

Seasonal Events and Exhibitions

Early Apr.	Birthday of Shakyamuni "GOTAN-E" Flower Festival "HANA MATSURI"
Jul. & Aug.	Shoro Dana "Obon Festival"
Early Oct.	Memorial Service for Bodhidharma Death "DARUMAKI"
Oct./Nov.	Zen Temple Tour
Nov. - Dec.	Student-planned Exhibition
Dec.	Anniversary of Shakyamuni's Enlightenment "JODO-E" Special Exhibition of "Shussan Shaka-zu", Rohatsu Zazen Seminar
Dec./Jan.	Surishi(Printer) Work Tour
Mid to late Feb.	Shakyamuni's Nirvana Ceremony "NEHAN-E", Special Exhibition of "Dai Nehan-zu"



History of Komazawa University

1592 Establishment of a Soto Zen Buddhist seminary at Kichijoji
1882 Founding of the Soto-shu Daigakurin Senmongaku Honko
1899 Renamed "Soto-shu Daigakurin" (Private School Ordinance)
1905 Renamed "Soto-shu Daigaku" (Vocational School Ordinance)
1913 Relocated to Komazawa Village, Ebara District, Tokyo Prefecture
1925 Renamed "Komazawa University" under the University Ordinance
1949 Approved as a new university under educational reform
2002 Opened "The Museum of Zen Culture and History"
(120th anniversary project)
2022 140th anniversary of the university's founding
20th anniversary of the museum's opening

What is Zen Buddhism?

When many people hear the phrase "Zen Buddhism", they probably imagine "Zazen" (seated meditation). Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment through Zazen, became the Buddha, and thus Buddhism began. Therefore, Zazen can be said to be a "GYOU (practice)" that continuously embodies the form of the Buddha within oneself. In addition to Zazen, an important characteristic of Zen Buddhism is performing every single activity of daily life, such as eating, sleeping, washing one's face, and working, as "the Buddha's practice".

Zen Buddhism originated in China during the Tang dynasty around the 8th century, and achieved significant development in the subsequent Song dynasty. After the late 12th century, from the end of the Song dynasty through the succeeding Yuan and Ming dynasties, it spread widely to neighboring East Asian regions such as Korea, Vietnam, and Japan, deeply influencing their respective cultures. Furthermore, since the 20th century, under the name "ZEN", it has been transmitted from Japan to various countries worldwide, and is still practiced by many people around the globe, continuing to exert diverse influences on various aspects of culture and technology.

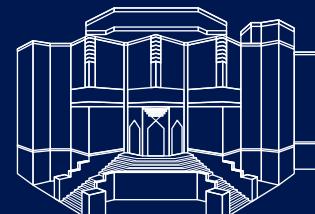
About our Museum

The Museum of Zen Culture and History, Komazawa University opened in June 2002 as part of the 120th-anniversary project, preserving and utilizing the "Kounkan" building, which was selected as a historical building by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. This building was registered as a National Registered Tangible Cultural Property in 2025.

It has a wide-ranging exhibition covering the history of Zen, its practices, scriptures, and the relationship between Zen and Japanese culture. You can see not only valuable ancient artifacts like Zen paintings and calligraphies, but also pay your respects to the central "One Buddha, Two Patriarchs" - the statues of Shakyamuni Buddha, Zen Master Dogen, and Zen Master Keizan - and quietly experience it with your own body and mind.



The Museum of Zen Culture and History · KOUNKAN
Former Library of Komazawa University
Nationally registered tangible cultural property



Souvenirs



- Japanese folding fan
- Sticky notes
- Writing paper
- Masking tape etc...

Hours 10 : 00 a.m. - 4 : 30 p.m.

(Last admission 15 minutes before closing)

Closed Saturdays (excluding the third Saturday)

Sunday, Holidays, University-designated holidays.

- For visitors with wheelchairs, please contact us in advance.
- No admission fee is required.

Access (Tokyo Den-en-toshi Line) 10 minutes' walk from
「Komazawa-daigaku」 Station

1-23-1, Komazawa Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, 154-8525, Japan

Tel 81-3-3418-9610 (Japanese only)

✉ zenpaku@komazawa-u.ac.jp



駒澤大学禅文化歴史博物館

1 F Permanent Exhibition Room

Photo Spots

※Some works cannot be photographed.

3 Reliefs of the Life of Shakyamuni Buddha

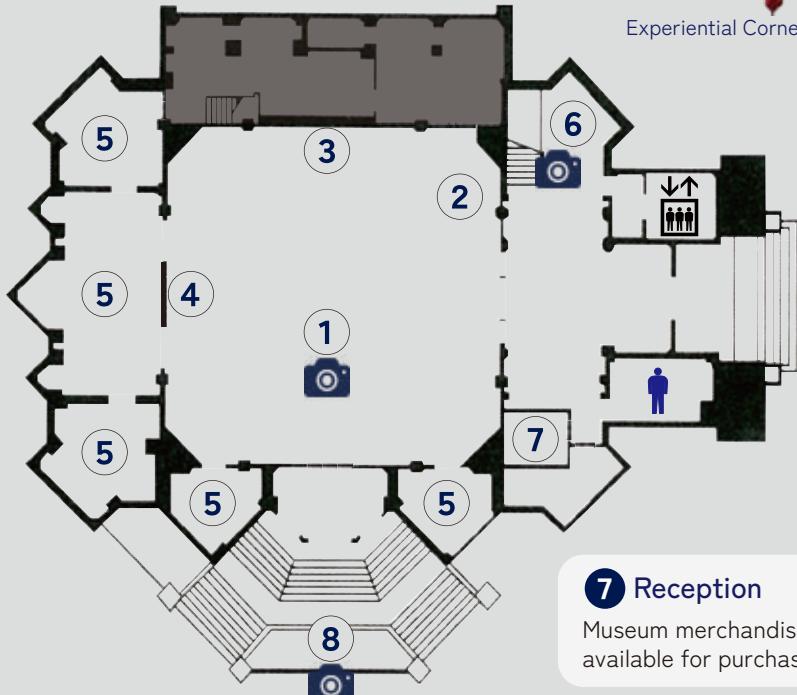
Birth
Watering with Two Elephants
Enlightenment
The Bodhi Tree
Sermon
Worshipping the wheel of Dharma
Nirvana
Worshipping the Stupa



2 Instruments Utilized in Temples



Experiential Corner



7 Reception

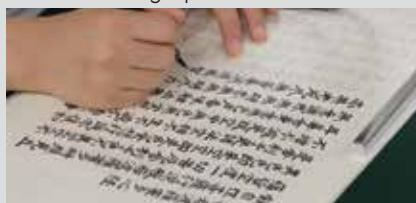
Museum merchandise is available for purchase.

4 Recreating the "TAN" Living Space for Monks



5 History of Zen

Introduces Zen origins, Soto Zen establishment, Shobogenzo/Denkoroku, Zen monk biographies.



Experiential Corner

1 Shakyamuni Buddha & Two Founders

A central Shakyamuni Buddha, with Dogen Zenji on the right and Keizan Zenji on the left.



Photo Spot

6 Equipment at the Time of Construction (1928)



Photo Spot

8 External Facade View



Photo Spot

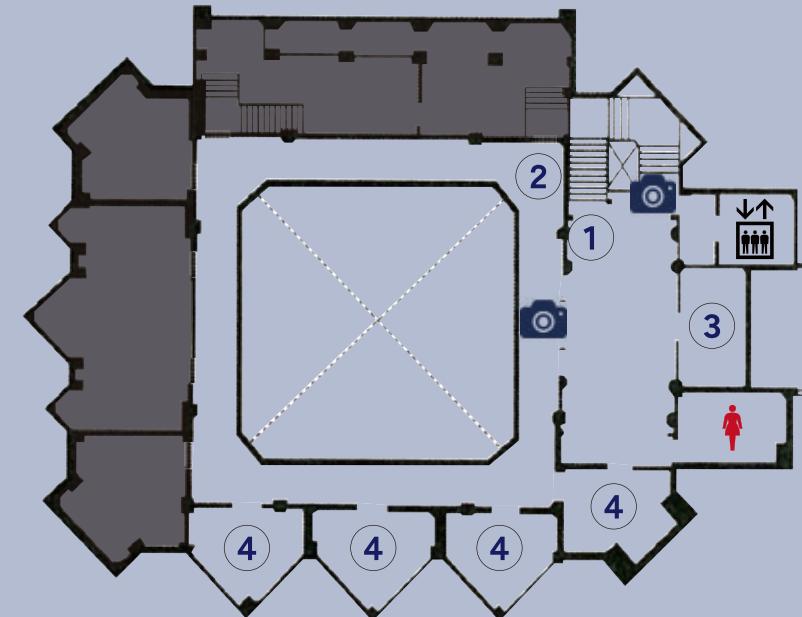
1 1950s Komazawa University Area Model



2 Eizo Sugawara (1892-1967)

He designed and constructed our facility. Architects active during the Showa period.

Photo Spot



3 University History Exhibition Room

Komazawa University History at a glance!



Photo Spot

2 F Project Exhibition Room University History Exhibition Room