



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Photo Exhibition: Lighting of the Bankoro and Seien Bunko

Dec. 6, 2008 – Feb. 14, 2009

Seien Bunko, Shibusawa Memorial Museum

This small-scale photography exhibition focuses on the decorations of interior and exterior lighting fixtures of the Bankoro and Seien Bunko. The buildings were built in 1917 and 1925 within the grounds of the former Shibusawa residence and were recently designated by the government as Important Cultural Properties. Sixteen photos by the noted architecture photographer, Akihisa Masuda, reveal the details of lamps and shades which illuminate and adorn the buildings.

### Bankoro

The Bankoro is a finely crafted Western and Japanese cottage built and presented to Shibusawa Eiichi in 1917 by the Shimizu Gumi (now the Shimizu Corporation) to celebrate Shibusawa's 77th birthday. Shibusawa used the Bankoro as a reception room to welcome his many important Japanese and foreign guests. A wooden one-story building, the Bankoro incorporates the functions and designs of a Japanese tea room and furnished with furniture specially commissioned from artistic craftsmen.

### Seien Bunko

The Seien Bunko is a Western-style reinforced concrete structure presented by the Ryumonsha (predecessor of the Shibusawa Eiichi Memorial Foundation) to Shibusawa Eiichi in 1925 in honor of his 80th birthday and his promotion from baron to viscount. It was initially intended to be used as a library but was instead mainly used to entertain guests. Beautiful stained glass windows and colorful tiles add an elegant touch to the sedate and solidly built structure.

### Masuda Akihisa

Masuda was born in Tokyo in 1939 and graduated from the Department of Photography in the College of Art at Nihon University. After retiring from the Taisei Corporation, he established the Masuda Akihisa Photography Office. He has been taking photos of architecture and the heritage of modern Japan more than 40 years and has published many books.

### About the SHIBUSAWA MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Shibusawa Memorial Museum collects and displays documents and artifacts from the life of Shibusawa Eiichi (1840-1931), a leader in business and finance who fostered the growth and development of the modern Japanese economy. Throughout his life he advocated for the harmony of morality and economy; playing an important role not only in the business world but in the fields of social welfare, education and private-sector diplomacy as well.





### **Photo Exhibition: Lighting of the Bankoro and Seien Bunko**

Dates: Dec. 6, 2008 – Feb. 14, 2009

The exhibition is open on Saturdays 12:30 – 15:45

Venue: Seien Bunko Library, Shibusawa Memorial Museum

Organized by Shibusawa Memorial Museum

2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo

Tel: 03-3910-0005 / Fax: 03-3910-0085

Admission: Adults 300 yen

Elementary, junior high school, and high school students 100 yen

20% discount for groups of 20 or more

### **Contacts**

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2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo

Tel: 03-3910-0005 / Fax: 03-3910-0085

## Application for the Use of Press Images

Attn. Mr. Jun Inoue  
Director  
Shibusawa Memorial Museum

Date:     /     /

Applicant Name:

Signature

Company/Institution:

Address:

Tel:

I hereby apply for the use of images from the “Photo Exhibition: Lighting of the Bankoro and Seien Bunko” under the conditions stated below:

1. Images to be used

- ☐ a. Lighting of the Reading Room of the Seien Bunko  
☐ b. Lighting of the Entrance Hall of the Seien Bunko

2. Purpose of use (title of publication etc.)

3. Media

\*total number of pages:

\*length of the article:

\*circulation:

4. Date of issue

5. Details of usage

6. Conditions

- \* The images must be borrowed in the form of printed media at the Shibusawa Memorial Museum and returned to the Museum immediately after use.
- \* The provenance of the images must be clearly noted.
- \* The images cannot be used for purposes other than those stated in No.2 above.
- \* The applicant must send two copies of the publication to the Shibusawa Memorial Museum.
- \* The applicant must immediately inform the museum of any changes to the above information.