



 **KOSUGI** Kosugi Zohen Co.,Ltd.

Landscape design and Landscape construction office in Tokyo, Japan

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 **KOSUGI**
Introduction of Japanese garden

Message from the President

Greetings. My name is Saki Kosugi. I am the third president of Kosugi Zohen Co., Ltd. a landscaping company in Setagaya ward, Tokyo. Beginning with our family's first generation who was a farmer and nurseryman, Kosugi family has been in a nature-related business for over 300 years in Tokyo.



I believe it is important to introduce Japanese gardening culture to the world, hoping to promote more cultural exchange between Japan and countries abroad. I also wish Japanese people would recognize the beauty of Japanese garden once again when they hear about popularity of Japanese garden built abroad.

I feel very obliged to get to know a lot of people through my business. I keep trying to improve the social status of "artisan" so that people would recognize their arts and skills.

International Seminar on Japanese Gardening

At Kosugi Zohen, we are doing our best to preserve and inherit our knowledge and skills to the next generation. One of such efforts is our intensive and practice-oriented international seminar on garden art and garden construction held at our training facility in Atami, Japan. Craftsman from different countries participate the program to learn tigh knowledge and masterful skills of the garden specialists here in Japan, while enjoying traditional art of tea ceremony and flower arrangement to familiarize themselves what traditional Japanese culture would offer. Please come and join our unique curriculum!



Japanese garden made by participants



Learn various skills of Japanese gardening : Installing a stone lantern



Building an earthen wall



Lecture of *Bonsai*, art of growing trees in a container



Experiencing a tea ceremony



A break after a seminar

See more details on International seminar for gardeners abroad in our homepage.

Welcome to the world of Japanese Garden

There are various ways to enjoy Japanese garden. So it might be a good idea just to take a walk on a garden path and enjoy the ever-changing landscape in each season. Indeed, understanding the concept and styles of Japanese gardens will add further delights to your experience in the garden.

Typical features found in a Japanese garden

(photo taken in a "Chaniwa" at MOA museum, Atami, Japan)



Tsukubai and *Kakebi*

A water basin for washing hands before entering a tea-ceremony house



Tourou

Curved out of a stone, this lantern is used for outside light



Takegaki

Bamboo fence is often used for characterizing a particular area of a garden, blindfold, and set a boundary

History of Japanese Garden

"*Jodo*-style" and "*Shinden*-style" garden were developed between 800-1200 A.D.. "*Jodo*-style" garden was sought to reproduce the Pure Land in Buddhism. The picture on the left shows a typical "*Jodo*-style" garden in Byoudouin.

From 1200 to late 1500 A.D., "dry garden (*Karesansui*-style garden)" was created. This style is characterized by dry pond and stream, in which sands and rocks symbolize the flow of water.

"*Shoin*-style" garden was developed sometimes between late 1500 to 1600 A.D.. This garden was designed to be overseen by people sitting in a room called *Shoin*, a study.

About the same period of time, "tea garden (*Roji*=*Chaniwa*)", a small garden where visitors can be ready to enter the tea-ceremony house, was developed.

Between 1600 and 1800 A.D., "*Daimyo*-style" garden was developed. In that era, pond stroll style garden was the most popular, which was the composition of "*Shoin*-style" garden and tea garden. In the garden, pond, island, mountain and tea house where there is usually a garden path or a bridge leading to the house are installed. The structure of "*Daimyo*-style" garden usually tries to make onlookers focus on nearby mountains or beautiful scenery in the distance aiming to be seen as if the mountains were the part of its grounds.

After 1900 A.D., a man of power often built their own gardens adding their tastes to the past garden styles. Kosugi Zohen maintains and manages one of such gardens, called *Kokian*, built by Aritomo Yamagata.

All in all, Japanese gardens are influenced by various concepts and backgrounds described above and are made based on the idea of "*Wabi-Sabi*" and "Respect for Nature", all of which make Japanese gardens highly appreciated by people. In addition, since four seasons are very distinct in Japan, seasonal differences make these gardens attractive all year long. We hope you will enjoy their beauty through your eyes.



Byoudouin (Kyoto-prefecture)



Kokian (Kanagawa-prefecture)



Kokian (Kanagawa-prefecture)



For Customer Satisfaction

This phrase has been our company principal since our establishment. We pledge to bring satisfaction of our work to all of the customers and continuously seek ways to spread Japanese gardening culture to all over the world.

We won a Gold medal award in the 39th WorldSkills Competition in Landscape Gardening

The first WorldSkills Competition started in Spain, 1950. Since then, in order to promote and improve skills of specialists, many youngsters have participated in this contest. In 2007 competition, 3,769 technicians from 62 countries got together.

In Landscape Gardening category, two employees from Kosugi Zohen proudly won a gold medal, the first accomplishment in the category by Japanese contestants.



Introducing Japanese Garden to the world

We are often asked to give a presentation about Japanese garden from different companies, educational institutions, and governments from in and outside of Japan. In every presentation, participants are enthusiastic and ask a lot of questions about Japanese garden.



Presentation at the University of Zagreb (Croatia)



Visit to the University of Forestry, Sofia (Bulgaria)



We were very much proud and honored to have welcomed the President of Azerbaijan to a Japanese garden we constructed. We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Azerbaijan government for the opportunity they offered.

In Japan, the Japanese garden in Ismaylli was introduced in a newspaper article on the Daily Yomiuri. Thanks to the tremendous circulation of the paper, 10 million readers in Japan got to know about the garden and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Daily Yomiuri article of December 15, 2009 (right)
(Reprint permission obtained from the Daily Yomiuri)

Gardener creates corner of Japan in Azerbaijan

By Takashi Sakinaga
Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer

A gardener has transformed a plot of land in Azerbaijan into a tiny piece of Japan. Saki Kosugi, the president of a Tokyo landscaping company, has created a 2,650-square-meter Japanese garden in Azerbaijan.

Kosugi, 61, set about the task after receiving a commission from the Azerbaijani government via a European landscape gardening association to cultivate the garden in the Caspian Sea nation of which he knew little.

He originally planned to lead a team of Azerbaijani horticulturists in sculpting the garden, but cultural differences meant work progressed slowly and forced him to use a trusted hand.

With the help of one Japanese employee, he toiled for 1 1/2 months on the project, completing it on schedule in early October.

Kosugi rendered an impression of water flowing from a mountain using an artificial hill and sand. He used grass rather than the traditional moss used in Japan to depict the star that appears on the Azerbaijani flag.

He explained the meaning to visiting Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev. "Aliyev seemed pleased and ran up the artificial hill," Kosugi said. "I think I had him standing at the threshold [of understanding Japan]."

Kosugi is the third president of a family landscaping company in the capital's Setagaya Ward. The company has been tending to fewer and fewer Japanese gardens over the years.

"Only one or two jobs out of about 200 a year are Japanese gardens," Kosugi said.

Three years ago, Kosugi began heading overseas, visiting countries such as Bulgaria and Croatia, to spread the culture of Japan's gardens.

"Japanese gardens have wonderful craft and culture that express the concentration of nature into a small area," Kosugi said. "I wish Japanese would pay more attention to them."



We constructed a Japanese garden in Heydar Aliyev Park, Ismaylli, Azerbaijan.

The first Japanese garden in Azerbaijan was created by us. In October 2009, we completed "Shumisen" styled Japanese garden (2,650m²) in Azerbaijan. Considering the cultural differences between two countries, we created a garden that is suggestive of Japan. Also, we used majority of plants from Azerbaijan so that the vegetation would be likely to adapt to the new garden.

We would like to cooperate with people abroad

Please feel free to ask for a design and construction of Japanese garden to Kosugi Zohen.

Experienced gardening designer will suggest a wonderful idea for Japanese garden. From technical supervision and suggestion to actual construction, we can do it for you.

Our gardening masters with staffs who can speak English, German, Spanish, Korean, and Chinese will visit your country.

Design Examples



Sketch



Photomontage



Computer graphics

Construction examples in Japan



Private house



Apartment Complex



Green Roof

Our works awarded in a gardening contest



Company Information

Trade Name: Kosugi Zohen Co., Ltd.

President and CEO: Saki Kosugi

Number of Employee: 75 (As of August, 2015)

Capital Stock: 40,000,000 yen (As of February, 2015)

Yearly Construction #: 160 (Rounded Record as of February, 2015)

Yearly Managing Properties #: 1,800 (Round Record as of February, 2015)

Head Office: Tokyo-to, Setagaya-ku, Kitazawa 1-7-5 155-0031, Japan

Yokohama Office: Kanagawa-ken, Yokohama-shi, Hodogaya-ku

Atami Training Facility: Shizuoka-ken, Atami-shi, Izusan

Experimental Forest: Shizuoka-ken, Itou-shi, Usami

Company Profile Landscape design and landscape construction

Maintenance of gardens, green tract of lands

Lease and sales of a foliage plant

Sales of miscellaneous gardening tools

Related works of listed above

Affiliation ELCA / European Landscape Contractors Association

JFLC / Japan Federation of Landscape Contractors

Atami Training Facility (A facility to learn Japanese Gardening skills)



Full View



Inside



Hot Spring Spa



Tatami, a guest room

Experimental Forest



We manage and maintain a colony of *Stewartia monadelph* and open to the public so that people can enjoy the scenery and unique experiences.

The picture shows a blossom of *Prunus jamasakura* in spring in the same locality.

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