International conference about the
Daimyō residence-model in Vienna

under the patronage of Mrs. Toshiko Ueno, Honorary Consul General of Austria in Osaka

Weltmuseum Wien, May 5th – 6th 2014
Theme of the conference

The conference deals with the model of a Daimyō-residence, created in 1872 for the Vienna World Fair where it was exhibited in the Japanese Pavilion and admired by thousands of curious visitors. The model illustrates the extended palatial residence of a member of the Samurai elite in the times of the Tokugawa-period. Apart from its stunning quality and detail, the model perfectly represents the early contact history between Japan and the former Empire of Austria-Hungary as well as the highly sophisticated Japanese craftsmanship of the late 19th century.

The international conference, held at the Weltmuseum Wien, will aptly revolve around different perspectives on the object and strives to illuminate its meanings and future treatments. Renowned scholars from Japan, Europe and overseas will exchange their knowledge about its historical and architectural background, its construction history as well as details and future plans concerning its conservation and restoration. The model will thus be illuminated from different academic fields and analyzed from both Eastern and Western perspectives in order to release mutual inspiration.

Due to the cross-cultural background of the participants, it will be highly interesting to explore and cultivate collective strategies of dealing with the shared material heritage, especially concerning its conservation and restoration. The aim of the conference is for these scholars to deepen the dialogue and knowledge about the future of the Daimyō residence-model and the institutional and historical meanings it represents. Finally, the results of the research and restoration endeavors will be presented to the public in the new permanent exhibition at the Weltmuseum Wien entitled “1873: Japan comes to Vienna,” where the architectural model is planned to be the centerpiece.
Conference schedule

Monday, May 5th, 2014

Panel #1: 09:30-11:00, Aspects of Cultural History I

- Opening words by the Weltmuseum Wien
- Prof. Luke GARTLAN, University of St. Andrews, UK
  “19th century Photography, Visualisation and Orientalism”
- Prof. Alfred MOSER, Wien
  “Michael Moser. An Austrian photographer in 19th century Japan”
- Discussion
- Break

Panel #2: 11:15-13:00, Aspects of Cultural History II

- Gergely BARNÁ, Ph.D. candidate, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan
  „The Background and the Characteristics of Japanese Architectural Displays at the 1867 Paris, 1873 Vienna and 1876 Philadelphia World Exhibitions”
- Dr. Bettina ZORN, Weltmuseum Wien, Austria
- Discussion

13:00-14:00 Lunch

Panel #3: 14:00-17:30, Construction History I

- Sybille GIRMOND M.A., University of Würzburg and Susanne WORTMANN, Mainfränkisches Museum Würzburg, Germany
  “Tracing the garden pavilion from the Vienna World Fair”
- Prof. Shigeatsu SHIMIZU, Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan
  “History and Meaning of house models in Japan from the beginning to 1910”
- Masayuki MAMBA, Tokyo
  “Some notes about the workshop Musashiya”
- Prof. Susumu HYUGA, (emerit.), Kyoto Institute of Technology, Japan
  “Development of High Class Samurai residences from Kamakura/Muromachi time on”
- Dr. Michi SHIGETA, Kyoto
  “Why were Daimyōs Fascinated by Nō Performances?”
- Discussion
Tuesday, May 6th 2014

Panel # 4: 09:30-11:00, Restoration and Conservation

- Mag. Henriette WILTSCHEK, Weltmuseum Wien, Austria
  "The conservation of the Daimyō house-model. What has been done so far"
- Mag. Florian RAINER, Weltmuseum Wien, Austria
  "Future plans for the restoration of the Daimyō house-model"
- Discussion
- Break

Panel # 5: 11:15-13:00, Construction History II

- Ao. Univ. Prof. Klaus ZWERGER, University of Technology Vienna, Austria
  "What does the Daimyō yashiki model tell us and what can we learn from its restoration"
- Dr. Ulrike HERBIG, Dipl. Ing. Irmengard MAYER, University of Technology Vienna, Austria
  "Detailed Building Survey of the Daimyō yashiki hinagata"
- Discussion

13:00-14:00 lunch

Panel # 6: 14:00-16:00, Construction History III

- Dr. Mechtild MERTZ, East Asian Civilizations Research Center Paris/Kyoto
  "Wood species used in traditional Japanese architecture"
- Prof. Benoît JACQUET, Ecole française d’Extrême-Orient, Paris/ University of Kyoto
  "Japanese or not? How Modern Architects make Japanese Architecture"
- Dr. Iris MACH, Vienna University of Technology, Austria
  "Comparison of traditional and contemporary earthquake resistant building methods in Japan"
- Discussion

16:00-18:00 closing event with drinks