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## Kiyosumi teien 清澄庭園

Kiyosumi teien is one hidden gem on Tokyo's east side. Almost unknown among foreign tourists, you may share the garden only with a few Japanese residents when visiting off season.

Kiyosumi teien is a Kaiy shiki rinsen teien (回遊式林泉庭園), a pond-forest strolling garden.

Although it looks like a garden of the Edo period on first sight, it is dated to the Meiji period (1868-1912), which followed the Edo period (1603-1868).

### History

It is said that the land on which Kiyosumi teien was built once belonged to a rich merchant named Kinokuniya Bunzaemon.

He lived under the protection of Yanagisawa Yoshiyasu, who was an advisor of the 5th Tokugawa Shogun Tsunayoshi.

It is not sure if he really had a mansion here.

During the Kyōhō era (1716-1736), the basic form of Kiyosumi teien may have been constructed.

At this time the Lords of Sekiyado castle Kuze Shigeyuki and later his son Teruyuki, of Shimofusa no kuni (today's Chiba prefecture), had their Edo residence here and built a garden.

The land was owned by the Kuze family until the end of the 19th century, when it was given back to the Tokugawa Shogunate and then handed over to the Shijō family.

In 1878 Iwasaki Yatarō bought the land to establish a garden for the enjoyment of his employees and important guests. At this time the garden had already been abandoned for quite some time.

#### Edo period

江戸時代  
1603-1868

#### Meiji period

明治時代  
1868-1912

#### Kinokuniya Bunzaemon

紀伊国屋 文左衛門  
1669-1734

#### Kyōhō era

享保  
1716-1736

#### Kuze Shigeyuki

久世重之  
1659-1720

#### Kuze Teruyuki

久世暉之  
1699-1749