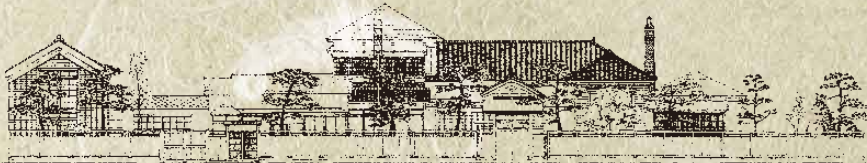


国指定重要文化財 旧相馬家住宅

北海道屈指の豪商 相馬哲平の館



T H E O L D S O U M A H O U S E



Illustration / Kiyoshi Hirai architectural historian, emeritus professor at Tokyo Institute of Technology

INSIDE THE HOUSE

Room

There are many rooms which were built by master craftsmen, for example, the Western-style room and a main room. They tell us the lifestyle of a wealthy merchant of a century ago.

Special gallery

The current owner's collection is on display in the adjacent mud-wall storehouse.



Gallery Motomachi



People ate here, under the gaze of protection of the Shinto gods.

Café

Free coffee. You can also enjoy a special lunch box made by the most famous sukiyaki restaurant in Hakodate. (by reservation only)



100-year-old Satsuki blooms in spring
A tasteful corridor overlooking the garden

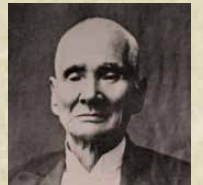
Audio guide system

By slightly touching the sheet set in each room with the tip of the pen-shaped guide instrument, you can listen to explanations of the Former Souma Residence in five languages: Japanese, English, Chinese, Taiwanese, and Korean.

This special Japanese wooden building, now a century old, is one of the registered heritage buildings of Hakodate. The brilliant architecture and materials have lost none of their original impact. It was built by a local merchant Teppei Souma, who supported the development of Hakodate. This was his private residence. He was born in 1833 and came to Hakodate with a dream of becoming successful. He traded rice and seafood, and started a bank, thus making his fortune. He wanted to support Hakodate so he donated lots of money to the public. Please enjoy this building; you can feel the Japanese spirit here.



Teppei Souma the first generation



1833	0	Born in Niigata Prefecture
1861	28	Came to Hakodate. Live-in worker for a company
1864	30	Opened a rice shop from his savings
1872	39	Founded a bank, became Hokkaido's most successful merchant
1908	75	Donated almost all of the funds required to rebuild Old City Hall which was destroyed in a massive fire.
1912	79	Became the CEO of the local government bank.
1918	85	Was selected to join Japan's House of Peers
1921	88	Passed away. Buried in the Koryu Temple near the Foreign Cemetery.

INFORMATION

Entrance Fee
Adult - 1,000yen
High school student - 500yen
junior high student
and below -300yen

Opening Hours
9:30-16:30 Last admission 16:00
(April and November
9:30-16:00 Last admission 15:30)

Holidays
Every Wednesday, Thursday
December to March

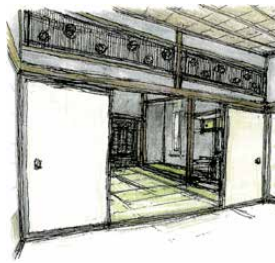
Address
Motomachi 33-2, Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan 040-0054
Mail / fax enquiries in English are welcome:
ph (81) 138 26 1560 fx (81) 138 26 1646
soumatei@mse.ncv.ne.jp www.kyusoumake.com



Front entrance
The roof is gentry curved, which is very rare in Hokkaido. It was hand-made by proficient carpenters.

国指定重要文化財
旧相馬家住宅
北海道屈指の豪商 相馬哲平の館
建築探訪

THE OLD SOUMA HOUSE ARCHITECTURE GUIDE



Tsukeshoin
This feature, typically located next to the *tokonoma*, provides light for the room. The wooden *ranma*, a decorative transom, has some of phoenixes. The paper screen, also hand-made, has a fine wooden frame.



Tokonoma
This 15-tatami-mat room was used as a dining room for special guests as well as for family events. The tokonoma is made of Japanese cypress, rosewood, cedar, ebony and zelkova (elm). Its purpose is to display scrolls and flower arrangement..

Outside the Western-style room
This is a formal room for receiving special guests. The finely decorated window frames, corners and eaves were also made by skillful craftsmen.



The veranda and the garden
You can see the slight imperfections in the original glass panes as you walk along. Through the glass doors, you can appreciate the four seasons.

Western-style room
This room, with exquisite wall and ceiling decorations is in the same style as the nearby the Old Public Hall of Hakodate Ward which *Tepei Souma* helped construct for the citizens of Hakodate.

Historical collection from EZO(Hokkaido)

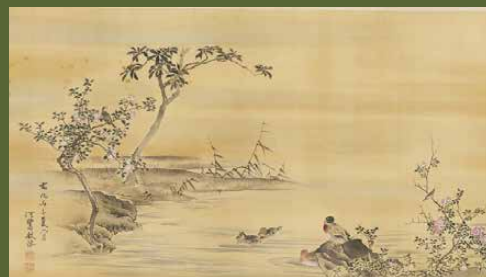


Esashi Folding Screen
Esashi Folding Screen drawn by *Teiryō Kodama*, an artist of the *Matsumae* Clan.



Horizontal scroll Drawn by *Teiryō Kodama*, this depicts the lifestyle and ceremonies of the Ainu people.

Koropokkuru
The work of the explore *Takeshiro Matsuura*. It depicts the dwarfs in Ainu myths and legends.



Nature's four seasons
This four-metre horizontal silk scroll was painted by *Hakyo Kakizaki* (1764-1821), the artist as well as a head samurai in *Matsumae* Clan.

