

Guide text for guiding Kina-saffron-Shu\_brewery and the Settaya town

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What is the "Nitarou world"

Here are some trial thinkings.

I am pleased if you would enjoy and become convinced of some pieces of new knowledge.

The other information I have prepared.

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MfG\_E\_comparison\_KoteE

MfG\_E\_Blues-world\_in\_Kote-E

## 1. Introduction to the Kina-saffron-Shu brewery (C)Kasuga

These old buildings had been used as the Kina-saffron-Shu brewery, including headquarters, several brewery plants and warehouses, house of the president's family, and the gorgeous reception facilities with wide Japanese garden. Now a Kote-E house has been designated as an Registered (National) tangible cultural property by the Japanese government, the Cultural Agency.

In this Settaya area, there are seven Registered (National) tangible cultural properties designated by the government.

The Kina-saffron-Shu brewery produced various medicated liquors and wines about one hundred years ago.

At that time, import of a lot of foreign-made liquors had begun immediately. Many business entrepreneurs in domestics had entered the liquor-production business, in particular with applying traditional Chinese medicines.

Mr. Yoshizawa Nitarou, the founder of the Kina-saffron-Shu brewery, was just one of them, starting his Saffron liquor business in 21 years old. He extremely worked hard and succeeded in the business and made a great fortune in his lifetime.

The highlights of the buildings are, firstly, "Kote-E".

Japanese Kote-E is decoration method of walls, formed with colored lime plaster "Shikkui" put on the covered white lime plaster on walls directly with trowel, in Japanese "Kote". And "E" means a drawing. This "Kote-E" building is well known as many-Kote-E installation on one building, dazzling colors, and its sincere pray brought in by the founder. Secondly, the uncommon reception house, an annex, and the Japanese garden. Please find a lot of devices that the founder set in order to not only enjoy business customers but also pray business prosperity and consecutive happiness on his family.

And thirdly, several very rare wooden materials used inside the reception house. Typical examples are black persimmon and "Yakusugi", Japanese ceder. Nowadays both are said impossible to obtain.

Fulfil all the buildings and the garden by symbols of inviting good lucks and talismans against evil. (C)Kasuga

I think one of the important ideas the founder, Yoshizawa Nitarou had, is to fulfil all the buildings and the garden by symbols of inviting good lucks and talismans against evil.

The typical symbols in the Kina-saffron-Shu Brewery are Chinese dragons and I-no-me. Both are considered as guardian deity or talismans against evil.

You can find several Chinese dragons on the walls of buidings, Byou-bu, and Ramma in the buildings including the reception house. In particuilar, the Chinese dragons are guardien for Buddhism.

You can find a lot of I-no-me pattern inside the receptio house, decorating all the corners of window-glass.

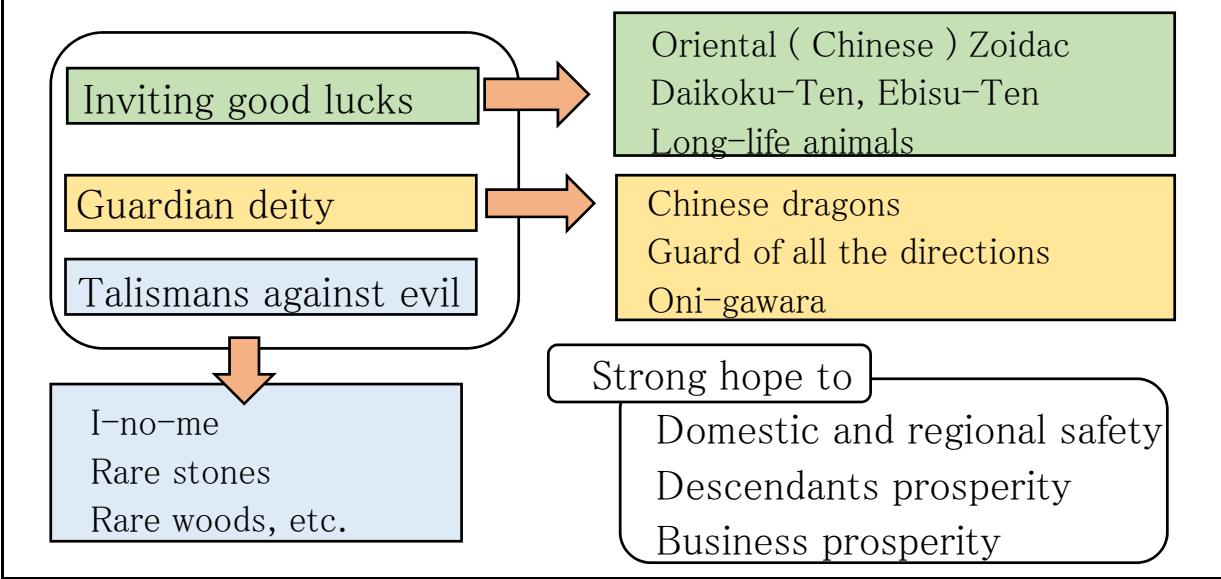
I-no-me pattern is one of the oldest patterns in Japan, eyes-pattern of wild-pig. It is thought as behaving as talismans against evil.

## 2. Formulation of 'Nitarou world'

(C) Kasuga

(1) Fulfil all the buildings and the garden with symbols of inviting good lucks and talismans against evil.

I think one of the important ideas the founder, Yoshizawa Nitarou had, is to fulfil all the buildings and the garden by the following prays.



A concept table is shown, based on an assumption that Yoshizawa Nitarou thought there is a deep relationship among carp, Chinese dragon, natural stones / woods, and Fudo-Myo-Ou.

- (1) First, carp is basically a fish having strong vitality.  
Carp can live not only in clear water stream but also stagnant pond. Then it is thought to be able to overcome all obstacles in any circumstance, symbol fish of strength, courage, and patience.
- (2) And that the legend, carps rising Longmen ('Ryuumon') of the Yellow River would advance to Chinese dragon, has been left.
- (3) Huge power within natural stones, rare woods are overflowed.
- (4) Fudo-Myo-Ou is thought to be a Chinese dragon, liken to animal.

Facility	Dragon	Carp	Nature	Power	Fudo-Myo-Ou
Top roof of Kote-E house	○				
East face of Kote-E house	○				
Ishou house	○	○			
Garden	○	( ○ )	○	○	
Reception house (Annex)	○		○		
Collections of the founder	○	○			○

Concept table about "Dragon"

Stones, woods

## (2) Laying out of Kote-Es on the east-wall of the ho (C)Kasuga

Main theme : Guardian deities for directions north, south, east and west

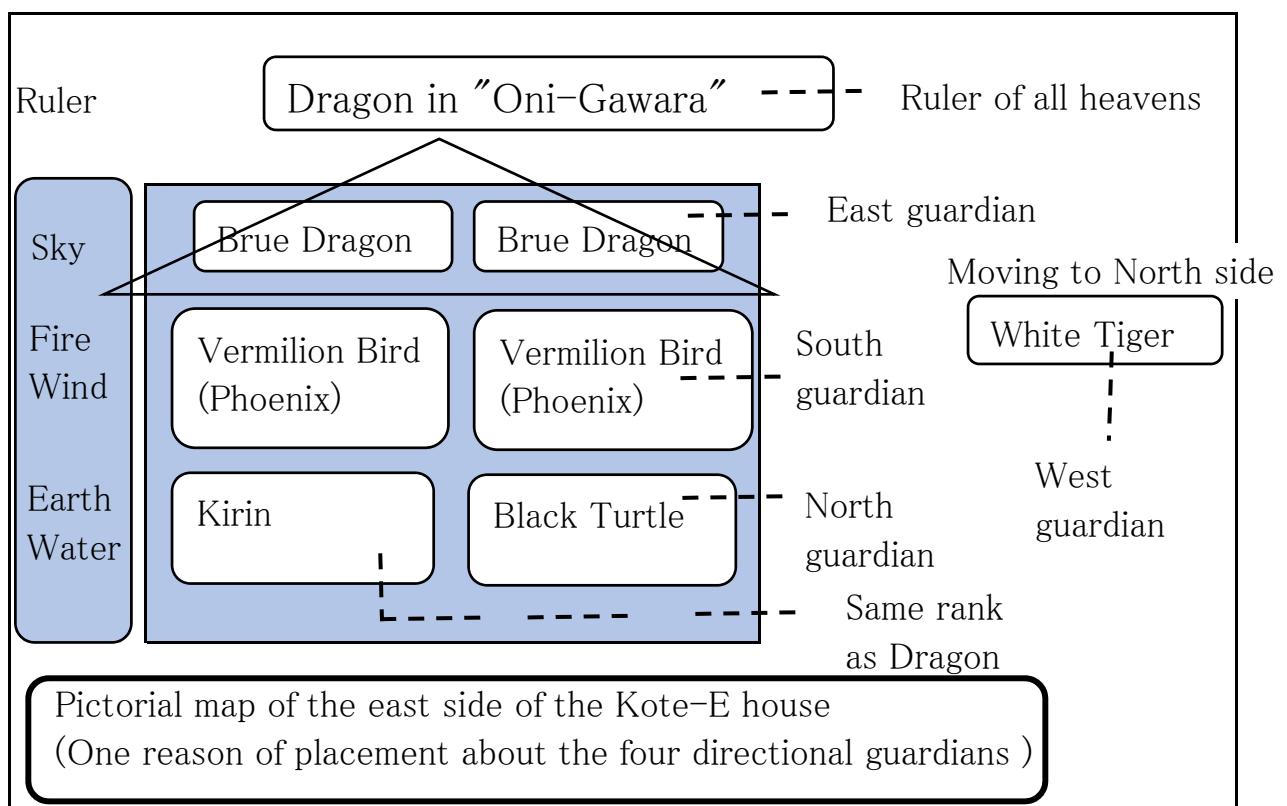
Background theme : The five elements philosophy in ancient China

With considering themes mentioned above, I think that this layout might be only one chosen.

Under the roofs, two Chinese dragons exist, moving in the sky.

In the windows in the second story, two phoenixes exist, flying within wind.

In the windows in the first story, Kirin running on the land and Genbu swimming in the water.



“Oni-Gawara” is also guardian living on the ridge to keep off evil spirits

### 3. Japanese garden and annex

#### (1) Japanese garden of Kina-Saffron Brewery

The guest-house annex and the Japanese stroll garden adjacent to the annex were originally constructed about one hundred years ago to entertain guests with a cordial reception.

It has about 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>, half-acre area, including stone arrangements, several pond, several Japanese garden lanterns, and strolling paths, surrounded with a lot of brack molten-rock assembles of Mt. Asama.

There are a lot of trees, pines, Japanese maples, azaleas, satsuki, and camellias. The garden is covered with and wetland plants offering an extensive palette of beautiful seasonal colors.

Decorative ponds are no water, however these had provided a plentiful water from artificial springs in past days.

#### (2) Japanese Gardens in others near Settaya, temples

There are several temples near Settaya, particularly in old temples built on the foot of the Higashiyama hills.

These gardens are all the stroll gardens regardless of the size of the area.

One of them, Japanese garden in Joushou-In temple was well known until a few decades ago among not only parishioners (Danka) but also nearby residents. In every year's Buddhist memorial service, a lot of priests had gathered and performed greatly in full main hall.

It was just like a large festival held once a year in nearby villages.

After the earthquake and wrong weathers in these years, the garden has been restored by the efforts of the chief priest and his family.

The beautiful greenish garden can be seen from the corner of graveyard.

We hope we enjoy strolling inside the garden in near future.

(3) "Don't miss it" items in the garden and the annex(C)Kasuga

The garden and the annexe had been prepared for not only inviting business customers but giving delight to various Gods and Buddhas. I'm sure the house head intended to get the Gods and Buddhas to bring the business and the descendants prosperity, and the regional well-being by giving delight to them.

A. Garden

(1) Large exquisite stones including miniature hills (築山を含む名石群) :

Japanese gardens usually settle large stones as they look like real mountains. Stones of Kina-saffron brewery are not only very expensive and beautiful but also they are believed that gods' spirits dwell in it. The miniature hills show a overwhelming presence due to its size.

They had been constructed with large lavas in front of you, transporting from a famous volcano, the Mt.Asama, 200 km away from here.

Now two hills exist at the maximum height 15 feet, however in past days they say ten hills existed and two of them were about height 25 feet.

(2) Japanese garden lanterns including stonse in its natural condition :

A lot of Japanese garden lanterns, (山灯籠を含む、多くの灯籠) in particular a natural stone lantern. This natural stone lantern is said the family heat had cut and shaped by himself. ( chisel )

(3) Buddhist sculpture : Along with Kan-non and Jizou, Fudo Myo-o is one of the important deities of Japanese Buddhism.

Fudo Myo-o has a frightening appearance, however he is basically merciful ( plenteous in mercy ), and he leads us from evil-world to the Pure-land.

You will find a small Fudo-Myo-o in a collection of Buddhist sculptures displayed in the Kote-E warehouse, along with Seven Deities of Good Luck and Hermit-on-carp.

(4) Special customer-gate and the Konpira shrine :

The Konpira shrine is located adjacent to the special customer-gate. The house head had done Kanjo (solicit) the Konpira shrine. This shrine was thought as a guardian of sea transportation. It might mean his will to sell not only in domestic but also all over the world.

(5) Others : Trees Maple trees, Japanese cedars, pine trees, and so on

Birds Large white egrets (herons), .Japanese pheasants, and so on

Earthquake damage occurred in fall, 2004

## B. Annexe

### (1) Setting up with rare wooden materials :

Several wooden materials, out of common and very expensive.

Part of them can't purchased now because of scarce species or laws and regulations list for nature conservation.

To name a few, they are :

Toko-bashira (polls) -- Rare wooden materials

Ten-Jou (ceiling) -- Suit-and-tie structure, or using rare woods

Ramma -- Rare wooden materials (Ramma is an opening ornamental work over the screens which form the partitions in the house.)

### (2) Long Corridors : corridor in front of rooms in the first floor is made with thick and large plates of zelkova(Keyaki), about 8 inches thickness.

Long log of Japanese cedar hanged under the ceiling, 60 feet long.

### (3) Gougeous furniture including Biyo-bu (folding screens), Kake-jiku (hanging scrolls), Oki-mono (ornaments), and so on :

The Biyo-bu drawn gradon is excellent. The face of the dragon looks the same faces drawn on ceilings of Rinzai-Syu's temples in Kyoto.

Its face is not only awesome but also vigorous.

### (4) Kumiko Sho-ji :Sophisticated outside door-sash not using nails or adhesive materials ,and covered with thin Japanese papers, or glasses. Kumiko, Japanese joiner, is a unique interior for Japanese housing with functions to take just moderate amount of light, to breeze in the house and to give sophisticated designs for affecting the atmosphere of it.

You can find the Kumiko Sho-ji in the outside door-sash of rooms faced to south, the entrance, and so on.

For some designs, over 100 000 pieces of wood can be used, ever single one of them having been carved by hand by master craftsmen.

### (5) Others :

Original Lighing furniture in Japanese rooms with the family crests or his business mark

I-no-Me : A lot of hex signs against evil are placed all the corners of window-glass frames in the first and second floor.

Japanese painting on inside doors or inside sliding doors

Marble sink and earthenware lavatory facility

#### 4. Extra edition in Settaya town (Guide text for guiding the Settaya)

- (1) The civil war occurred 150 years ago
- (2) Why the Settaya-area had avoided air-raid fire spreading
- (3) Three reason that brewing industry has been accumulated

##### (1) The civil war occurred 150 years ago

Koufuku-Ji temple is one of the historical spot where in 1868, the Nagaoka-feudal domain decided to outbreak the battle. It was one of the largest battles in the civil war (the Boshin-no-Eki).

Unfortunately after the half-year, Nagaoka town was defeated in the war.

In the first half of the nineteenth-Century, Japan worried about the events occurred in China and India. (Opium war, Indian Rebellion )

From more than 200 years ago, Japan had been keeping long-year-isolation policy .

At that time, the Europeans were overwhelmingly stronger than Japanese. Various countremasures against invasion of the foreign countries group, were boiled in whole country in Japan. And the increasing conflict had moved into the large- scale civil war.

Around this time the feudal lord of the Nagaoka-Han for three successive generations were appointed the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defense in the Tokugawa shogunate.

A lot of information about invasions of foreign countries including Russia, Europe and the US is flown into the Nagaoka-feudal domain. Therefore the Nagaoka-feudal domain had thought that japan should prepare against these invasions. And thought that Nagaoka-feudal domain shouldn't go to civil war inside the country.

Instead, he had insisted armed neutrality with war avoidance inside the country.

On the other hand, new-government group insisted first on defeat of the Tokugawa Shogunate system and second on preparation against invasion of foreign countries.

The Nagaoka--feudal domain had tried to persuade negotiations with the new-government group, however at last he failed in pacification with the opponents.

And here, Koufuku-Ji Temple, the Nagaoka-feudal domain had declare war. After half-year, the Nagaoka town was defeated in the war.

##### (2) Why the Settaya-area had avoided air-raid fire spreading

These area was burnt out by the air raid in night of 1st, August 1945. It was the final stage of the World War 2.

Fire was spreading from the north and reached at the point of concrete building.

The fire was stopped and the southern part of Settaya, today I am going to guide, was remained.

The concrete building had built as a countermeasure of the very strong earthquake, Kanto-Daishisai, attacking Tokyo area occurred 1923, one of the Largest earthquakes in Japanese history.

It was the previous year of planning new branch office of a local bank in Nagaoka.

The building has remained, and now it is renovated as the Takashi Akiyama Poster Museum Nagaoka.

### (3) Three reason that brewing industry has been accumulated

First, fundamental conditions for the Japanese Sake brewing are considered to be the following three elements: water, rice, chief brewers.

Settaya is located approximately 1.5k from the Higashi-Yama Hills and 2 km from the Shinano-Gawa River, so Settaya is blessed with high quality, rice, and low hardness water. Actually, Settaya is located on the fan delta-tip of Ohtagawa-river, of which the origin is the Higashi-Yama Hills, a short river. And Niigata area has been well known as skillful Sake chief-brewery person are there.

Secondly, Settaya area was ruled as a territory of the Zao-Shrine, under the authority of the Edo-Kan-ei-Ji Temple of the Shogunate. So Settaya town was out of control of Nagaoka feudal domain.

I guess the Settaya's commerce regulations such as tax system, the stock acquisition were weak, and the town was easy to do business.

Thirdly, regarding raw materials transportation of liquor and soy sauce, shipment and route by land distribution route were important.

Thinking from this point of view, here was a geographical convenience with "Mikuni-Kaidou" and the Ohta-Gawa river. Mikuni-Kaidou was one of the main country-routes to Edo, The Ohta-Gawa river flows to the Japan Sea, and was functioned as an inside-channel of the Shinano-Gawa River, therefore the Settaya area was blessed with transportations not only on land but also on water.

They said that "Mid-winter season is suitable for the Sake-production".

From winter to early spring, the Ohta-Gawa river has much quantity of water by melting snow, so this area should have been suitable for the shipment of new Sake in early spring.

Actually, flow quantity of the Ohta-Gawa river in this area is considered to be the best condition, not too high speed, not too slow speed.