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Architect Kengo Kuma's Authentic Village Beautifies Portland Japanese Gardens

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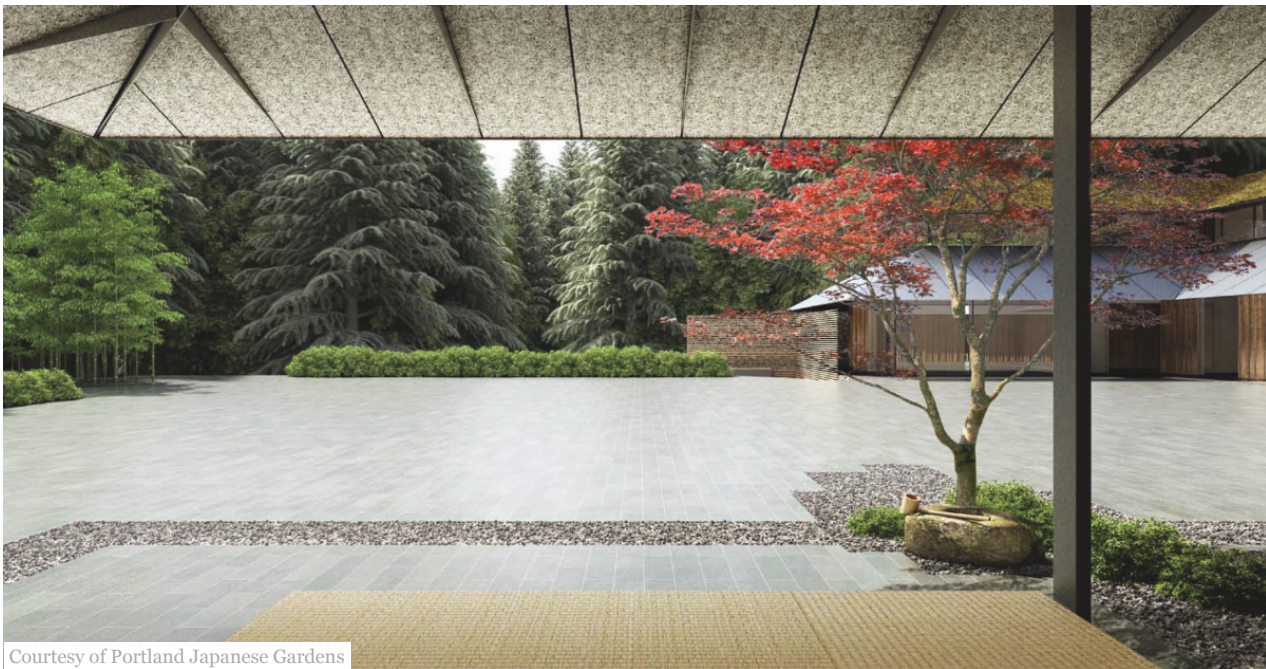
The preamble to the U.S. Constitution establishes domestic tranquility. That peace is harder to find in today's hectic, hyper-partisan society—except in Oregon.



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Panoramic view of new village

The Cultural Village at the Portland Japanese Gardens represents architect Kengo Kuma's first commission in the United States. Famed Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, designer of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics' National Stadium, offers some relief as creator of the Portland Japanese Garden's new 3.4-acre Cultural Village, set to open this April. Already celebrated as perhaps the most authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan, the Oregon tourist destination's \$33.5 million expansion represents Kuma's first public commission in the United States.



Courtesy of Portland Japanese Gardens

The Village's new Takeuchi Courtyard is part of a \$33.5 million expansion over 3.4 acres.

The halcyon village will immerse 350,000 visitors per year in traditional Japanese arts and culture via genuine minimalist aesthetics, open-air wood pavilions, an 18-foot-high Medieval wall, and tranquil landscapes modeled after spiritual-inspired enclaves of Japan.



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Kuma and collaborator Sadafumi Uchiyama combined Japanese craftsmanship and locally-sourced materials to create cross-cultural, LEED-certified structures.

“Given its proximity to nature, Portland is unlike any place in the world,” says Kuma. “This new Cultural Village serves as a connector of the stunning Oregon landscape, Japanese arts, and a subtle gradation to architecture. Working with the Garden has influenced my approach to future projects, especially integrating green and wood. For example, the National Stadium in Tokyo will be rich in vegetation, evoking a feeling of forest in the city.”