

About the Overseas Japanese Garden Restoration Project

Kumamoto City, Kumamoto
Prefecture



Technical guidance on how to tie together a bamboo fence (San Antonio, USA)



The traditional Japanese garden was completed in July 2021.

Situation (Background/Aims)

In undertaking the restoration of traditional Japanese gardens located in Kumamoto's sister city of San Antonio (USA) and exchange city of Aix-en-Provence (France), Kumamoto City was motivated by the "38th National Urban Greening Fair: KUMAMOTO GREEN VISION EXPO" (abbreviated to "KUMAMOTO FLOWER EXPO" beginning in March 2022, and after being selected for the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism's Overseas Japanese Garden Restoration Project, decided to undertake these two restorations (which are currently ongoing) in cooperation with the Kumamoto City Landscape Architecture and Construction Industry Association.

Content (Project Outline)

"Kumamoto-en" is a traditional Japanese garden that opened in San Antonio City in 1989, and the facilities were aging.

In Aix, the late Noh actor Kano Shuho, who had resided in Kumamoto City, donated the only all-cypress Noh stage outside Japan to the city of Aix-en-Provence. This Noh stage is located in the Saint-Mitre Park, which is managed by the city, and a concept was born for redeveloping the area surrounding the stage as a traditional Japanese garden, with the aim of providing a space where park visitors could experience Japanese culture.

Results (Features and Innovation, Future Developments, etc.)

For these restoration projects, not only were locally procured materials and equipment used as much as possible, but also innovations were made to enable non-Japanese staff to appropriately maintain and manage the gardens, such as compiling a Japanese-English bilingual manual.

In addition, representatives of San Antonio and Aix are members of the KUMAMOTO FLOWER EXPO's organising committee, and when the EXPO is being held, information about not only these garden restoration projects but also the appeal of the cultures and music, etc., of both cities and countries will be disseminated, thereby further expanding exchange.