

Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple is a steel-framed reinforced concrete building (2-story, one-basement) designed by architect Ito Chuta in 1934. The exterior adopts the architectural style of ancient India, whereas the interior takes the traditional style of Jodo Shinshu temples. The main hall made of granite creates a harmonious appearance with exquisite designs of each part (the bargeboard at the main entrance, the decoration of the capitals, the round roof made of copper, the pagoda-style towers on both wings.

Grave of Sakai Hoitsu (Tokyo Cultural Property)

3-15-1 Tsukiji. Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple



Sakai Hoitsu, painter/haiku poet of the late Edo period, hailed from the Sakai clan of Himeji Domain, Harima Province (present day Hyogo Pref.). In 1797, he entered the Buddhist priesthood under Monnyo, the 18th head priest of Nishi-Hongwanji Temple, and shaved his head to retire, after which he went to literary life in full scale. He studied the works of Ogata Korin and established his own artistry (Edo Rinpa school) characterized by sophistication and being refreshingly unstrained.

Grave of Habu Genseki (Tokyo Cultural Property)

93-15-1 Tsukiji, Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple



Habu Genseki, ophthalmologist of the late Edo Period, cured the shogun's eye diseases as court physician. He learned from Philipp Franz von Siebold how to make mydriatic agent (a drug that dilates the pupil), and presented him with a clothing that beared the shogun's emblem as a reward, which ended up in punishment. He studied Western medicine based on evidence and conducted eye surgeries (cataracts).

Water Bowl, Namiyoke Inari Jinja Shrine

(cultural property of Chuo City)

96-20-37 Tsukiji



During the Edo period, there used to be a treasury store house of owned by the Owari domain at the south of Namiyoke Inari Jinja Shrine (the southern half of the former Tsukiji Fish Market). The tensuibachi (water bowl) in front of the main hall (casted by Kamaya Rokuemon) was dedicated to the shrine in 1838 by the koage (laborers who unloaded packages from the ships sent from Owari) who worked at the treasury store house owned by the Owari-Tokugawa clan, to make a wish for the safety of navigation.

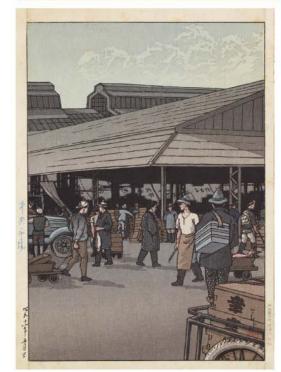
Former Hamarikyu Gardens

(nationally designated Special Place of Scenic Beauty/Special Historic Sites)



This Garden used to be the falconry for the Tokugawa Shogunate, then the villa for Kofu domain head Matsudaira Tsunashige, and after a major renovation under the 6th shogun Tokugawa lenobu, it became his secondary residence named "Hama Goten". Landscaping and other maintenance continued thereafter and a beautiful garden with a shoiri-no-ike (the pond with incoming tides) was completed. After the Meiji Restoration it changed its name to Hamarikyu and was owned by the Ministry of the Imperial Household, and after WWII an onshi park (formally imperial garden) owned by the Metropolitan government.

Rekishimonogatari -storiesofhistory-



Episode 6

The 100 New Landscapes of Tokyo: Central Wholesale Market Kawase Hasui, 1936

In 1935, the "Central Wholesale Market" that combined the functions of Nihonbashi Fish and Kyobashi Vegetable markets was newly built and opened in Tsukiji. This woodblock print shows the ordinary scene of the brand-new Tsukiji Marketplace and people (wholesalers/brokers/retailers) working and passing by one another. Thanks to artist Kawase Hasui's eagle eye and extraordinary sense of depiction, this work conveys the atmosphere of the market and even the surrounding sounds and noises.

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