



Visit us on:

www.japanesegardens.jp



Happō-en 八芳園

The Happō-en is a secret garden near Meguro next to Shirokanedai Station. Its name means "Garden of Eight Views", which wider meaning is, that it is beautiful from any angle.

History

It is said that its roots date back to Ōkubo Hikozaemon who was a loyal vassal of Tokugawa Ieyasu and who had his mansion there.

Who lived on the grounds of Happō-en after Hikozaemon is not handed down. But a residence of the Shimazu family in 1846 and in 1854 was barely verified.

At the end of the Meiji period, Shibusawa Sei'ichiro, better known as Shibusawa Kisaku, got the land and thought of building his retreat here. During this time the Shirokanedai area became a bustling place and soon Shibusawa felt it became too noisy.

In the beginning of the 20th century another businessman, Kuhara Fusanosuke, bought the estate and remodeled it into the state we can see today. The gardener he engaged for that was Sengoku Satarō, who lived in Akasaka.

There is a fragment still known today about why Kuhara bought Happō-en. It is said, when he stepped into the place he immediately decided to buy the land. When he was asked why he entered in the first place, he answered: "This one pine drew me in."

Ōkubo Hikozaemon

大久保 彦左衛門

Ōkubo Tadataka

大久保 忠教

1560 - 1639

Vassal of Tokugawa

Tokugawa Ieyasu

徳川家康

1543 - 1616

Initiator of the around 250 years lasting Tokugawa Shogunate.

Shibusawa Sei'ichiro

渋沢 成一郎

1838 - 1912