

## **EXPLORING JAPANESE ART & DESIGN**

**October 7-22, 2006**

### **Trip Highlights:**

In Kyoto, we'll explore exquisite temple gardens and art museums, take a private coach excursions to the remote mountain pilgrimage temples of Hasedera and Murōji, and to the I.M. Pei-designed Miho Art Museum.

After leaving Kyoto, we'll stop first at the home and studio of Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi, then stay overnight at the newly-opened Tadao Andō-designed hotel at Benesse House on the island of Naoshima where two contemporary art museums designed by him are located. Following this two-night stay, we drive by private coach to an international award-winning environmental art installation by Kuetani Kazuto at Kosanji temple, experience a night at a luxurious Japanese inn on the island of Itsukushima in the Seto Inland Sea National Park, visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Park, then travel to Matsumoto to see the 16th century castle, nearby Ukiyoe Print Museum, and from there embark on a day- tour by coach to see autumn foliage and old vernacular architecture at two restored overland post towns in the mountains of Nagano Prefecture.

In Tokyo, we'll have a walking tour of the amazing contemporary architecture of Tokyo's fashion district of Omote Sando, attend a private performance of ritual Shinto music and dance at Tokyo's Meiji Shrine, visit Tokyo's Roppongi Hills and the new contemporary Mori Art Museum, visit a private Kamakura residence and art gallery at a beautifully-restored old farm house, and tour the Tokyo National Museum.

Throughout, we will sample a broad range of delicious and beautiful Japanese cuisine during our group meals.

### **Trip Leader:**

**Patricia Graham** holds a PhD in Japanese art history from the University of Kansas. She appraises Asian art and lectures widely about Japanese culture and art at museums and universities nationally and internationally, and has led numerous educational tours to Japan. She has taught Japanese studies, art history, and museum studies at institutions that include Cornell University, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, and the University of Kansas, served as a curator of Asian art at the Saint Louis Art Museum, and Consultant for Japanese Art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. She has also lectured at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, assessed the museum's Japanese collection, and authored much of the Japan section of the forthcoming museum handbook of the Asian collection. She writes prolifically in museum catalogues, encyclopedias, and journals such as *Orientalism*, and has completed two books: *Tea of the Sages, the Art of Sencha* (1998) and *Faith and Power in Japanese Buddhist Arts, 1600-2005* (forthcoming).

**Physical requirements:**

Participants should be able to walk leisurely for several hours at a time; be capable of negotiating stairways at temples, train stations, ferries and other traditional buildings we visit where elevators and escalators are unavailable; be able to sit occasionally, for up to 30 minutes on floor-level cushions placed on a *tatami*-mat floor (in some places small stools can be provided); be willing to remove shoes and walk around interior spaces of traditional buildings in socks using slippers that will be provided; and be capable of carrying two nights worth of personal belongings one time as we transfer from one city to another by train and ferry (on this occasion coaches will meet us at ferry ports).

**Daily Itinerary (subject to minor adjustment)****October 7. Day 1 depart USA**

**October 8. Day 2 Arrive Kyoto.** No meals provided this day, as arrival times will vary. Lodgings: *Kyoto Okura Hotel*.

**October 9. Day 3 Kyoto:** Embark on a day trip by private coach to explore two remote and beautiful mountainside pilgrimage temples outside Nara, Hasedera and Muroji. Lunch en route on traditional Japanese cuisine at an elegant resort frequented by pilgrims. Our welcome dinner as a group upon return will feature tofu cuisine, a specialty of the old Kyoto restaurant, Junsei. Lodgings: *Kyoto Okura Hotel*. **BLD**

**October 10. Day 4 Kyoto:** Because of jet lag you will surely rise early, so we'll depart at 9 AM to explore art museums and temples along Kyoto's eastern side, the Higashiyama (Eastern Mountains). We will tour by private coach and foot, beginning at the Fureiakan Museum of Traditional Japanese Handicrafts to see the range of Kyoto handicrafts and how they are made, then tour the nearby National Museum of Modern Art, itself an artistic monument designed by Fumihiko Maki, and the small, elegant modern Hosomi Museum (dependent upon their special exhibition schedule). We'll break for lunch at Omen, a bustling famous old Kyoto noodle shop (with a branch in New York). In the afternoon we'll leisurely stroll to several famous temples along the old Philosopher's Path – Ginkakuji and Nanzenji. Around dinnertime, those who want, can join us for a subway ride to the gleaming new Kyoto train station designed by Hiroshi Hara, to eat dinner on your own at one of the many restaurants in shopping arcades there. Lodgings: *Kyoto Okura Hotel*. Dinner on your own. **BL**

**October 11. Day 5 Kyoto:** Embark by private coach for a day trip to the famed Miho Art Museum designed by I.M. Pei, where we eat lunch as a group at the museum's organic, vegetarian restaurant. After touring the museum, we have arranged a special tour of a nearby model organic farm, owned by the same

religious organization as the museum, where several old farmhouses are restored, and learn about the organic farming movement in Japan. Lodgings: *Kyoto Okura Hotel*. Dinner on your own upon return. **BL**

**October 12. Day 6 Naoshima:** In the morning, depart Kyoto for Shikoku Island by bullet train and ferry, with our first stops at Shikoku Village, an open air museum of around thirty old houses and shops, and the studio of Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi. In late afternoon, we'll ferry to the island oasis of Naoshima, a Mecca of Japanese and Western contemporary art in the Inland Sea (part of a National Park), famed for its contemporary art museums designed by Tadao Ando, contemporary artists' installations in abandoned houses in a nearby village, and artworks scattered around the grounds of a nearby campground. Lodgings: rooms in *the newly-opened hotel adjacent to the Benesse House Museum*, both designed by famed contemporary architect Ando Tadao. Lunch on your own, Japanese (*kaiseki* style) dinner as a group at our hotel. **BD**

**October 13. Day 7 Naoshima:** We tour the Benesse House Museum, the art installations of the Art House Project in an old local village, and the Impressionist and contemporary art collection of the newly-opened Chichibu Art Museum, also designed by Tadao Ando. Lodgings: *the newly-opened hotel adjacent to the Benesse House Museum*. Lunch on own, barbecue dinner as a group. **BD**

**October 14. Day 8 Miyajima:** After ferrying to the mainland, a coach will whisk us to the island, Ikuchijima to visit a most unusual modern Buddhist temple, Kosanji, with award-winning contemporary environmental sculptor by Italy-based Japanese sculptor Kuetani Kazuto. We'll also tour the nearby, small art museum devoted to the paintings of Hirayama Ikuo, a distinguished UNESCO ambassador. In late afternoon, we'll take a ferry to another Inland Sea island, Miyajima, home to the world renowned Itsukushima Shinto shrine. This night we lodge at an elegant traditional Japanese inn (*ryokan*) on the island, walking distance from the shrine. Lodgings: *Kinsuikan*. Lunch on your own, dinner as a group at our inn. **BD**

**NOTE:** Before departing Naoshima, we will send large bags ahead to Matsumoto and pack a small bag to hand carry two nights worth of personal belongings to Miyajima and Hiroshima.

**October 15. Day 9 Hiroshima:** We begin with an early morning tour of the Itsukushima Shrine and cable car ride to the top of sacred Mount Misen for a spectacular view of the surrounding sea and scattered islands. After lunch, we travel by ferry and local train to Hiroshima to tour the Peace Memorial Museum and Park then stay overnight in Hiroshima. Lodgings: *Granvia Hotel*. Lunch and dinner on your own. **B**

**October 16. Day 10 Matsumoto:** We depart Hiroshima early by bullet train and express train to Matsumoto, arriving mid afternoon, with time to explore the city a

bit on your own. Lodgings: *Buena Vista Hotel*. Lunch on own enroute; dinner as a group in Matsumoto after arrival. **BD**

**October 17. Day 11 Matsumoto:** We will drive by private coach to Magome, a small village nestled in the Kiso Valley along the old, Nakasendo post highway that once served as a major overland route between the old capital of Kyoto, and Tokyo. There, we will walk (or for those who prefer, ride in the coach) to the next post highway on the route, Tsumago, Japan's first vernacular architecture village designated as a historic preservation district. Lodgings: *Buena Vista Hotel*. Lunch and dinner on your own. **B**

**October 18. Day 12 Tokyo:** We spend the morning exploring Matsumoto, first climbing to the top of one of Japan's rare, authentic late 16th century castles, then viewing the famed, private Sakai collection of Ukiyoe prints at the Japan Ukiyoe Museum, in a magnificent contemporary building designed by Shinohara Kazuo, then we'll stroll the old merchant & handicraft district, where we'll break for lunch. In the afternoon, we travel by train to Tokyo. Lodgings: *Imperial Hotel*. Lunch and dinner on your own. **B**

**October 19. Day 13 Tokyo:** We embark by train for a day trip to Kamakura to visit the restored old farmhouses reconstructed by architect by Takishita Yoshihiro, also an art specialist who owns the House of Antiques gallery, which we'll tour (subject to final confirmation). Afterwards, we'll taxi (or for intrepid walkers, hike) to see the Great Buddha, Japan's most famous Buddhist statue, whose surrounding building was centuries ago washed away in a tidal wave, and, time permitting, other nearby temples. Lodgings: *Imperial Hotel*. Lunch and dinner on your own. But we've an optional, no-host dinner planned for at the lively Gompachi Japanese restaurant in Roppongi, where President Bush (the younger) dined with Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi. The restaurant features a variety of Japanese foods, and is famous for its sushi. **B**

**October 20. Day 14 Tokyo:** AM: We'll start the day with a walking tour of the amazing contemporary architecture in Tokyo's most fashionable Omote Sando district. Lunch there at the elegant Yanmo restaurant that specializes in fresh fish cuisine. Our tour will conclude at the grand Meiji Shrine, within a gigantic man-made forest in the heart of Tokyo, where we'll sit through a special ritual *Kagura* performance of sacred music and dance. From here, we'll head to Roppongi Hills, famous for its extensive public art and top floor with a panoramic view of the city and contemporary Mori Art Museum. For those wishing to time on their own, the official day's activities end here, but we also offer an optional excursion to the nearby Axis Building, a design Mecca full of fashion and interior design shops. Lodgings: *Imperial Hotel*. Dinner on your own. **BL**

**October 21. Day 15 Tokyo:** We spend our last day touring the Tokyo National Museum, Japan's equivalent of the Louvre, beginning with its newest building, the Gallery of Horyūji Treasures, designed by Yoshio Taniguchi, architect of the

new Museum of Modern Art in New York. Afternoon is on your own, or you can join us on an optional excursion to Asakusa and its famous Sensoji temple, and from there take a water bus ride to the expansive 17th century stroll garden, Hama Rikyu, near the fish market district of Tsukiji, not far from our hotel or return to our hotel by subway or taxi directly from Asakusa. Our farewell dinner this night will take place at the new business and shopping district of Shiodome, at the sleek, modern-design Zipeng Japanese restaurant atop the Dentsu Building (HQ of the Dentsu advertising company, whose advertising history museum the building also houses) designed by French architect Jean Nouvel. This building is adjacent to the Tokyo interior furnishings showroom of the Matsushita company. Lodgings: *Imperial Hotel*. Lunch on your own. **BD**

**October 22. Day 16 Departure from Japan. B**