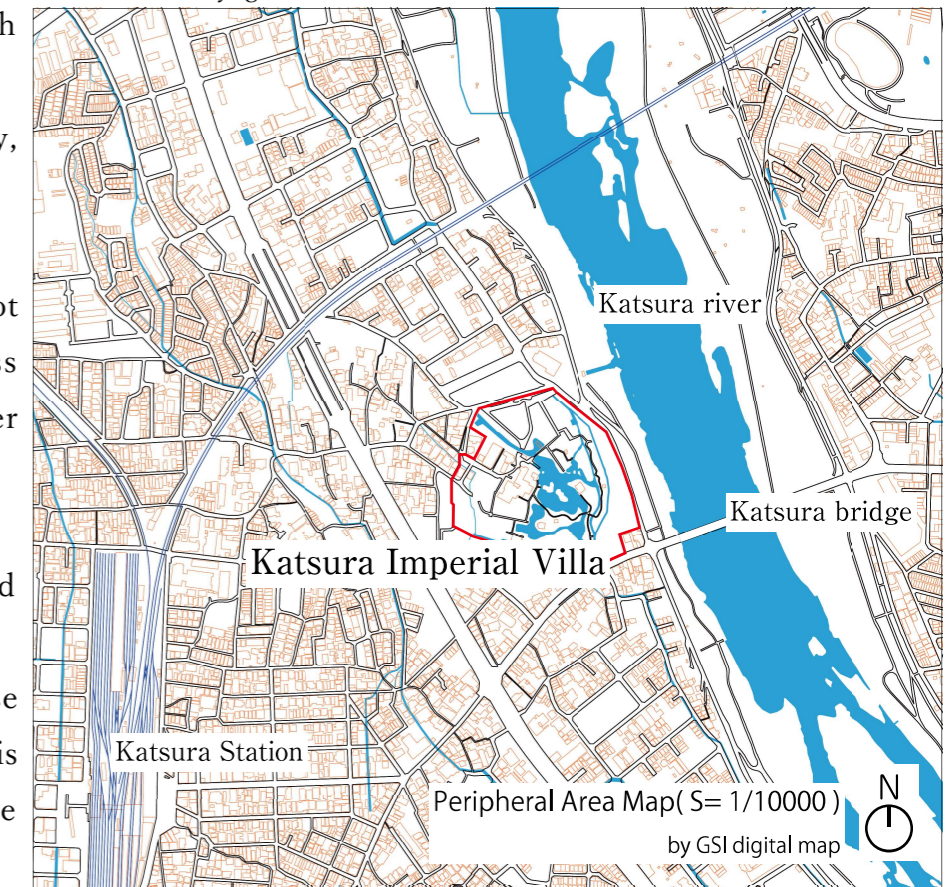
Takashi IRIBE  
Naoki KAKUMA



Katsura Imperial Villa is built in 17th Century, in Edo period, by Toshihito prince. He is the first generation of Hachijo family, and built it as his family's Villa at Katsura.

He started to build the Villa, but this had not finished at that time. The building process has 3 parts, and his descendants took over the building.

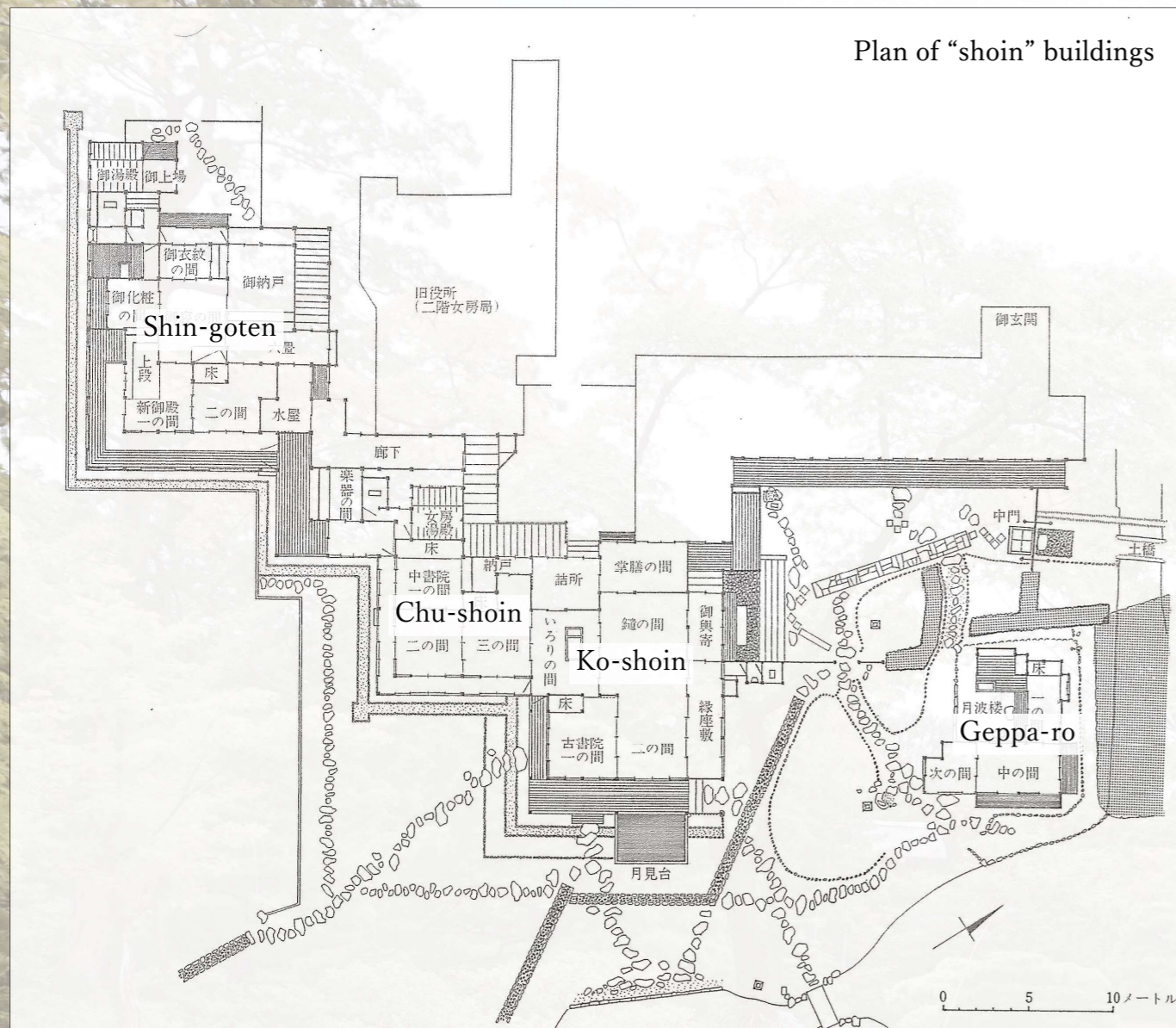
The Villa is consisted by garden and buildings, 3 "shoin" and 4 tea room. Those are all considered as a great Japanese buildings. Especially, the Japanese garden is also famous as the first circulating-style garden.



"Ama no hashi date" in near side, "Shoin" buildings in the further side.

fig.1-2

"Miyuki-mon", a main gate for great guests



Plan of "shoin" buildings

川上貢, 中村昌生著『桂離宮と茶室』小学館, 1967年

Katsura Imperial Villa have "shoin" buildings and tea houses.

"Ko-shoin" and "Chu-shoin" is for public, "Shin-goten" is for living. One room is Buddhist family chapel for pray, and tea houses for joy. Those are, in this garden, appearing as the integrated one.

For guests, this villa have equipments dispersed facing on the pond. They saw the pond, the garden, and sky from different view and find pleasure. This architect, take the top of luxury of those days, is full of great works for enjoyment.

Furthermore, those are related to nature strongly, so we can find artificial management obviously.



Whole Plan of Katsura Imperial Villa

# Shoin

At front side, “Ko-shoin” for public things.

There is “Tsukimi-dai” meaning a stage to enjoy the moon, those things gave pleasure to guests.

“Chu-shoin” have some rooms for official business.

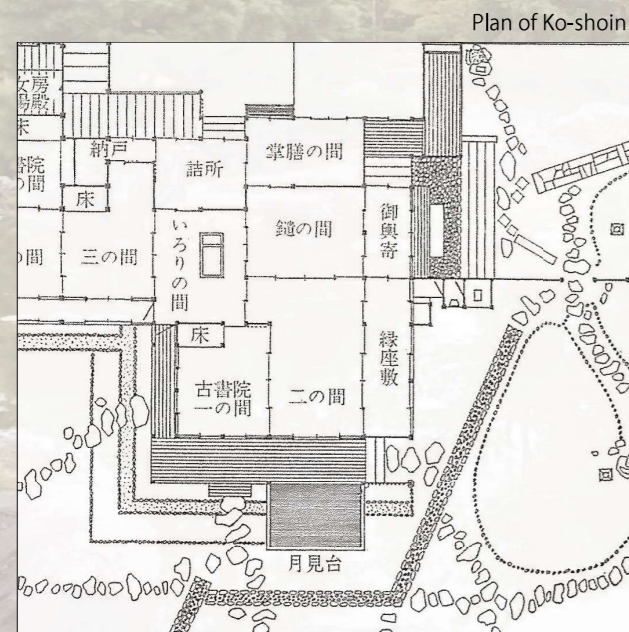
Probably, the rooms are used for greeting with important guest.

On the contrary, “Shin-goten” have rooms for daily trifles, for example “Gyoshin-no-ma” as a bedroom.

And those are arranged in diagonal line.



Ko-shoin



Plan of Ko-shoin

“Shoin” is a type of Japanese traditional buildings.

Shoin style is for grugal life, but become formal.

Finally, it’s succeeded by “Sukiya” style.

3 shoin buildings in the villa is bult in early “Sukiya” style.

“Sukiya” is from a style for tea rooms.

And the style is taken by the design of living space, as a result, those shoin buildings are built.

Shokin-tei.

Of the 4 tea houses, the most formal one.

We can see this

from east, north, and west, and each have different pleasure.



Shokin-tei



View from Shokin-tei  
Shoin and Geppa-ro on the left,  
and Ama-no-hashidate on the right.

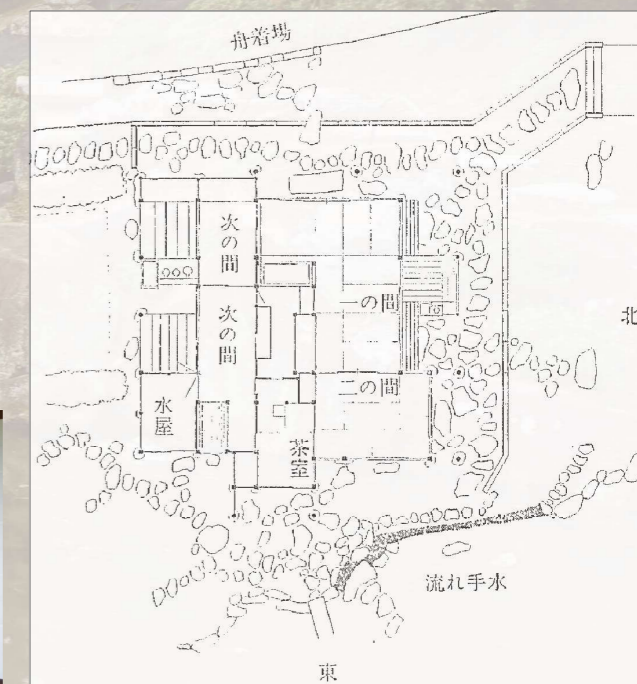


The name, “Sukiya”, is from “Sukiya-zasiki”.

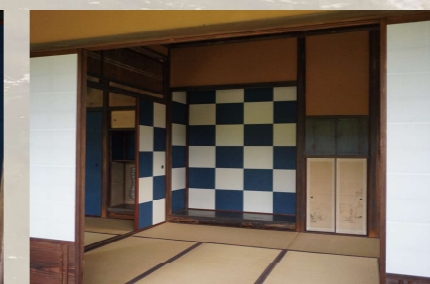
This is the style of the thought of tea ceremony

by Sen no rikyū, the greatest person of the tea history.

Its typical one is this Shokin-tei.



Inner view of Shokin-tei



## Tea House

In this villa, there are 4 tea houses, and those houses are also results of huge effort. Toshihito and his descendants make a lot of changes.

All houses are seen over the pond, and we can see the pond in front of view from all houses. Each house have each means to enjoy seasons.



fig.3-2

# Nature in Architecture



The hedge separate the villa from circumference. It's called "Katsura-gaki", made by living bamboo.

Living, but nature is used for design.

Natural things are designed as undesigned one. Those not only form roads, but also used as materials, used as barriers, a part of landscape, and sight leadin gs for design.



Likewise hedge, woods are used in state of un lumbered, on the other hand lumber cut with ragged stone.

Corporating with the axis of shoin buildings, linear roads are spread around over the whole garden, however we cannot see the destination. A slight angle of road, tree and stones are constantly cutting off our view, and leading.



With walking around, landscape come to our sight little by little.

# Nature and Architecture



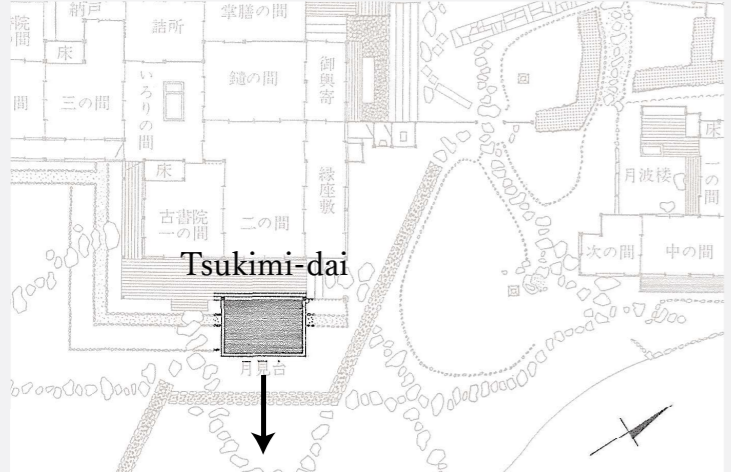
# Architecture in Nature

Shoin buildings are all raised-floor. We can cognize a sign of Katsura river. Unlike former examples, Nature rules Architecture. We call this, "Architecture in Nature"



Not only direct controls of Nature, there are controls of Architecture caused by Nature. This opposite tecnique show us the existence of the mutual relationship of Nature and Architecture.

機能的に配置された各室の間に入り込む中庭と、中心を占める池との各建築の関係をまとめれば日本古来の自然と建築の付き合いが見て取れる。



Tsukimi-dai attached to Ko-shoin.

Considering solar and lunar orbit, the direction of Tsukimi-dai is shifted from due west direction.

With it, the axis of the shoin buildins is shifted too.

先人達がここにモダニズムの種を見出したのであれば、そこから派生した現代においても日本独特の付き合い方が残っているのではないか。



そしてそこに残る自然が「建築に取り込まれた自然」なのか「自然に取り込まれた建築」なのか二つの立ち位置を考えることで、都市の中での自然のあり方も見えてくる可能性がある。環境的な自然や、意匠としての自然ではない自然と建築の関係をここから考えられるだろう。