

TRAVEL

# The Most Beautiful Japanese-Inspired Destinations in America

Without getting lost in translation, these stunning new designs celebrate—without repeating—the past

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## Umami Café at Portland Japanese Garden, Oregon



Umami Café.

Photo: Jeremy Bittermann

Considered the most authentic Japanese garden in the United States, the Portland Japanese Garden has, since opening in 1967, served an introduction to Japanese sentiment and principle (like many Japanese gardens following World War II) while also providing space to reconnect with nature. Expanding its reach into arts and culture, architect Kengo Kuma created the Cultural Village, his first major stateside project. Within a clutch of buildings, Umami Café is a brilliant, glass-walled space with a sharply designed, temple-like hipped roof, where the sharp slopes are paneled with local Port Orford cedar and one glass hip is opaque, like a shoji paper screen—all harmonizing natural splendor while integrating the ancient practice of tea. [japanesegarden.org](http://japanesegarden.org)