

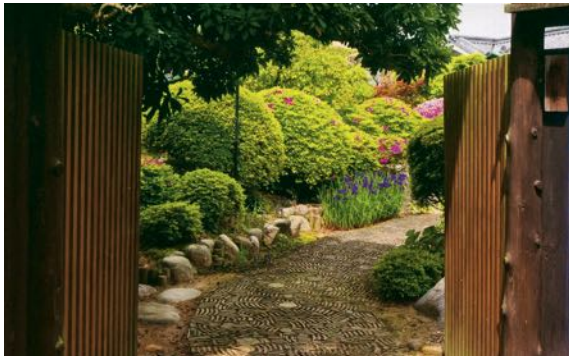
House of the Tiled Walkway 瓦道の邸¹ by Graham Bowyer

During our trip to Japan in 2012, Pauline and I spent some time on the island of Shikoku. This was mostly to see the glorious countryside, but while there we spent a couple of days in Matsuyama. We took a tram to go to see an historic garden, Kōshin-an, which is not the subject of this article. I was studying the city map and looking out for landmarks in the hope that we might get off at an appropriate tram stop, when the lady opposite offered to help. She apologised that she was unable to take us to the garden as she was taking her daughter to

piano lessons. However, she pointed out the correct stop and the direction to take. We found the garden without difficulty.

On a pleasant afternoon, we were the only visitors to this quiet spot near the city centre. Whilst there, the lady from the tram appeared, saying she wanted to make sure we had successfully found the garden. Kazuyo was exceptionally kind and we spent a long time sitting in the garden talking about our trip, our interest in Japanese

gardens and so on. After some time, Kazuyo said she had a friend with a special garden that she would like to take us to, and that she would phone ahead to ensure the owner was at home. Sadly, no-one answered the phone. As we were moving on the following day, we had to say that we would try to return on another trip, perhaps in a few years' time. Ever since we have kept in touch with Kazuyo. It is with some regret that I have to report that Pauline has yet to return to Matsuyama, though it is on the priority list for a future trip.



Entrance from the street.



Corridor running alongside the house.



Garden view with carp banners flying.



Tiled pathway leading to the house.



View of the garden from the corridor.



Stepping stones leading to the waiting arbour.

Tiled Walkway.....continued

However, on the 2016 Society trip to Japan, there was a free day in Hiroshima. It's not that far from Hiroshima to Matsuyama by car; Matsuyama is at the western end of Shikoku with Hiroshima almost due north on the coast of Honshu. There is a nearby bridge connecting the islands, but it is road only. The train service goes a long way round via the bridge at the eastern end of Shikoku and takes around 3 1/2 hours. I determined that it would be possible to knock an hour off that by taking the train

to Shin-Onomichi, picking up a hire car and driving across the bridge. I contacted Kazuyo and a visit was arranged. My co-leader, Ann Dobson, volunteered to join me, while the rest of the group enjoyed their free day in Hiroshima.

The house and garden we were taken to date from the 1930s and have been in the same family since their construction. The owner, Mrs. Mikuni Yatsuzuka, made us most welcome, and showed us around. She even

provided us with a page of notes, translated into English. After our return I was contemplating writing an article on the garden, when a parcel arrived from Japan. It was a book, self-published by Mrs. Yatsuzuka, the story of her family and of the house and garden. The text is in both Japanese and English.

What follows are two extracts from that book, reproduced here with the kind permission of Mrs. Yatsuzuka, and a selection of photographs, some of mine



Entrance to the tea house.



Interior of the tea house.



Dry stream and pond.



Main house western room.



Main house drawing and living rooms.

and some taken from the book. The first extract is the introduction to the book written by Mrs. Yatsuzuka, and the second is a description of the house and garden written by Naoki Hanaoka, who had the property designated as a tangible cultural property.

Preface by Mikuni Yatsuzuka

The house taken up in this book was built in 1936 by my grandparents (Naoshige and Yasu Yatsuzuka) mainly for the purpose of enjoying a tea ceremony. A teahouse is attached adjacent to the front entrance. A waiting place appropriate for an authentic tea ceremony is also arranged in the garden.

In those days, enjoying a tea ceremony was a kind of

testimony to being a first-rate gentleman and the main host of a tea ceremony was usually acted by a man.

There were social parties in Matsuyama, and members took turns serving as host. A host couple racked their brains for giving a unique, elaborate tea ceremony on their own.

My grandmother would often talk in a nostalgic tone of voice about those happy hours of talking together over tea.

In the course of time, the Pacific War broke out to hamper their having a party like that.

And after the war, most people had difficulty maintaining their property due to the economic turmoil.

However, by some strokes of good luck this house has remained as it is today.

One fortuity was that the house escaped being burnt down in the devastating air raid of Matsuyama in July, 1945. At the same time, it was exempted from expropriation by the occupation troops stationed in Matsuyama.

My aunt on my mother's side (Sohoh Yatsuzuka) kept making use of the house as a practice venue of Urasenke School of tea ceremony over a long period in and after the wartime, which was instrumental in maintaining the function for a tea ceremony. What's most fortunate, however, is that the time this house was built was the



Waiting arbour (GB).



Pathway leading to the tea house (GB).

Tiled Walkway.....continued

last period before the war when they were able to secure superior building materials as well as a top-notch master carpenter and a gardener.

That's the reason why the house has withstood several earthquakes and typhoons thereafter.

Japanese buildings with western-style annexes which are reminiscent of the early part of Showa (1920 - 1930) used to exist around the upscale area of Mochida.

Now that most of them went out of sight I came to think of publishing this book as proof of the good old days.

It would be my utmost pleasure if you would enjoy looking through the memorials.

I would like to conclude the preface by expressing my

heartfelt appreciation for Mr. Nichio Kameda, who spared his precious time for taking pictures of the house, and for Mr. Naoki Hanaoka who took the trouble to have the building designated as a tangible cultural property, and also for Mr. Hideo Tarumi who undertook the translation of this introduction into English.

2017.6.13 Mikuni Yatsuzuka

Afterword by Naoki Hanaoka

Mochida is a quiet residential area located between the eastern part of the city center of Matsuyama and Dogo area.

There are many buildings that escaped the air raid, such as several private houses, Meikyo-kan, (the cultural

property designated by Ehime prefecture), the auditorium of the former Matsuyama High School which is a tangible cultural property designated by the Government, the former Matsuyama Meteorological Observatory, Ehime Prefectural Education Center and so on.

Near that area, in the west of a junior high school affiliated with Ehime Univ. exists a house with a large garden.

This is the house of the Yatsuzukas.

The small gate is built in the southernmost corner of the east side. It is rather small compared with the large premises. It is thought the owner intended to produce a cottage-like ambience by building the entrance gate



Pathway leading from the main house entrance (GB).



Mrs. Kajiwara's daughter, author, Mikuni Yatsuzuka (owner), Ann Dobson, Kazuyo Kajiwara (GB).

small and simple. That way, the house was not segregated from the outside.

The approach leading from the outer entrance gate to the porch of the main house is made by burying quartered rooftiles vertically into the earth and azaleas are planted alongside the tiled walkway.

Stepping down the walkway makes us feel as if going along a stream. Tiled walkway looks like a glittering current. Among the buried tiles, we find several round tiles, each one with a hollyhock leaf pattern. They are said to be tiles used on the roof of the subcastle of Matsuyama Castle which was burnt down by arson in 1933.

The main building is one-story teahouse-like house built in 1936.



View of the garden (GB).

The northern part of the house is built in Western style. It was built originally, not as a later addition. This is called "one-room Western-style house" and there were many around this area. They were popular in those days for having an air of romance and fantasy.

Advancing from the porch, we come to a drawing room with 8 tatami-mats and a living room. And a 1.35m wide hallway faces a spacious garden in the southern part of the location. The drawing room is simple but refined.

In the north side of the house is the back porch which leads readily to the dining room and kitchen, also to the Western-style room and drawing room.

The teahouse in the south of the porch has 4.5 tatami mats and a small aperture. It also has a kitchenette with 3 tatami-mats. The roof of the teahouse is covered

with copper plates and outer walls are decorated with cedar bark, which shows it was intended as an authentic teahouse. A waiting place with a bench and rest rooms is set up adjacent to the tea-house. Stepping stones connect the teahouse and the waiting place. The stones gradually become smaller as we draw nearer to the waiting place. This contrivance is thought to be a sort of perspective so as to make the garden look wider. It also intends to make walking people mind their steps.

There is a garden mound between the outer entrance and the waiting place, and here and there, conifers, such as pine trees, kaizuka-ibuki (a kind of cypress), hiba cypress and broadleaf trees such as oaks, mochi-trees are

planted in good harmony. Besides the mound, there are several kinds of small plants such as azaleas and other flowers so that people can enjoy a lovely sight.

In the northwest corner of the premises, stands a two-story storehouse, which was transferred to this place from the original place in Minatomachi. It was called "tool shed". By the way, two other storehouses in Minatomachi were reduced to rubble in the air raid near the end of WWII.

The Yatsuzuka house was built using the best possible lumber in the times of a universal shortage of materials before WWII. And various original designs are arranged on the interiors, which shows the chief carpenter's eagerness and motivation.

Such is this house.

Incidentally, in the Western-style room, a German-made piano tells the history of the house together with the buildings. It is said to have been carried with the horse and cart into the mandarin grove of Ishite shortly before the end of WWII.

(Note) The Yatsuzuka house was designated as a tangible cultural property by the Government in 2015 (27th year of Heisei.)³

2017.5.9 Naoki Hanaoka

Footnotes

¹ Note on pronunciation: The book indicates that 瓦道の邸 is to be pronounced as かわらみちのやかた (kawara michi no yakata).

² Note that the book is not for sale.

³ See: https://www.city.matsuyama.ehime.jp/kanko/kankoguide/rekishibunka/bunkazai/kunitouroku/yatsuduka_shuoku.html