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Kengo Kuma Expands the Portland Japanese Garden

The superstar architect puts an eco-friendly spin on traditional forms

Architect Kengo Kuma devised the Portland Japanese Garden's recent expansion.

Photo: Bruce Forster

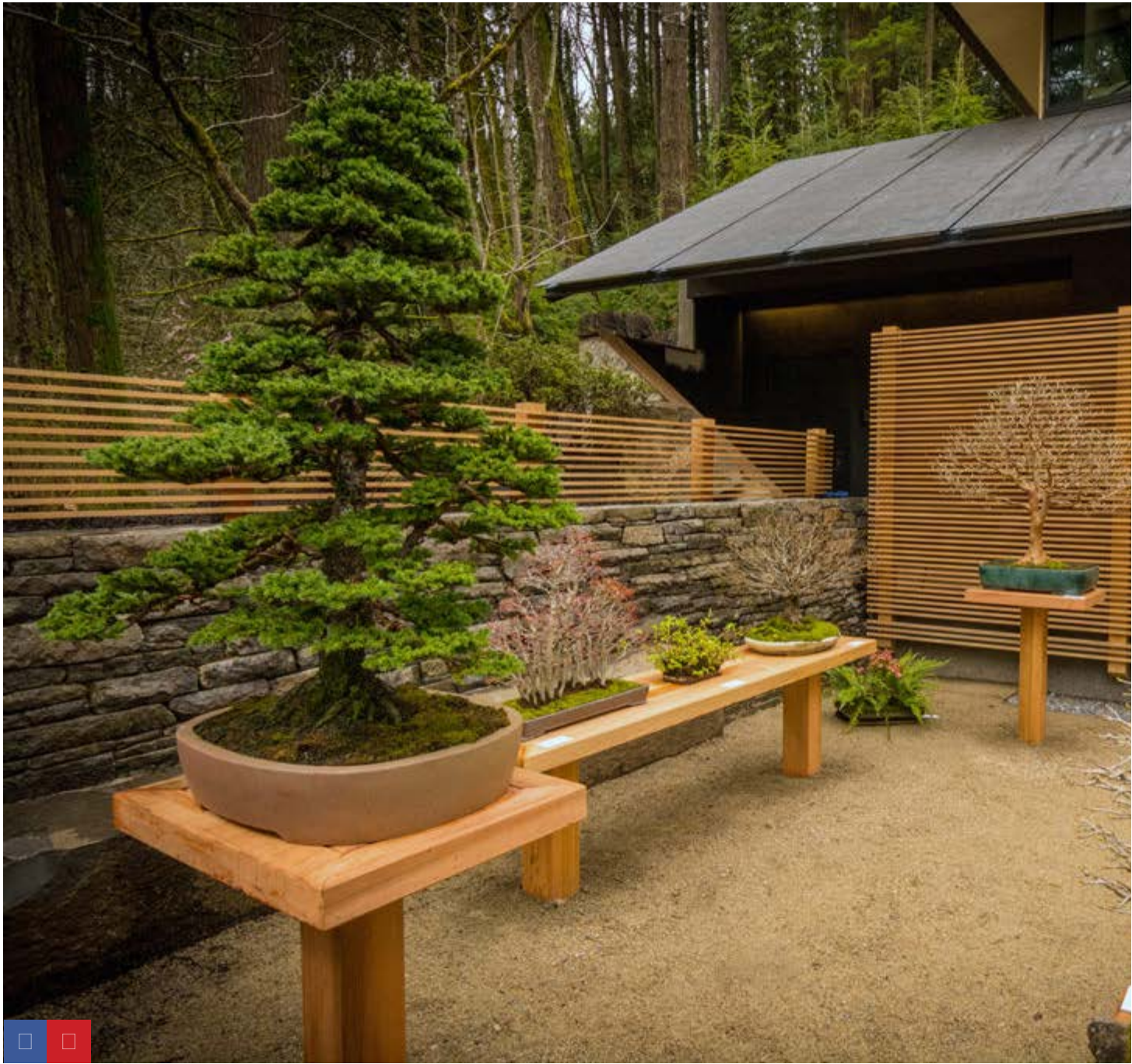


Summer 2017 | By Geoffrey Montes

The Pacific Northwest now boasts the first publicly commissioned work in the U.S. by superstar Japanese architect **Kengo Kuma**. It's the centerpiece of the **Portland Japanese Garden's** blockbuster \$33.5 million expansion, known as the Cultural Village. "We tried to create a very subtle gradation from nature to architecture," says Kuma, who used Oregonian timber, pagoda-like green roofs, and the skills of a 15th-generation stonemason. The addition includes classrooms, an exhibition space, and the Umami Cafe, all ringed by new gardens of bonsai, moss, and cascading chabana tea flowers. japanesegarden.org



Kengo employed green roofs as a way to harmonize traditional Japanese forms with the lush ga
Photo: Bruce Forster



Miniaturized trees populate the Bonsai Terrace.

Photo: Bruce Forster



The bamboo-clad interior of one of Kuma's new pavilions, which holds exhibitions and classroom
Photo: Bruce Forster



A 15th-generation Japanese stonemason was flown in to complete this castle wall.

Photo: Bruce Forster



The Umami Cafe from the garden path below.

Photo: Tyler Quinn



Traditional Japanese cuisine at the Umami Cafe.

Photo: Bruce Forster